

Best 300+ MCQs

March 2026

Current Affairs PDF



1. Pakyong Airport, which is being renamed after Trilochan Pokhrel, is located in which Indian state?

त्रिलोचन पोखरेल के नाम पर नामकरण किए जा रहे पाख्यांग एयरपोर्ट भारत के किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Tripura
- (e) Meghalaya

Ans. b

Sol. Sikkim's Pakyong Airport to Be Renamed After Freedom Fighter Trilochan Pokhrel

Sikkim's Pakyong Airport will be renamed after freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel, the state's first independence activist, as announced by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.

Trilochan Pokhrel, also known as "Gandhi Pokhrel", actively participated in the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movements led by Mahatma Gandhi.

About Sikkim

- **Capital** - Gangtok
- **Chief Minister** - Prem Singh Tamang
- **Governor** - Om Prakash Mathur

2. Jatinder Mehra, who passed away recently, was a stalwart in which industry?

जतिंदर मेहरा, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस इंडस्ट्री में एक दिग्गज थे?

- (a) Textile
- (b) Steel
- (c) IT
- (d) Pharmaceuticals
- (e) Automotive

Ans. b

Sol. Veteran Steel Industry Leader Jatinder Mehra Passes Away

Jatinder Mehra, a veteran of India's steel industry with over six decades of experience, passed away, leaving behind a legacy of technical expertise and transformative leadership in both public and private steel enterprises.

As Vice Chairman of Essar Group's Metals and Mining Division, he provided strategic direction, expanded steelmaking capacity at Hazira, and strengthened the group's production and global competitiveness.

Mehra played a key role in developing major integrated projects, including the Paradip steel facility in Odisha, consolidating Essar's position in value-added steel production and international exports.

3. Recently, President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in which type of aircraft?

हाल ही में, राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू किस तरह के एयरक्राफ्ट में उड़ान भरने वाली पहली भारतीय राष्ट्रपति बनीं?

- (a) Fighter Jet
- (b) Attack Helicopter
- (c) Transport Plane
- (d) Reconnaissance Drone
- (e) Light Trainer Aircraft

Ans. b

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Becomes First Indian President to Fly in Attack Helicopter Prachand

President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in an attack helicopter, undertaking a 25-minute sortie in the indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand near the India–Pakistan border from Jaisalmer Air Force Station.

During the historic flight, she acted as co-pilot, flew over the Pokhran firing range, and delivered a message praising the armed forces while emphasizing the significance of indigenous defence capabilities.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign from Ajmer to protect girls from cervical cancer. The HPV vaccination campaign primarily targets which age group?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लड़कियों को सर्वाइकल कैंसर से बचाने के लिए अजमेर से पूरे देश में ह्यूमन पैपिलोमावायरस (HPV) वैक्सीनेशन कैंपेन शुरू किया। HPV वैक्सीनेशन कैंपेन मुख्य रूप से किस उम्र के लोगों को टारगेट करता है?

- (a) 10-year-old girls
- (b) 12-year-old girls
- (c) 14-year-old girls
- (d) 16-year-old girls
- (e) 18-year-old girls

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Launches Nationwide Free HPV Vaccination Drive for 14-Year-Old Girls from Ajmer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign from Ajmer to protect 14-year-old girls from cervical cancer. The campaign will use Gardasil, a quadrivalent vaccine that protects against HPV types 16 & 18 (which cause cervical cancer) and types 6 & 11. The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost at government health facilities, including Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and district hospitals.

Cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer among women in India, with around 80,000 new cases and over 42,000 deaths annually, making this campaign a major public health initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

5. Sri Lanka's first-ever Blue Bond, amounting to LKR 3 billion and aimed at financing sustainable marine resources, clean drinking water supply and aquatic pollution control projects, was issued by which of the following banks?

श्रीलंका का पहला ब्लू बॉन्ड, जिसकी राशि LKR 3 बिलियन है और जिसका उद्देश्य सतत समुद्री संसाधनों, स्वच्छ पेयजल आपूर्ति तथा जलीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण परियोजनाओं के वित्तपोषण से संबंधित है, निम्नलिखित में से किस बैंक द्वारा जारी किया गया?

- (a) Bank of Ceylon
- (b) People's Bank Sri Lanka
- (c) Hatton National Bank
- (d) Commercial Bank of Ceylon
- (e) DFCC Bank

Ans. e

Sol. Sri Lanka's First Blue Bond Listed on NSE IX at GIFT City

Sri Lanka's first-ever Blue Bond, a LKR 3 billion issuance by DFCC Bank, has been dually listed on the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City, marking the first blue bond admitted for trading within India's IFSC jurisdiction.

The dual listing was enabled through an MoU between NSE IX and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), strengthening cross-border capital market collaboration and promoting innovative financial products across jurisdictions.

The Blue Bond aims to finance sustainable marine resource use, clean drinking water supply, aquatic pollution control, and ocean-based economic activities, reflecting growing global focus on environmentally responsible and impact-driven investments.

About Sri Lanka

- **Legislative capital** - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Executive and Judicial capital** - Colombo
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan rupee
- **President** - Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- **Prime Minister** - Harini Amarasuriya

6. INS Anjadip, recently inducted into the Indian Navy fleet as the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) corvette, has been constructed using the entire quantity of special-grade indigenous steel supplied by which of the following organizations?

हाल ही में भारतीय नौसेना के बेड़े में शामिल तीसरी एंटी-सबमरीन वारफेयर शैलो वाटर क्राफ्ट (ASW-SWC) कोर्वेट INS अंजदिप का निर्माण पूर्ण रूप से विशेष-ग्रेड स्वदेशी स्टील से किया गया है, जिसकी आपूर्ति निम्नलिखित में से किस संगठन द्वारा की गई?

- (a) Tata Steel Limited
- (b) JSW Steel Limited
- (c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
- (d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- (e) Steel Authority of India Limited

Ans. e

Sol. INS Anjadip, Built with Indigenous SAIL Steel, Set to Join Indian Navy Fleet Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) supplied the entire quantity of approximately 3,500 tonnes of special-grade indigenous steel for INS Anjadip, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), strengthening India's defence manufacturing capabilities.

INS Anjadip is the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) corvette to join the Indian Navy, following INS Arnala and INS Androth in 2025, and is part of the indigenous programme to replace the ageing Abhay-class vessels. The steel was sourced from SAIL's integrated plants at Bokaro, Bhilai, and Rourkela, highlighting India's robust domestic supply chain and reinforcing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat through reduced import dependence in defence projects.

7. The Rail Tech Policy and digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) were announced under which initiative of Indian Railways?

रेल टेक नीति और रेलवे क्लेमस ट्रिब्यूनल (RCT) के डिजिटलीकरण की घोषणा भारतीय रेलवे की किस पहल के अंतर्गत की गई?

- (a) Digital India Mission
- (b) National Rail Plan 2030
- (c) Make in India Rail Drive
- (d) Smart Railway Mission
- (e) 52 Reforms in 52 Week initiative

Ans. e

Sol. Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Rail Tech Policy and e-RCT Digitisation Under Indian Railways' 52 Reforms Initiative

Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Rail Tech Policy and announced the complete digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) under Indian Railways' "52 Reforms

in 52 Weeks" initiative, promoting technology-driven governance and administrative reforms.

The Rail Tech Policy aims to engage startups, innovators, industries, and institutions through a simplified selection process and a dedicated Rail Tech Portal, enabling single-stage proposal submissions to accelerate innovation in railways.

Key focus areas include AI-based Elephant Intrusion Detection Systems (EIDS), fire detection in coaches, drone-based broken rail detection, solar-powered coaches, and AI-driven dispute resolution systems, with Indian Railways offering up to 50% development funding support and long-term scaling opportunities for successful solutions.

8. As part of India's effort to connect domestic investors with international capital markets, a Global Access platform has been soft launched to enable Indian residents to directly trade in overseas equities, debt instruments and ETFs under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) framework. This platform has been launched by which of the following organisations?

भारत के घरेलू निवेशकों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय पूंजी बाजारों से जोड़ने के उद्देश्य से एक ग्लोबल एक्सेस प्लेटफॉर्म का सॉफ्ट लॉन्च किया गया है, जो भारतीय निवासियों को LRS ढांचे के अंतर्गत विदेशी इक्विटी, ऋण साधनों और ETF में सीधे निवेश की सुविधा देता है। यह प्लेटफॉर्म निम्नलिखित में से किस संगठन द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया है?

- (a) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (d) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
- (e) NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)

Ans. e

Sol. NSE IX Soft Launches Global Access Platform to Enable Indian Investors to Trade in US and Global Markets

The NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) has soft-launched a Global Access platform, enabling Indian investors to directly trade in international equities, debt instruments, and ETFs, thereby connecting domestic investors with global capital markets.

The platform will initially provide access to the US markets, with plans to expand to nearly 30 international markets—including G-7 nations—over the next three to six months, offering broader global diversification opportunities.

The initiative operates under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) of the Reserve Bank of India, allowing resident individuals to remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year for overseas investments.

9. IIFL Home Finance has secured a \$300 million loan from which international financial institution to expand access to affordable housing finance in India?

IIFL होम फाइनेंस ने भारत में सस्ते हाउसिंग फाइनेंस तक पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए किस इंटरनेशनल फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन से \$300 मिलियन का लोन लिया है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. IIFL Home Finance Secures \$300 Million ADB Loan to Boost Affordable and Green Housing for Women

IIFL Home Finance has secured a \$300 million loan from the Asian Development Bank to expand access to affordable housing finance in India.

The loan proceeds will be on-lent as mortgages primarily to women in low-income communities across peri-urban, urban, and lagging states, promoting financial inclusion and women's empowerment.

Over 25% of the loan amount is earmarked for financing green-certified affordable homes, supporting sustainable and climate-resilient housing development.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masato Kanda (replace Masatsugu Asakawa)
- **Member Countries** - 69 (Israel)

10. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has partnered with which company to display authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps?

यूनिक आइडेंटिफिकेशन अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (UIDAI) ने Google Maps पर ऑथराइज़्ड आधार सेंटर दिखाने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है?

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Amazon
- (c) Meta
- (d) Apple
- (e) Google

Ans. e

Sol. UIDAI Partners with Google to Display Authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps Nationwide

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has partnered with Google to display authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps, improving accessibility, transparency, and convenience for residents across India.

Users will be able to identify centres based on specific services such as adult enrolment, child enrolment, address/mobile updates, along with details on accessibility features (divyang-friendly infrastructure), parking availability, and operating hours.

The collaboration will cover over 60,000 verified Aadhaar Centres, including Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs), and in the next phase, UIDAI will utilise Google Business Profile to manage centre information and respond directly to public feedback for a more responsive service ecosystem.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- UIDAI is a statutory authority established by the Government of India to issue Aadhaar, a 12-digit unique identification number to residents of India.
- It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- CEO - Bhuvnesh Kumar

11. The Casebook on AI and Gender Empowerment was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, underscoring India's commitment to inclusive, ethical, and gender-responsive artificial intelligence development. The Casebook was developed under which Government of India initiative?

इंडिया AI इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026 में AI और जेंडर एम्पावरमेंट पर केसबुक लॉन्च की गई, जिसमें इनक्लूसिव, एथिकल और जेंडर-रिस्पॉन्सिव आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस डेवलपमेंट के लिए भारत के कमिटमेंट को दिखाया गया। यह केसबुक भारत सरकार की किस पहल के तहत डेवलप की गई थी?

- Digital India Mission
- Startup India Mission
- National AI Portal
- IndiaAI Mission under MeitY
- Atal Innovation Mission

Ans. d

Sol. Casebook on AI and Gender Empowerment Launched at India AI Impact Summit 2026

The Casebook on AI and Gender Empowerment was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, underscoring India's commitment to inclusive, ethical, and gender-responsive artificial intelligence development.

The casebook was developed by the Government of India under the IndiaAI Mission of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in partnership with UN Women and supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), featuring 23 impactful AI solutions promoting gender equality from over 50 countries.

12. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), in its second External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) transaction of FY 2025–26, signed a loan agreement with a consortium of Japanese banks through their GIFT City branches to raise funds for railway sector projects. The ECB raised in this transaction was equivalent to which of the following amounts?

इंडियन रेलवे फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन (IRFC) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2025–26 में अपने दूसरे बाह्य वाणिज्यिक उधार (ECB) लेन-देन के तहत जापानी बैंकों के एक समूह के साथ GIFT City शाखाओं के माध्यम से रेलवे क्षेत्र की परियोजनाओं के वित्तपोषण हेतु ऋण समझौता किया। इस लेन-देन में जुटाई गई ECB राशि निम्नलिखित में से कितनी थी?

- (a) USD 250 million
- (b) USD 300 million
- (c) USD 350 million
- (d) USD 400 million
- (e) USD 500 million

Ans. d

Sol. IRFC Raises USD 400 Million Equivalent ECB from SMBC and MUFG via GIFT City Branches

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has raised an External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) of JPY equivalent to USD 400 million by signing a loan agreement with a consortium of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and MUFG Bank through their GIFT City branches.

This marks IRFC's second ECB transaction in FY 2025–26, following its earlier USD 300 million equivalent borrowing in December 2025, strengthening its diversified global funding strategy.

The five-year unsecured loan is benchmarked to the Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONAR), and the proceeds will be utilised to finance railway sector projects, including those with forward and backward linkages, in accordance with ECB guidelines.

13. As part of its 75th Foundation Year celebrations, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launched a special initiative aimed at strengthening healthcare outreach, enhancing last-mile delivery of medical

services, and bringing essential health facilities closer to insured workers and their families. Which of the following initiatives was launched for this purpose?

75वें स्थापना वर्ष समारोह के दौरान कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (ESIC) ने स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की पहुंच को सुदृढ़ करने, अंतिम छोर तक चिकित्सा सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध कराने तथा बीमित श्रमिकों और उनके परिवारों के नजदीक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ पहुँचाने के उद्देश्य से एक विशेष पहल शुरू की। निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी पहल इसी उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई?

- (a) Ayushman Bharat Mission
- (b) Jan Arogya Abhiyan
- (c) National Health Drive
- (d) Sehat Suraksha Yojana
- (e) Swasthya Rath Initiative

Ans. e

Sol. ESIC Launches 75th Foundation Year Celebrations, Unveils Commemorative Coin and Swasthya Rath Initiative

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation commenced its 75th Foundation Year celebrations at Bharat Mandapam, marking over seven decades of dedicated social security and healthcare service to workers and their families across India.

Established in 1952 with about 1.2 lakh beneficiaries and a single dispensary, ESIC has expanded significantly and now serves over 15 crore beneficiaries through a network of 166 hospitals, 17 medical colleges, and nearly 1,600 dispensaries nationwide.

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee (ESIC@75), a special commemorative coin was released along with the launch of the ESIC@75 Coffee Table Book, highlighting the Corporation's milestones, legacy, and transformative initiatives.

14. The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise 'Vayushakti-26' at which location?
 इंडियन एयर फ़ोर्स ने एक्सरसाइज़ 'वायुशक्ति-26' किस जगह पर की?

- (a) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- (b) Chandipur Test Range, Odisha
- (c) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- (d) Babina Field Firing Range, Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Tezpur Air Base, Assam

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Air Force Showcases Full-Spectrum Combat Power in Exercise 'Vayushakti-26' at Pokhran Range

The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise 'Vayushakti-26' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, showcasing full-spectrum air combat capabilities, operational synergy, and advanced technological prowess in a simulated live combat theatre.

For the first time, the exercise followed a defined operational storyline integrating offensive air strikes, air defence operations, special forces missions, and humanitarian assistance—highlighting the IAF's role as a multi-domain, integrated force and the nation's first responder.

15. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has mandated the sale of petrol blended with up to 20% ethanol (E20) with a minimum RON of 95 across all States and Union Territories from which date?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में न्यूनतम 95 RON के साथ 20% एथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल (E20) की बिक्री किस तिथि से अनिवार्य की है?

- (a) 1 March 2026
- (b) 1 October 2026
- (c) 1 May 2026
- (d) 1 April 2026
- (e) 15 August 2026

Ans. d

Sol. Petroleum Ministry Mandates Nationwide Sale of E20 Petrol with Minimum RON 95 from April 2026

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has mandated the nationwide sale of E20 petrol (up to 20% ethanol blending) with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 across all States and Union Territories from 1 April 2026 to enhance cleaner fuel usage.

The Ethanol Blended Programme, launched in January 2003 with an initial 5% blending target, has gradually expanded to higher levels of blending to boost India's energy security and support farmers and the agricultural economy.

16. World Hearing Day is observed every year on 3 March to raise awareness about hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care globally. What is the theme of World Hearing Day 2026?

वर्ल्ड हियरिंग डे हर साल 3 मार्च को सुनने की क्षमता में कमी के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और दुनिया भर में कान और सुनने की देखभाल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड हियरिंग डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Hearing for a Healthy Future: hearing care for all children
- (b) Sound Awareness for All: hearing care for all children
- (c) From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children
- (d) Ear Health for Every Citizen: hearing care for all children
- (e) Protect Your Hearing Today: hearing care for all children

Ans. c

Sol. 3 March - World Hearing Day

World Hearing Day is observed every year on 3 March to raise awareness about hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care globally.

Theme 2026 - From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children

The day is organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to encourage early detection and prevention of hearing impairment.

17. World Wildlife Day is observed every year on which date?

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

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

Ans. b

Sol. 3 March - World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day is observed every year on 3 March to raise awareness about the conservation of wild animals and plants.

Theme 2026 - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, marking the adoption of CITES in 1973.

It highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation and supports global efforts under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

18. The Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, recently launched by President Droupadi Murmu, is an expanded version of which scheme?

हाल ही में राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू द्वारा लॉन्च की गई दिल्ली लखपति बिटिया योजना किस योजना का विस्तारित रूप है?

- (a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- (b) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- (c) Ladli Scheme
- (d) Kanya Shiksha Yojana
- (e) Balika Samridhi Yojana

Ans. c

Sol. President Murmu Launches Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

President Droupadi Murmu will launch the Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, replacing and expanding the earlier Ladli Scheme.

Under the previous Ladli Scheme, ₹11,000 (institutional birth) and ₹10,000 (home birth) were deposited, along with ₹5,000 at key stages such as admission to Classes 1, 6, 9, passing Class 10, and admission to Class 12.

The revamped scheme significantly enhances financial assistance and broadens its vision to ensure greater support for girl children.

The scheme is applicable to Delhi-resident families (minimum 3 years) with annual income up to ₹1.20 lakh, and is inspired by the vision of Narendra Modi to promote daughters' education, dignity, and self-reliance.

19. Which country launched the world's first Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure (SFCSI)?

दुनिया का पहला संप्रभु वित्तीय क्लाउड सर्विसेज इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (SFCSI) किस देश ने लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Singapore
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Qatar
- (e) United States

Ans. c

Sol. UAE Launches World's First Sovereign Financial Cloud to Strengthen Secure Digital Finance

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) launched the world's first Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure (SFCSI) to strengthen secure and regulated digital finance in the UAE.

Developed in partnership with Core42 (a subsidiary of G42), the platform provides a secure, AI-powered cloud environment exclusively for the UAE's financial sector.

The sovereign cloud ensures data sovereignty by keeping critical financial data within national jurisdiction, embedding regulatory controls and cybersecurity safeguards directly into its architecture.

20. Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on which date?

ज़ीरो डिस्क्रिमिनेशन डे प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 28 February
- (b) 1 March
- (c) 3 March
- (d) 5 March
- (e) 8 March

Ans. b

Sol. 1 March - Zero Discrimination Day

Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on 1 March to promote equality and stand against all forms of discrimination worldwide.

The day was launched by UNAIDS to highlight the importance of inclusion, compassion, peace, and the right of every individual to live with dignity.

21. World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व नागरिक सुरक्षा दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 28 February
- (b) 1 March
- (c) 3 March
- (d) 5 March
- (e) 8 March

Ans. b

Sol. 1 March - World Civil Defence Day

World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on 1 March to recognise and honour civil defence organisations and volunteers who help protect people from disasters, emergencies, and risks through preparedness and response efforts.

Theme 2026 - Managing Environmental Risk for a Resilient Future: A Civil Defense Perspective

The day highlights the importance of disaster prevention, risk reduction, public safety education, and emergency response training, encouraging communities to be more resilient and prepared.

22. Which company received the contract to build the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Maharashtra?

महाराष्ट्र में लेज़र इंटरफेरोमीटर ग्रैविटेशनल वेव ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी (LIGO) बनाने का ठेका किस कंपनी को मिला?

- (a) Tata Projects
- (b) Larsen & Toubro
- (c) Adani Infrastructure
- (d) Reliance Industries
- (e) BHEL

Ans. b

Sol. Larsen & Toubro Secures ₹1,000–2,500 Crore Contract to Build LIGO Observatory in Maharashtra

Larsen & Toubro secured a contract from India's Department of Atomic Energy to construct the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Aundha, Hingoli district, Maharashtra.

The ₹1,000–2,500 crore project includes high-precision civil infrastructure, an 8 km ultra-high vacuum beam tube, and advanced vacuum equipment. Scheduled for completion in 48 months, the interferometer-based observatory will detect gravitational waves and is set to become one of India's flagship mega science projects.

23. Which team won their first-ever Ranji Trophy title by defeating Karnataka at Hubballi?

कर्नाटक को हुबली में हराकर पहली बार रणजी ट्रॉफी जीतने वाली टीम कौन-सी है?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Services
- (e) Goa

Ans. b

Sol. Jammu & Kashmir Clinch First-Ever Ranji Trophy Title

Jammu and Kashmir's Ranji cricket team won their first-ever Ranji Trophy title, defeating eight-time champions Karnataka at Hubballi.

The team ended a 67-year wait for the prestigious domestic First-Class cricket title with a dominant performance.

Jammu and Kashmir secured the crown with a massive 291-run first-innings lead, extending their overall advantage to 633 runs to seal the historic victory.

24. As part of India's ongoing wildlife conservation initiative under Project Cheetah, how many cheetahs were recently translocated from Botswana to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh to strengthen the country's growing cheetah population?

प्रोजेक्ट चीता के तहत भारत की वन्यजीव संरक्षण पहल को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, मध्य प्रदेश के कुनो नेशनल पार्क में बोत्सवाना से हाल ही में कितने चीते स्थानांतरित किए गए?

- (a) 7
- (b) 8
- (c) 9
- (d) 10
- (e) 12

Ans. c

Sol. India Welcomes Nine Cheetahs from Botswana to Kuno National Park

Bhupender Yadav announced the arrival of nine cheetahs (six females and three males) from Botswana to Kuno National Park.

The new arrivals have strengthened the population under Project Cheetah, boosting India's wildlife conservation efforts.

With this addition, India now has a total of 48 cheetahs, including 28 India-born cubs, indicating a growing and thriving population.

25. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semiconductor Assembly, Test and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand, marking the start of commercial production and shipment of India-made semiconductor memory modules.

Which company owns the ATMP facility inaugurated in Sanand?

PM नरेंद्र मोदी ने साणंद में सेमीकंडक्टर असेंबली, टेस्ट और पैकेजिंग (ATMP) फैसिलिटी का उद्घाटन किया, जिससे भारत में बने सेमीकंडक्टर मेमोरी मॉड्यूल के कमर्शियल प्रोडक्शन और शिपमेंट की शुरुआत हुई। साणंद में शुरू की गई ATMP फैसिलिटी किस कंपनी की है?

- (a) Intel Corporation
- (b) TSMC
- (c) Micron Technology
- (d) Samsung Electronics
- (e) Qualcomm

Ans. c

Sol. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Micron's ATMP Facility in Sanand

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semiconductor Assembly, Test and Packaging (ATMP) facility of Micron Technology in Sanand, marking the start of commercial production and shipment of India-made semiconductor memory modules.

The facility strengthens India's role in the global semiconductor value chain and symbolises a crucial technology partnership between India and the United States, especially in chips and AI sectors.

Under Semiconductor Mission 2.0, a pan-India semiconductor ecosystem is emerging—from Sanand to Noida and Assam—signaling India's shift from software strength to hardware manufacturing leadership.

26. How much monetary penalty was imposed on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following the annual inspection for the financial year ending March 31, 2025, for violations identified during the review?

महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज़ लिमिटेड पर वित्तीय वर्ष 31 मार्च 2025 को समाप्त होने वाले वार्षिक निरीक्षण के दौरान पाए गए उल्लंघनों के लिए रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (RBI) द्वारा कितनी राशि का जुर्माना लगाया गया?

- (a) Rs 5.5 lakh
- (b) Rs 10.50 lakh
- (c) Rs 11.50 lakh

(d) Rs 15 lakh

(e) Rs 20 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Imposes Rs 11.50 Lakh Penalty on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
 Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited was imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 11.50 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) due to violations found during the annual inspection for FY ending March 31, 2025.

The company disclosed the penalty to the stock exchange under SEBI's Regulation 30 for material events, as per listing obligations.

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

27. Which country became the first in the European Union to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis?

कौन सा देश यूरोपीय संघ में मां से बच्चे में HIV और सिफलिस के संक्रमण को खत्म करने वाला पहला देश बना?

(a) Sweden

(b) Denmark

(c) Germany

(d) France

(e) Norway

Ans. b

Sol. Denmark Becomes First EU Country to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis

Denmark became the first European Union country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis, as certified by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The validation by WHO's Regional and Global committees confirmed Denmark met all targets from 2021–2024, including low transmission rates and high prenatal testing and treatment coverage.

Denmark's success is attributed to low HIV and syphilis rates among pregnant women, routine testing, and effective treatment, reducing mother-to-child transmission to zero.

28. Who officially launched the Government Bank Manual and the Government Bank Dashboard, initiatives aimed at strengthening governance, efficiency, and accountability in banks handling government transactions?

सरकारी बैंक लेन-देन को संभालने वाले बैंकों में शासन, दक्षता और जवाबदेही को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से सरकारी बैंक मैनुअल और सरकारी बैंक डैशबोर्ड किसने आधिकारिक तौर पर लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Finance Minister of India
- (b) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
- (c) Controller General of Accounts
- (d) Chairman of SEBI
- (e) Prime Minister of India

Ans. c

Sol. CGA Launches Government Bank Manual and Dashboard to Strengthen Governance and Efficiency

CGA T.C.A. Kalyani launched the Government Bank Manual and Government Bank Dashboard to enhance governance and efficiency in banks handling government transactions.

The Government Bank Manual provides standardised procedures, reporting obligations, reconciliation timelines, and compliance requirements to reduce ambiguity and operational risk.

The Government Bank Dashboard enables real-time, data-driven monitoring of government banking functions, tracking KPIs like remittance timelines, reconciliation status, and transaction success rates.

These initiatives institutionalize uniform procedures, reinforce accountability, and pave the way for digital integration, cybersecurity, advanced analytics, and capacity building in government banking operations.

29. How much grant was released to Jharkhand under the XV Finance Commission?

XV वित्त आयोग के तहत झारखंड को कितनी राशि जारी की गई?

- (a) Rs. 150 crore
- (b) Rs. 275 crore
- (c) Rs. 300 crore
- (d) Rs. 200 crore
- (e) Rs. 500 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Over Rs. 275 Crore Released to Jharkhand under XV Finance Commission to Strengthen Rural Governance

The Union Government released over Rs. 275 crore under the XV Finance Commission to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies in Jharkhand.

The 2nd installment of Untied Grants for FY 2024–25 will benefit 24 District Panchayats, 253 Block Panchayats, and 4,342 Gram Panchayats across the state.

About Jharkhand

- **Capital** – Ranchi
- **Chief Minister** – Hemant Soren
- **Governor** - Santosh Kumar Gangwar

30. In February 2026, India signed an MoU with which country to promote India's blue economy and coastal livelihoods through technology-driven, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices?

फरवरी 2026 में, भारत ने टेक्नोलॉजी से चलने वाली, सस्टेनेबल मछली पालन और एक्वाकल्चर के तरीकों से भारत की ब्लू इकॉनमी और तटीय आजीविका को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस देश के साथ एक MoU साइन किया?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Israel
- (c) Australia
- (d) Norway
- (e) South Korea

Ans. b

Sol. India and Israel Partner to Boost Blue Economy with Technology-Driven Fisheries and Aquaculture Initiatives

India and Israel signed an MoU to boost India's blue economy and coastal livelihoods through technology-driven, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.

The agreement promotes professional collaboration via Indo-Israel Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and technical cooperation, including setting up an oceanarium in India.

Key focus areas include advanced Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS), water reuse, automation, climate-resilient farming, and strengthening aquatic disease management.

31. 'Finsider' mobile app has been launched by which company?

'फिनसाइडर' मोबाइल ऐप किस कंपनी ने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Jio Platforms Ltd
- (b) Reliance Retail Ltd

- (c) Reliance Industries Ltd
(d) Jio Payments Bank
(e) Jio Finance Platform and Service Ltd

Ans. e

Sol. Jio Finance Platform and Service Ltd Launches 'Finsider' App Powered by AI
Jio Finance Platform and Service Ltd (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Ltd) has launched its new mobile app 'Finsider', along with an early access programme for users to test features and provide feedback.

The app leverages Agentic AI and Neural Networks to deliver a hyper-personalised, instant, and always-on financial experience to customers.

32. What was the total gross GST collection in February 2026?

फरवरी 2026 में कुल ग्राँस GST कलेक्शन कितना था?

- (a) ₹1.69 lakh crore
(b) ₹1.75 lakh crore
(c) ₹1.83 lakh crore
(d) ₹1.90 lakh crore
(e) ₹2.01 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. India's Gross GST Collection Rises 8.1% to ₹1.83 Lakh Crore in February 2026
India's gross GST collections rose by 8.1% year-on-year to over ₹1.83 lakh crore in February 2026, compared to ₹1.69 lakh crore in February 2025, showing steady revenue growth.

The Central GST (CGST) collection stood at ₹37,473 crore, while State GST (SGST) collections reached ₹45,900 crore during February 2026.

The Integrated GST (IGST) collections crossed ₹1 lakh crore, contributing significantly to the overall GST revenue for the month.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- November 2025 – 1.70 lakh crore
- December 2025 – 1.75 lakh crore
- January 2026 – 1.93 lakh crore

33. Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026 will be held in which city?

मोबाइल वर्ल्ड कांग्रेस (MWC) 2026 किस शहर में होगा?

- (a) Geneva
(b) Paris
(c) Barcelona
(d) Berlin
(e) Madrid

Ans. c

Sol. Jyotiraditya Scindia to Represent India at MWC 2026 in Barcelona
 Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Communications, will represent India at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026 in Barcelona, Spain — one of the world's largest telecom and technology events.

He will inaugurate the Bharat Pavilion, showcasing India's growing strength in telecom and digital innovation on the global platform.

The Minister will also visit the booth of Tejas Networks for the launch of the T31600-D3 Hyper-scalable DCI Platform, a Data Center Interconnect (DCI) technology used to connect multiple data centers with ultra high-speed networks.

34. Who has been appointed as the President of the Main Competition Jury at the 79th Cannes Film Festival?

79वें कान्स फिल्म फेस्टिवल में मेन कॉम्पिटिशन जूरी का प्रेसिडेंट किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Bong Joon-ho
- (b) Lee Chang-dong
- (c) Park Chan-wook
- (d) Kim Ki-duk
- (e) Hirokazu Kore-eda

Ans. c

Sol. Park Chan-wook Appointed President of Main Jury at 79th Cannes Film Festival, First Korean to Lead Jury

Acclaimed South Korean director Park Chan-wook has been appointed as the President of the Main Competition Jury at the 79th Cannes Film Festival.

This marks the first time a Korean filmmaker has been selected to lead the Cannes main jury.

The 79th Cannes Film Festival is scheduled to be held from 12 to 23 May 2026 in Cannes, France.

35. The Managing Director (MD) & CEO of Fino Payments Bank, Rishi Gupta, was arrested on 27 February 2026 under provisions of which of the following Acts related to tax evasion and financial irregularities?

फिनो पेमेंट्स बैंक के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (MD) और CEO, ऋषि गुप्ता को 27 फरवरी 2026 को टैक्स चोरी और फाइनेंशियल गड़बड़ियों से जुड़े इनमें से किस एक्ट के तहत गिरफ्तार किया गया था?

- (a) Companies Act, 2013
- (b) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- (c) CGST Act, 2017 and SGST Act, 2017
- (d) RBI Act, 1934
- (e) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

Ans. c

Sol. Fino Payments Bank MD & CEO Rishi Gupta Arrested Under GST Act

Fino Payments Bank MD & CEO Rishi Gupta has been arrested on 27 February 2026 under Section 132(1)(a) of CGST Act, 2017 and Section 132(1)(i) of SGST Act, 2017 as per the bank's exchange filing.

The bank clarified that the investigation is related to its business partners, not its own GST practices, and stated that no other bank officials are involved and there is no operational impact.

In a special Board Meeting, current CFO Ketan Merchant has been appointed as the Head of the Organisation to oversee day-to-day operations, and the development has been informed to the RBI.

36. Which team won the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 team championship title?

खेलो इंडिया विंटर गेम्स 2026 टीम चैंपियनशिप का खिताब किस टीम ने जीता?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Indian Army
- (e) Ladakh

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Army Clinches Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Team Title with 23 Medals

The first three editions of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) were hosted and won by Jammu and Kashmir in 2020, 2021, and 2023, showcasing its dominance in winter sports.

The Indian Army won the KIWG 2026 team championship title with a total of 23 medals (9 Gold, 6 Silver, 8 Bronze).

The Indian Army has maintained its supremacy by also winning the team championships in 2024 and 2025, continuing its winning streak.

In the 2026 medal tally, Himachal Pradesh (14 medals), Haryana (7 medals), Maharashtra (12 medals), and Ladakh (13 medals) secured the next top positions after the Indian Army.

37. Wankhede Stadium, where the stand will be named after Ravi Shastri, is situated in which city?

वानखेडे स्टेडियम, जिसके स्टैंड का नाम रवि शास्त्री के नाम पर रखा जाएगा, किस शहर में है?

- (a) Pune
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Nagpur

- (d) Surat
(e) Indore

Ans. b

Sol. Mumbai Cricket Association to Name Stand at Wankhede Stadium After Ravi Shastri

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has decided to name a stand at Wankhede Stadium after former India cricketer and coach Ravi Shastri as a tribute to his contribution to Indian cricket.

Wankhede Stadium is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

38. Ali Khamenei, who had been serving as the Supreme Leader — the highest political and religious authority — of the country since 1989 and was reportedly killed in joint US-Israeli airstrikes, belonged to which country?

अली खामेनेई, जो 1989 से देश के सुप्रीम लीडर – सबसे बड़े पॉलिटिकल और धार्मिक अधिकारी – के तौर पर काम कर रहे थे और कहा जाता है कि US-इज़राइल के जॉइंट एयरस्ट्राइक में मारे गए थे, किस देश के थे?

- (a) Iraq
(b) Syria
(c) Iran
(d) Lebanon
(e) Saudi Arabia

Ans. c

Sol. Reports Claim Ali Khamenei Killed in Alleged US-Israel Airstrikes

Ali Khamenei, who had served as Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989 — holding the highest political and religious authority in the country — was killed in joint US-Israeli airstrikes, as confirmed by Iranian state media and multiple reports amid the ongoing conflict.

Before becoming Supreme Leader, Khamenei also served as President of Iran from 1981 to 1989, and his death has triggered national mourning and regional geopolitical repercussions.

39. Who has been appointed as the interim successor to Iran's Supreme Leader?

ईरान के सुप्रीम लीडर के अंतरिम उत्तराधिकारी के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Hassan Rouhani
(b) Ebrahim Raisi
(c) Ayatollah Alireza Arafai
(d) Mohammad Khatami
(e) Ali Larijani

Ans. c

Sol. Ayatollah Alireza Arafai Appointed as Interim Supreme Leader of Iran
 Iran has appointed Ayatollah Alireza Arafai as the interim successor to long-time Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, placing him in an interim leadership council alongside the President and the Head of the Judiciary.

He has been named as the jurist member of Iran's Leadership Council, which will perform the duties of the Supreme Leader until the Assembly of Experts elects a permanent leader.

Alireza Arafai previously served as President of Al-Mustafa International University (2008–2018) and has been a permanent member of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution since 2011.

About Iran

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **President** – Masoud Pezeshkian
- **Supreme Leader** - Ayatollah Alireza Arafai

40. Which state has recently launched its first Dark Sky Park at Kolli Hills to promote astronomical tourism?

हाल ही में किस राज्य ने एस्ट्रोनॉमिकल टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कोल्ली हिल्स में अपना पहला डार्क स्काई पार्क लॉन्च किया है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park at Kolli Hills to Promote Stargazing Tourism

The Tamil Nadu government has launched its first Dark Sky Park at Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest in Kolli Hills, aimed at promoting stargazing and astronomical tourism.

A Dark Sky Park is a protected area with minimal artificial light pollution, and Kolli Hills' elevated terrain, dense forest cover, and low urban light disturbance make it ideal for night-sky preservation.

The project, announced in the Legislative Assembly on June 25, 2024, was developed at a cost of ₹1 crore, with visitor entry restricted to 20 people at a time to ensure ecological protection and participant safety.

About Tamil Nadu

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

41. Which command of the Indian Air Force conducted the joint maritime exercise 'Kalari Leap'?

इंडियन एयर फ़ोर्स के किस कमांड ने जॉइंट मैरीटाइम एक्सरसाइज़ 'कलारी लीप' की?

- (a) Western Air Command
- (b) Eastern Air Command
- (c) Central Air Command
- (d) Southern Air Command
- (e) South Western Air Command

Ans. d

Sol. Southern Air Command Conducts 'Kalari Leap' Joint Maritime Exercise in Lakshadweep Region

The Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force conducted a high-tempo joint maritime exercise named Kalari Leap in the Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago. The exercise aimed to validate joint operational planning, rapid force projection, and precise execution in complex maritime environments, strengthening coastal and island security preparedness.

42. Which bank has partnered with Canara Robeco AMC to distribute mutual fund products?

किस बैंक ने म्यूचुअल फंड प्रोडक्ट्स को डिस्ट्रीब्यूट करने के लिए केनरा रोबेको AMC के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है?

- (a) Bank of Baroda
- (b) Central Bank of India
- (c) Indian Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Union Bank of India

Ans. b

Sol. Central Bank of India Partners with Canara Robeco AMC to Distribute Mutual Fund Products

Central Bank of India has signed a Distribution Agreement with Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited to offer its mutual fund products to the bank's customers.

Under this partnership, customers of Central Bank of India will be able to diversify their savings by investing in a wide range of professionally managed mutual fund schemes.

The agreement expands investment opportunities for customers by enabling the bank to distribute various mutual fund products managed by Canara Robeco AMC.

43. The Indian Navy recently commissioned which Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) at Chennai Port?

इंडियन नेवी ने हाल ही में चेन्नई पोर्ट पर कौन सा एंटी-सबमरीन वारफेयर शैलो वॉटर क्राफ्ट (ASW SWC) कमीशन किया है?

- (a) INS Kiltan
- (b) INS Vikrant
- (c) INS Kadmatt
- (d) INS Anjadip
- (e) INS Shivalik

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous ASW Craft 'INS Anjadip' at Chennai to Boost Coastal Defence

The Indian Navy commissioned its fourth indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), INS Anjadip, at Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu, to strengthen coastal anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

The vessel was commissioned by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi in the presence of senior naval officials.

The 77-metre-long warship is equipped with indigenous ASW weapons and advanced sensor systems to detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines in coastal waters, and is named after Anjadip Island off the coast of Karwar.

44. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for The Derma Co.'s skincare category?

द डर्मा कंपनी की स्किनकेयर कैटेगरी के लिए किसे ब्रांड एंबेसडर बनाया गया है?

- (a) P.V. Sindhu
- (b) Mithali Raj
- (c) Sania Mirza
- (d) Saina Nehwal
- (e) Hima Das

Ans. c

Sol. The Derma Co. Appoints Sania Mirza as Brand Ambassador for Skincare

The Derma Co. has appointed Sania Mirza as the brand ambassador for its sun care category and launched a new digital campaign for its 1% Hyaluronic Sunscreen Aqua Gel.

The campaign promotes daily sun protection, highlighting the product's formulation with six UV filters for sun defence and 1% hyaluronic acid for hydration, positioned as "one sunscreen, two superpowers."

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Sachin Tendulkar - Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations
- Shikhar Dhawan - Delhi Khel Mahakumbh 2026
- A R Rahman - DAC Developers
- MS Dhoni - Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026
- Amitabh Bachchan - Reliance Campa Sure Packaged Water

45. Consider the following statements about the 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026:

11वें रायसीना डायलॉग 2026 के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. The dialogue is organised by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. The Chief Guest is Dr. Alexander Stubb, who is the President of Norway.
3. The theme for 2026 is "Global Trade and Security."
4. It will be held in New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans. e

Sol. 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026 to be Held in New Delhi with Finland President Dr Alexander Stubb as Chief Guest

The 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026 will be held in New Delhi, India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, bringing together global leaders and policymakers.

The dialogue is organised by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, focusing on strategic and economic discussions.

The theme for 2026 is "Samskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement", with Dr Alexander Stubb attending as the Chief Guest.

46. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में नेवल हेडक्वार्टर, नई दिल्ली में निदेशक जनरल ऑफ नेवल आर्मामेंट (DGONA) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Divakar Jayant
- (b) B.P. Singh
- (c) R. Hari Kumar
- (d) Ajay Kumar
- (e) Anil Chauhan

Ans. b

Sol. Shri B.P. Singh Assumes Charge as Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)
 Shri B.P. Singh assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi.

He is a 1994 batch officer of the Indian Naval Armament Service (INAS) and succeeded Shri Divakar Jayant after distinguished service.

Before this appointment, he served as Chief General Manager of Naval Armament Depot (NAD), Mumbai, bringing over three decades of experience in the Naval Armament Organisation.

Recent Appointments in Defence Sector

- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
- **DG of the Border Security Force (BSF)** - Praveen Kumar (till Sep 2030)
- **DG of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)** - Rakesh Aggarwal (till Aug 2028)
- **29th Director General Border Roads (DG BRO)** - Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh
- **Vice Chief of Air Staff** - Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor (replace Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari)

47. Om Birla, the Lok Sabha Speaker, reconstituted the Committee of Privileges. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee of Privileges in Lok Sabha?

लोकसभा स्पीकर ओम बिरला ने प्रिविलेज कमिटी को फिर से बनाया है। लोकसभा में प्रिविलेज कमिटी का चेयरमैन किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Manish Tewari
- (b) Ravi Shankar Prasad
- (c) Tariq Anwar
- (d) Dharmendra Yadav
- (e) Sambit Patra

Ans. b

Sol. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Reconstitutes Committee of Privileges

Om Birla, the Lok Sabha Speaker, reconstituted the Committee of Privileges. The committee will be chaired by Ravi Shankar Prasad, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The panel examines cases of breach of parliamentary privilege referred by the Speaker and submits reports recommending appropriate action.

48. Which of the following schemes was not among the four women-centric schemes dedicated by Droupadi Murmu in Delhi in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में Droupadi Murmu द्वारा दिल्ली में महिलाओं के लिए समर्पित चार योजनाओं में से निम्न में से कौन-सी योजना शामिल नहीं थी?

- (a) Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana
- (b) Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card
- (c) Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar
- (d) Free LPG Cylinder Scheme
- (e) Shri Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana

Ans. e

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Dedicates Four Schemes for Women in Delhi
Droupadi Murmu dedicated four women-centric schemes in Delhi: Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme, Saheli Pink Smart Card, Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar, and the Free LPG Cylinder Scheme.

Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana replaces the Delhi Ladli Scheme; eligible girl children will receive ₹61,000 in instalments, which will grow to over ₹1 lakh by the age of 21 with interest.

Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card will provide free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses, replacing the earlier pink ticket system.

Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar scheme ensures that funds from the old Ladli Scheme are transferred directly to the bank accounts of eligible girl beneficiaries.

Under the Free LPG Cylinder Scheme, ration card-holding families will receive money in their bank accounts to purchase LPG cylinders twice a year—during Holi and Diwali.

49. Dol Jatra (Dol Utsav), a vibrant Vaishnavite festival, was celebrated across Assam with colours, music, and devotional activities. Dol Jatra symbolises the eternal love between which two figures?

डोल जात्रा (डोल उत्सव), एक रंगीन वैष्णव त्योहार है, जिसे पूरे असम में रंगों, संगीत और भक्ति गतिविधियों के साथ मनाया गया। डोल जात्रा किन दो लोगों के बीच हमेशा रहने वाले प्यार का प्रतीक है?

- (a) Rama and Sita
- (b) Shiva and Parvati

- (c) Krishna and Radha
- (d) Vishnu and Lakshmi
- (e) Brahma and Saraswati

Ans. c

Sol. Dol Jatra Festival Celebrated Across Assam with Devotion and Colours

Dol Jatra (Dol Utsav), a vibrant Vaishnavite festival, was celebrated across Assam with colours, music, and devotional activities.

The festival symbolises the eternal love between Lord Krishna and Radha.

About Assam

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

50. Who inaugurated the Tribes Art Fest (TAF) 2026 in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में ट्राइब्स आर्ट फेस्ट (TAF) 2026 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Arjun Munda
- (b) Jual Oram
- (c) Kiren Rijiju
- (d) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (e) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Ans. b

Sol. Jual Oram Inaugurates Tribes Art Fest (TAF) 2026 at Travancore Palace in New Delhi

Jual Oram, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, inaugurated the Tribes Art Fest (TAF) 2026 at Travancore Palace in New Delhi, celebrating India's rich tribal art traditions.

The festival is organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).

51. The Rajasthan government recently announced the renaming of several historic cities as part of its decolonisation drive. What new name has been given to Mount Abu under this initiative?

राजस्थान सरकार ने हाल ही में उपनिवेशवाद समाप्त करने की पहल के तहत कई ऐतिहासिक शहरों के नाम बदलने की घोषणा की। इस पहल के तहत Mount Abu का नया नाम क्या रखा गया है?

- (a) Abu Nagar
- (b) Abu Raj
- (c) Arbud Dham

(d) Abu Puri**(e) Raj Abu****Ans. b**

Sol. Rajasthan Government Renames Three Cities; Mount Abu to Be Called Abu Raj in Decolonisation Drive

Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, announced the renaming of three historic cities as part of the state government's decolonisation drive.

Mount Abu will be renamed Abu Raj, while Kaman and Jahazpur will be renamed Kamvan and Yagyapur, respectively.

The government said the move aims to honour local sentiments and revive the traditional and cultural heritage of the region.

About Rajasthan

- **Capital** – Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** – Bhajan Lal Sharma
- **Deputy Chief Minister** – Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa
- **Governor** – Haribhau Bagade

52. According to recent data, how many Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions were recorded in February 2026?

हालिया आंकड़ों के अनुसार फरवरी 2026 में Unified Payments Interface (UPI) के कितने लेन-देन दर्ज किए गए?

- (a) 18.25 billion
- (b) 19.75 billion
- (c) 20.39 billion
- (d) 21.70 billion
- (e) 22.10 billion

Ans. c

Sol. Unified Payments Interface Transactions Dip 6% in Volume and 5% in Value in February 2026

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in February 2026 declined 6% in volume to 20.39 billion and 5% in value to ₹26.84 trillion compared to January's 21.70 billion transactions worth ₹28.33 trillion, mainly due to fewer days in February.

Despite the monthly dip, average daily transactions increased to 728 million worth ₹95,865 crore, compared to 700 million transactions worth ₹91,403 crore in January.

53. Utsav Charan Das, who passed away at the age of 80, was a renowned artist in which traditional art form?

उत्सव चरण दास, जिनका 80 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया, किस पारंपरिक कला के जाने-माने कलाकार थे?

- (a) Odissi Dance
- (b) Chhau Dance
- (c) Ghoda Nacha
- (d) Kathak
- (e) Bharatnatyam

Ans. c

Sol. Padma Shri Awardee and Renowned Ghoda Nacha Artist Utsav Charan Das Passes Away at 80

Utsav Charan Das, the renowned Ghoda Nacha artist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at the age of 80 in a private hospital in Choudwar, Cuttack, leaving a deep impact on Odisha's cultural community.

Born in Mania village and raised in Choudwar, Das dedicated his life to Ghoda Nacha from Class VIII, promoting the traditional folk dance nationally and internationally. His lifelong dedication to preserving Odisha's cultural heritage was recognized with the Padma Shri award in 2020, and he used his art to raise awareness on social and health issues.

54. What is the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) interest rate for the financial year 2025-26?

फाइनेशियल ईयर 2025-26 के लिए एम्प्लॉई प्रोविडेंट फंड (EPF) का इंटररेस्ट रेट क्या है?

- (a) 8.10%
- (b) 8.15%
- (c) 8.25%
- (d) 8.50%
- (e) 8.75%

Ans. c

Sol. EPFO Retains Employees' Provident Fund Interest Rate at 8.25% for FY 2025-26

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has retained the interest rate on EPF deposits at 8.25% for the financial year 2025-26, the same rate as the previous year.

The decision was taken at the 239th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees, chaired by Mansukh Mandaviya.

This marks the second consecutive year at 8.25%, continuing a trend where the EPF interest rate has ranged between 8% and 8.50% over the past few years, with minor fluctuations.

55. Which two institutions signed the third amendment to the \$75 billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)?

75 बिलियन डॉलर के द्विपक्षीय स्वैप व्यवस्था (BSA) के तीसरे संशोधन पर किन दो संस्थानों ने हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India and Federal Reserve
- (b) Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan
- (c) State Bank of India and Bank of Japan
- (d) Asian Development Bank and Bank of Japan
- (e) Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank

Ans. b

Sol. RBI and Bank of Japan Sign Third Amendment to \$75 Billion BSA to Strengthen Financial Cooperation

The Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Japan, acting as agents for Japan's Finance Minister, signed the third Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) for up to USD 75 billion.

Effective from February 28, 2026, the BSA is a two-way arrangement allowing both central banks to swap their local currencies in exchange for the US dollar.

The RBI stated that the BSA aims to strengthen financial safety nets, deepen India–Japan financial cooperation, and contribute to regional and global financial stability.

56. Narendra Modi and Mark Carney finalised key pacts on uranium and critical minerals supplies and agreed to work towards a comprehensive economic partnership, aiming to raise bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by which year?

नरेंद्र मोदी और मार्क कार्नी ने यूरेनियम और ज़रूरी मिनरल सप्लाई पर ज़रूरी समझौतों को फ़ाइनल किया और एक बड़ी आर्थिक पार्टनरशिप की दिशा में काम करने पर सहमत हुए, जिसका मकसद किस साल तक दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार को USD 50 बिलियन तक बढ़ाना है?

- (a) USD 20 billion
- (b) USD 30 billion
- (c) USD 40 billion
- (d) USD 50 billion
- (e) USD 60 billion

Ans. d

Sol. India and Canada Sign Uranium and Critical Minerals Pacts

Narendra Modi and Mark Carney finalised key pacts on uranium and critical minerals supplies and agreed to work towards a comprehensive economic partnership, aiming to raise bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030.

The two leaders pledged to enhance cooperation across defence, critical technologies, small and modular nuclear reactors, education, and renewable energy, highlighting strong mutual trust and positivity in India–Canada relations.

Under the agreement, Canada will support India's civil nuclear energy sector through a USD 2.6 billion uranium supply deal, strengthening India's energy security and clean energy initiatives.

57. The book "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" was written by:

“महात्मा: ए ग्रेट कम्युनिकेटर” किताब किसने लिखी है:

- (a) Sudhir Chaudhary
- (b) Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
- (c) Ramachandra Guha
- (d) Bibek Debroy
- (e) Anupam Kher

Ans. b

Sol. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya releases book titled "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, released the book "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" written by Dr Dhiraj Kakadia at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi.

The book aims to inspire people to imbibe the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, noting how Gandhi ignited patriotism in his life and used non-violence as a weapon against British rule.

Recent Books

- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman** - Former Union Minister Vijay Goel (Released By: VP C.P. Radhakrishnan)
- **The Sage who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru** - Shashi Tharoor.
- **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)

58. In which city will the Bharat Steel 2026 summit be held?

भारत स्टील 2026 समिट किस शहर में होगा?

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

Ans. e

Sol. India to Host Bharat Steel 2026 Summit in New Delhi

India will host the Bharat Steel 2026 summit in New Delhi from April 16, bringing together leaders from steel, technology, mining, and trading sectors to discuss the next-generation steel ecosystem.

The two-day event will act as a platform for policy-business dialogue, focusing on shaping the future of India's steel industry.

The summit aims to promote sustainable industrial growth and showcase India's strength in the global steel sector.

59. Which two organizations signed the Record of Discussions (RoD) for Phase II of Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards SDGs?

SDGs की दिशा में जापान-इंडिया कोऑपरेटिव एक्शन के फेज़ II के लिए किन दो ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन ने रिकॉर्ड ऑफ़ डिस्कशन (RoD) पर साइन किए?

- (a) Ministry of Finance and JICA
- (b) NITI Aayog and JICA
- (c) Ministry of Health and JICA
- (d) NITI Aayog and World Bank
- (e) UNDP and JICA

Ans. b

Sol. NITI Aayog and JICA Sign Phase II Agreement to Strengthen SDG

Implementation in Aspirational Districts and Blocks

NITI Aayog and Japan International Cooperation Agency signed the Record of Discussions (RoD) for Phase II of the Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on strengthening development interventions in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

The initiative aims to deepen India-Japan collaboration in achieving SDGs through institutional capacity-building, improved governance systems, and localising SDGs at the district and block levels under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

Key project activities include capacity-building exchanges, Japan-India knowledge forums, dissemination of best practices, and targeted support across six themes: global partnership, health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.

60. Which state recently flagged off the first export of GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London?

हाल ही में जीआई-टैग प्राप्त करबी आंगलॉंग अदरक का पहला निर्यात लंदन के लिए किस राज्य से शुरू किया गया?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Assam Flags Off First Export of GI-Tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London
Atul Bora, Assam Agriculture Minister, flagged off the first export of GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London at a programme held at Krishi Bhawan, Khanapara, Guwahati.

Bora highlighted the high quality of ginger produced in the hilly regions of Karbi Anglong and expressed happiness over this milestone achievement, marking the first export of the region's GI-tagged ginger.

61. Who has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in the recent gubernatorial reshuffle?

हाल ही में हुए गवर्नर फेरबदल में दिल्ली के लेफ्टिनेट गवर्नर के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vinai Kumar Saxena
- (b) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- (c) Kavinder Gupta
- (d) R. N. Ravi
- (e) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Ans. b

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Governors in different States and Union Territories.

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shiv Pratap Shukla, has been appointed as Governor of Telangana. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma has been appointed Governor of Maharashtra.

Former Bihar Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav has been appointed as Governor of Nagaland. Lieutenant General (Retired) Syed Ata Hasnain has been appointed as Governor of Bihar.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, RN Ravi, has been appointed as the Governor of West Bengal. The Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, will discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

The President has accepted the resignation of the Governor of West Bengal, Dr C.V. Ananda Bose. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has been appointed as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, has been appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. Former diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

62. What is the name of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool deployed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to strengthen digital surveillance and monitor misleading financial content shared by unregistered financial influencers on social media platforms?

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर अनरजिस्टर्ड फाइनेंशियल इन्फ्लुएंसर्स द्वारा साझा की जाने वाली भ्रामक वित्तीय सामग्री की निगरानी और डिजिटल सर्विलांस को मजबूत करने के लिए Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) द्वारा तैनात आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) टूल का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Suraksha
- (b) Sudarshan
- (c) Netra
- (d) Rakshak
- (e) Sentinel

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI Removes 1.2 Lakh Misleading Finfluencer Posts; Deploys 'Sudarshan' AI Tool for Digital Surveillance

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) removed over 1.2 lakh misleading social media posts linked to unregistered financial influencers (finfluencers) to protect investors.

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced that SEBI has introduced an in-house AI tool "Sudarshan" to strengthen digital surveillance in financial markets.

The "Sudarshan" AI system helps SEBI track misleading financial content online, monitor unregistered finfluencers, and detect violations of SEBI regulations.

63. Who has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the GSMA at the Mobile World Congress 2026?

GSMA द्वारा Mobile World Congress

2026 में लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Mukesh Ambani
- (b) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- (c) Satya Nadella
- (d) Sundar Pichai
- (e) Elon Musk

Ans. b

Sol. Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from GSMA at the Mobile World Congress held in Barcelona.

The rare honour recognised Mittal's contribution to transforming the global telecom industry and expanding connectivity worldwide; the award ceremony was attended by Felipe VI, Pedro Sánchez, and Salvador Illa.

About Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA)

- It is an international organisation that represents the interests of mobile network operators and telecom companies worldwide.
- Established- 1995
- Headquarters- London, United Kingdom

64. Which bank has partnered with Tesla to offer tailored financing solutions for its electric vehicle buyers in India?

भारत में Tesla के इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन खरीदारों को अनुकूलित वित्तीय समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए किस बैंक ने साझेदारी की है? a

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

Ans. b

Sol. Axis Bank Partners with Tesla to Offer Tailored EV Financing Solutions in India

Axis Bank has partnered with Tesla to become its preferred financing partner, offering customised loan solutions and a better financing experience for Tesla electric vehicle buyers in India.

Under the partnership, customers purchasing Tesla EVs can access vehicle loans with a tenure of up to 10 years, helping reduce monthly EMI and providing flexible schemes suited to different financial profiles.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Central Bank of India Partners with Canara Robeco AMC to Distribute Mutual Fund Products
- NTT DATA Business Solutions Partners with NPCI Bharat Connect to Simplify B2B Payments for SAP Enterprises
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Partners with Bharti AXA Life for Bancassurance Services
- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) Partners with TechFini to Strengthen Scalable UPI Payment and Collection Solutions

65. The Indian women's national cricket team has been nominated for which prestigious global award in 2026 after winning their maiden Women's Cricket World Cup title?

महिला क्रिकेट विश्व कप का पहला खिताब जीतने के बाद India women's national cricket team को 2026 में किस प्रतिष्ठित वैश्विक पुरस्कार के लिए नामांकित किया गया है?

- (a) BBC Sports Personality Team Award
- (b) ESPY Best Team Award
- (c) ICC Spirit of Cricket Award
- (d) Wisden Team of the Year Award
- (e) Laureus World Team of the Year Award

Ans. e

Sol. India women's national cricket team nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026

The India women's national cricket team has been nominated for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026 after winning their first-ever Women's Cricket World Cup title.

India has become the first women's cricket team ever to be shortlisted for the prestigious Laureus award in the World Team of the Year category.

The nomination places the team among notable Indian athletes previously recognised at the Laureus Awards, including Vinesh Phogat (2019), Neeraj Chopra (2022), and Rishabh Pant (2025).

Earlier, Sachin Tendulkar won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2020) for his iconic victory lap following India's triumph in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.

The winners will be announced at the Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony at Cibeles Palace, Madrid, Spain.

66. The Ministry of Defence recently signed defence contracts worth how much for acquiring ALH Mk-III helicopters and Shtil missiles for the Indian armed forces?

Ministry of Defence ने हाल ही में ALH Mk-

III हेलीकॉप्टर और Shtil मिसाइलों की खरीद के लिए कुल कितने रुपये के रक्षा अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) ₹3,500 crore
- (b) ₹4,250 crore
- (c) ₹5,083 crore
- (d) ₹6,200 crore
- (e) ₹7,500 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹5,083 Crore Defence Deals for ALH Mk-III Helicopters and Shtil Missiles for Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy

The Ministry of Defence signed defence contracts worth ₹5,083 crore for acquiring six Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III (Maritime Role) for the Indian Coast Guard and Shtil Surface-to-Air Missile System for the Indian Navy.

A ₹2,901 crore contract for the helicopters was signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, which will enhance maritime surveillance, offshore security, and protection of fishermen and marine environments.

Another ₹2,182 crore contract was signed with JSC Rosoboronexport (Russia) for Shtil surface-to-air missiles, strengthening the air defence capabilities of Indian Navy warships and highlighting the strong India–Russia defence partnership.

67. H. K. Dua passed away recently at the age of 88. H. K. Dua was primarily associated with which field?

एच. के. दुआ का हाल ही में 88 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया। एच. के. दुआ मुख्य रूप से किस फील्ड से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Politics
- (b) Journalism
- (c) Sports
- (d) Cinema
- (e) Science

Ans. b

Sol. H. K. Dua, Veteran Journalist and Rajya Sabha MP, Passes Away at 88
 Veteran journalist and former H. K. Dua, who also served as a Rajya Sabha MP, passed away at the age of 88.

He held key editorial roles as Editor of Hindustan Times (1987–94), Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express (1994–96), and Editor of The Tribune (2003–09).

A Padma Bhushan awardee, he also served as media adviser to former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H. D. Deve Gowda, and as India's Ambassador to Denmark (2001–03).

68. Pawan Kalyan, Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, launched Project HANUMAN on World Wildlife Day to tackle increasing human–wildlife conflict in the state. What does the acronym HANUMAN stand for in Project HANUMAN?

आंध्र प्रदेश के डिप्टी चीफ मिनिस्टर पवन कल्याण ने राज्य में बढ़ते इंसान–वाइल्डलाइफ़ टकराव से निपटने के लिए वर्ल्ड वाइल्डलाइफ़ डे पर प्रोजेक्ट हनुमान लॉन्च किया। प्रोजेक्ट हनुमान में हनुमान का शॉर्ट फ़ॉर्म क्या है?

- (a) Health and Nature Unit for Monitoring Animal Network
- (b) Human and Nature Understanding Mission for Animal Nurturing
- (c) Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife
- (d) Habitat and Nature Utility Mission for Animal Needs
- (e) Human–Animal Neutralisation and Unified Monitoring Action Network

Ans. c

Sol. Andhra Pradesh Launches Project HANUMAN to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict

Pawan Kalyan, Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, launched Project HANUMAN on World Wildlife Day to tackle increasing human-wildlife conflict in the state.

The initiative was launched at the Andhra Pradesh Special Police 6th Battalion Parade Grounds in Mangalagiri, located in Guntur district.

Project HANUMAN (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) focuses on rapid response teams, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and technology-based monitoring to protect both people and wildlife in forest-bordering regions.

About Andhra Pradesh

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

69. Which state launched the State Innovation Mission under the Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 framework?

Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 के तहत State Innovation Mission किस राज्य में लॉन्च किया गया?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Goa
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Tripura

Ans. e

Sol. Tripura Launches State Innovation Mission Under Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 to Boost Startups and Innovation

Tripura launched the State Innovation Mission under Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 of NITI Aayog to promote innovation, startups, and entrepreneurship as part of the state's long-term development strategy.

The mission was launched at the Hapania International Exhibition Centre in Agartala in the presence of Manik Saha, Suman Bery, Jitendra Singh, and V. K. Saraswat.

The initiative will be delivered through the Tripura Institution for Transformation (TIFT) and will include the launch of T-NEST, an incubation centre to support startups and promote the "Make from Tripura" concept.

About Tripura

- **Capital** – Agartala
- **Chief Minister** – Manik Sarkar
- **Governor** – Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

70. Which two organisations signed an MoU to integrate the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana with the ESI Scheme?

आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना को ESI स्कीम के साथ जोड़ने के लिए किन दो ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन ने MoU साइन किया?

- (a) NITI Aayog and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) National Health Authority and Employees' State Insurance Corporation
- (c) Indian Council of Medical Research and AIIMS
- (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment and WHO
- (e) Central Board of Health and NABH

Ans. b

Sol. NHA and ESIC Sign MoU to Integrate Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana with ESI Scheme

National Health Authority (NHA) and Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) with the ESI Scheme.

National Health Authority is the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the flagship health insurance scheme of the Government of India.

Under this integration, workers covered under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme will be able to receive treatment in empanelled government and private hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana across India.

71. International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is observed on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय निरस्त्रीकरण और अप्रसार जागरूकता दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. 5 March – International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is observed every year on 5 March to raise awareness about the importance of eliminating weapons of mass destruction and promoting global peace.

The day highlights the need to prevent the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, encouraging countries to strengthen international cooperation and disarmament efforts.

The observance was established by the United Nations to educate people, especially youth, about the dangers of arms proliferation and the importance of building a safer and more secure world.

72. What are the names of the mascots launched for India's first digital Census 2027 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah?

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह द्वारा भारत की पहली डिजिटल जनगणना 2027 के लिए लॉन्च किए गए मैस्कॉट के नाम क्या हैं?

- (a) Pragati and Shakti
- (b) Pragati and Vikas
- (c) Vikas and Bharat
- (d) Pragati and Samriddhi
- (e) Shakti and Samriddhi

Ans. b

Sol. Amit Shah Unveils Mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' for India's First Digital Census 2027

Amit Shah launched mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027, symbolising equal participation of female and male enumerators in India's first fully digital census.

The upcoming Census 2027 will be conducted for the first time using digital tools, allowing citizens to complete self-enumeration through a secure web portal in 16 languages before the door-to-door survey begins.

Four digital systems were introduced to support the census process, including the Houselisting Block Creator App, HLO Mobile Application, Self-Enumeration Portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System for real-time tracking.

The nationwide exercise will be conducted in two phases—the Houselisting and Housing Census (2026) and Population Enumeration (February 2027)—with over 30 lakh enumerators and officials deployed across India.

73. With the extension of the Pink Line to about 71.56 km, which city will have the country's first fully operational Ring Metro?

पिंक लाइन के लगभग 71.56

km तक बढ़ने के साथ, किस शहर में देश की पहली पूरी तरह से चालू रिंग मेट्रो होगी?

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

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates Two New Delhi Metro Corridors and Launch Phase-V Expansion Projects in Delhi

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated two new Delhi Metro corridors—Majlis Park to Maujpur-Babarpur (Pink Line) and Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park (Magenta Line)—to strengthen public transport connectivity in the national capital.

The 12.3-km Majlis Park–Maujpur-Babarpur stretch includes eight elevated stations, extending the Pink Line to about 71.56 km and making Delhi home to India's first fully operational Ring Metro.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for three new corridors under Delhi Metro Phase-V, including Ramakrishna Ashram Marg–Indraprastha Central Vista, Aerocity–IGI Airport Terminal-1, and Tughlakabad–Kalindi Kunj, aimed at reducing congestion and improving connectivity across the NCR.

74. The world's largest acidic geyser, Echinus Geyser, which erupted again after nearly six years of dormancy, is located in which country?

दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा एसिडिक गीज़र, इचिनस गीज़र, जो लगभग छह साल की सुस्ती के बाद फिर से फटा, किस देश में है?

- (a) Canada
- (b) Iceland
- (c) Japan
- (d) United States
- (e) New Zealand

Ans. d

Sol. World's Largest Acidic Geyser Erupts Again in Yellowstone National Park After Six Years

World's largest acidic geyser, Echinus Geyser, located in Yellowstone National Park, USA, erupted again after remaining dormant for about six years since 2020.

The geyser's acidic water is formed by a mix of acidic gases and neutral water, giving it red-colored deposits due to iron, aluminium, and arsenic compound.

75. Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL) recently secured \$100 million in debt financing from which international financial institution to expand lending in the affordable housing sector in India?

मोतीलाल ओसवाल होम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड (MOHFL) ने हाल ही में भारत में अफ़ोर्डेबल हाउसिंग सेक्टर में लोन देने के लिए किस इंटरनेशनल फ़ाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन से \$100 मिलियन की डेट फ़ाइनेंसिंग हासिल की है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited Secures \$100 Million Funding from ADB to Boost Affordable Housing

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited secured \$100 million in debt financing from the Asian Development Bank to expand lending in the affordable housing segment. The funds, raised through rupee-equivalent Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), will mainly be used to provide affordable home loans to women borrowers, promoting financial inclusion.

Around 10% of the funding will support green-certified residential projects, encouraging environmentally sustainable housing construction in India.

76. YES Bank recently launched the 'YES Essence Women's Salary Account' to support the financial needs of working women. Where is the headquarters of YES Bank?

YES बैंक ने हाल ही में कामकाजी महिलाओं की फाइनेंशियल ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए 'YES Essence Women's Salary

Account' लॉन्च किया है। YES बैंक का मुख्यालय कहाँ स्थित है?

YES बैंक का मुख्यालय कहाँ स्थित है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Yes Bank Launches 'YES Essence' Women's Salary Account Ahead of International Women's Day

Yes Bank launched the "YES Essence Women's Salary Account" ahead of International Women's Day to support the financial and lifestyle needs of working women.

The account offers a bundle of benefits on a single platform, including financial protection, preventive healthcare, lifestyle privileges, and wealth-creation services.

Key features include a free locker facility for the first year, ₹5 lakh complimentary top-up health insurance for one year, and an annual preventive health check-up.

Account holders will also receive a complimentary Elegance Debit Card with 5% cashback (up to ₹6,000 per year) on selected spending categories.

About Yes Bank

- **Founded** – 2003
- **Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** – Vinay Muralidhar Tonse
- **Chairman** – Rama Subramaniam Gandhi
- **Tagline** – Experience our Expertise

77. International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March to recognise the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide.

What is the theme of International Women's Day for the year 2026?

इंटरनेशनल विमेंस डे हर साल 8 मार्च को दुनिया भर में महिलाओं की सामाजिक, आर्थिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक उपलब्धियों को पहचानने के लिए मनाया जाता है। साल 2026 के लिए इंटरनेशनल विमेंस डे की थीम क्या है?

- (a) DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality
- (b) Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- (c) Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
- (d) Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls
- (e) Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future

Ans. d

Sol. 8 March – International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March to recognise the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide.

Theme 2026 – Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls

The day also highlights the importance of gender equality and women's rights, encouraging action to remove discrimination and empower women globally.

United Nations officially began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which was also declared as the International Women's Year.

78. The Government has set a wheat procurement target of how many million tonnes for FY27?

सरकार ने FY27 के लिए गेहूं खरीद का लक्ष्य कितने मिलियन टन निर्धारित किया है?

- (a) 28.5 million tonnes
- (b) 29.7 million tonnes
- (c) 30.3 million tonnes
- (d) 31.8 million tonnes
- (e) 32.5 million tonnes

Ans. c

Sol. Centre Sets 30.3 Million Tonnes Wheat Procurement Target for FY27 Rabi Marketing Season

The Government has set a wheat procurement target of 30.3 million tonnes for FY27 under the Central Pool for the 2026–27 rabi marketing season starting April 1, almost the same as the previous year.

In the 2025–26 season, the Centre procured 30.03 million tonnes of wheat from about 2.6 million farmers, according to official data.

The government also fixed targets of 7.6 million tonnes of rice procurement and 0.77 million tonnes of millets, while reviewing technology-driven initiatives to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) supply chain.

79. Who will inaugurate the National Stakeholders' Meet on the Coconut Promotion Scheme at IIT Madras?

आईआईटी मद्रास में नारियल प्रचार योजना पर नेशनल स्टेकहोल्डर्स मीट का उद्घाटन कौन करेंगे?

- (a) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (d) Mohan Charan Majhi
- (e) Narendra Modi

Ans. c

Sol. Union Agriculture Minister to Inaugurate National Stakeholders' Meet on Coconut Promotion Scheme at IIT Madras

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri ShivrajSingh Chouhan to inaugurate the National Stakeholders' Meet on the Coconut Promotion Scheme at IIT Madras, Chennai.

The Minister will provide policy guidance for effective implementation, interact with coconut farmer leaders, and deliberate with senior policymakers from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Southern States.

The Meet will see participation of over 1,000 stakeholders, including coconut farmers, FPOs, researchers, entrepreneurs, and officials of the Coconut Development Board, aimed at revitalising India's coconut sector supporting nearly 30 million people.

80. Which Indian state has proposed banning social media use for children below 16 years?

कौन सा भारतीय राज्य 16 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का प्रस्ताव लेकर आया है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Karnataka Proposes Social Media Ban for Children Under 16

The Karnataka government proposed banning social media use for children below 16 years, becoming the first Indian state to take concrete steps toward implementation.

Andhra Pradesh announced plans to restrict social media for children under 13, while Karnataka is also considering regulations for the 13–16 age group based on wider consensus.

The move follows global trends, including Australia's ban for under-16s and discussions in several European countries, citing health and safety concerns.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

81. The Union Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry is organising ASMITA, a nationwide athletics league in New Delhi on International Women's Day to empower female athletes. What does ASMITA stand for?

यूनियन यूथ अफेयर्स एंड स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्ट्री, महिला एथलीटों को मज़बूत बनाने के लिए इंटरनेशनल विमेंस डे पर नई दिल्ली में एक देशव्यापी एथलेटिक्स लीग ASMITA ऑर्गनाइज़ कर रही है। ASMITA का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) **Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action**
- (b) **Athletic Skills Management and Training Academy**
- (c) **Active Sports Mission for International Talent**
- (d) **Association for Sports Motivation and Talent Advancement**
- (e) **Achieving Strength and Motivation through Athletics**

Ans. a

Sol. Union Ministry Launches ASMITA: Nationwide Athletics League to Empower Women Athletes

The Union Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry is organising ASMITA, a nationwide athletics league in New Delhi on International Women's Day to empower female athletes.

Competitions will be held in 100m, 200m, and 400m races for girls under 13, 13–18 years, and 18+ age categories, with events in states like Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

ASMITA ("Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action") is part of Khelo India's gender-neutral mission to promote sports among women at the grassroots level.

Since 2021, over 2600 leagues have been conducted across 34 sports disciplines in more than 550 districts and 700 cities, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision to strengthen India's sports culture.

82. Who will be the next GOC-in-C of Western Command?

अगले पश्चिमी कमांड के GOC-in-C कौन होंगे?

- (a) **Lt Gen M K Katiyar**
- (b) **Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh**

- (c) Lt Gen Bipin Rawat
 (d) Lt Gen Manoj Pande
 (e) Lt Gen Ranbir Singh

Ans. b

Sol. Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh Appointed Next GOC-in-C of Western Command
 Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh will take over as the next GOC-in-C of Western Command in Chandimandir at the end of the month, following the retirement of Lt Gen M K Katiyar.

Hailing from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Lt Gen Singh is currently the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) and an alumnus of La Martiniere College.

He has extensive military experience, including commanding Special Forces, Infantry Brigade, Mountain Division, and participating in operations like Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak, and Orchid, along with key staff roles at Army Headquarters.

83. Which country has recently announced a major social media ban for children under 16, aiming to protect minors from harmful online content, including cyberbullying, pornography, and social media addiction?

कौन सा देश हाल ही में 16 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया पर बड़ा प्रतिबंध लगाने की घोषणा की है, जिसका उद्देश्य नाबालिगों को साइबरबुलिंग, अश्लील सामग्री और सोशल मीडिया की लत जैसी हानिकारक ऑनलाइन सामग्री से सुरक्षित रखना है?

- (a) Malaysia
 (b) Indonesia
 (c) Thailand
 (d) Philippines
 (e) Vietnam

Ans. b

Sol. Indonesia to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16 from March 2026
 Indonesia has announced that children below 16 will not be allowed to create accounts on major social media platforms to protect them from harmful online content.

The ban will be implemented from March 28, 2026, with platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Roblox, and Bigo Live required to introduce stricter verification measures.

Authorities cited risks such as cyberbullying, pornography exposure, online fraud, and social media addiction, highlighting the need to safeguard minors online.

About Indonesia

- Capital - Jakarta
- Currency - Rupiah
- Official language - Indonesian

• *President - Prabowo Subianto*

84. What is the total size of the open market operation (OMO) purchase auctions announced by the Reserve Bank of India to address liquidity pressures in the banking system ahead of the financial year-end?

वित्त वर्ष के अंत से पहले बैंकिंग सिस्टम में तरलता के दबाव को कम करने के लिए भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक द्वारा घोषित ओपन मार्केट ऑपरेशन (OMO) खरीद नीलामी का कुल आकार कितना है?

- (a) ₹50,000 crore
- (b) ₹75,000 crore
- (c) ₹1 lakh crore
- (d) ₹1.5 lakh crore
- (e) ₹2 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. RBI to Conduct ₹1 Lakh Crore OMO Auctions to Manage Liquidity Ahead of Year-End

The Reserve Bank of India will conduct government securities (G-Secs) purchase auctions in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on March 9 and March 13 to manage liquidity pressures from GST and advance tax outflows.

The auctions will aggregate ₹1 lakh crore and aim to prevent G-Sec yields from rising due to a potential liquidity crunch ahead of the financial year-end.

The banking system currently has a surplus of ₹3,02,440 crore (as on March 5), which could turn into a deficit because of upcoming tax-related outflows.

85. Which organisation has launched the National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge in India, aiming to strengthen climate resilience for rural areas by integrating fragmented climate datasets and promoting decision-ready climate intelligence?

भारत में नेशनल क्लाइमेट स्टैक इनोवेशन चैलेंज किस संगठन ने लॉन्च किया, जिसका उद्देश्य ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जलवायु प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाना, विभाजित जलवायु डेटा को एकीकृत करना और निर्णय-सक्षम जलवायु खुफिया जानकारी को बढ़ावा देना है?

- (a) RBI
- (b) NABARD
- (c) SEBI
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Ministry of Environment

Ans. b

Sol. NABARD Launches National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge to Boost Rural Climate Resilience

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors, has launched the National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge to strengthen India's climate resilience for rural areas. The initiative aims to address intensifying climate hazards such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and cyclones, which increasingly affect agriculture and rural livelihoods. Despite improved climate data availability, forecasting remains fragmented across siloed datasets, highlighting the need for forward-looking, interoperable, and decision-ready climate solutions.

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- **Founded** - 12 July 1982
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - K V Shaji
- **NABARD established on the recommendations of B. Sivaramman Committee**

86. Which bank's promoters were exempted by RBI from holding their stake through a Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) during its transition to a Universal Bank?

किस बैंक के प्रमोटर्स को यूनिवर्सल बैंक में परिवर्तन के दौरान अपनी हिस्सेदारी NOFHC के माध्यम से रखने की आवश्यकता से RBI ने छूट दी है?

- (a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (b) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (c) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (d) AU Small Finance Bank
- (e) ESAF Small Finance Bank

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Exempts AU Small Finance Bank Promoters from NOFHC Requirement for Universal Bank Transition

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has exempted the promoters/promoter group of AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) from the requirement to hold their stake in the transitioned Universal Bank through a Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC).

Earlier, when RBI granted in-principle approval on August 7, 2025 for AU SFB's transition from a Small Finance Bank to a Universal Bank, it had mandated that promoter shareholding be held through an NOFHC.

As per the revised condition, the NOFHC requirement will apply only if the bank or its promoter group establishes any new group entity in the future, such as in mutual funds or insurance.

AU SFB, the first small finance bank to receive RBI's in-principle approval to become a universal bank, will submit its application for the final universal banking licence, with the approval valid for 18 months.

87. Which state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three Finnish companies to modernise Sassoon Dock and transform it into a technologically advanced and environmentally sustainable fishing harbour?

ससून डॉक को तकनीकी रूप से उन्नत और पर्यावरणीय रूप से टिकाऊ मछली पकड़ने के बंदरगाह में बदलने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार ने तीन फिनिश कंपनियों के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra Signs MoU with Finnish Firms to Modernise Mumbai's Sassoon Dock

The Maharashtra government signed an MoU with three Finnish companies—Helvar, Mirasis, and River Recycle—to modernise Sassoon Dock in Mumbai and develop it into a technologically advanced and environmentally sustainable fishing harbour.

The agreement, signed through the Maharashtra Fisheries Development Corporation, aims to upgrade dock infrastructure, improve waste management, and introduce modern operational systems at one of India's oldest fishing docks.

The collaboration will promote plastic waste recycling, management of discarded fishing nets, modern net-repair systems, and provide training and capacity building for fishermen and dock workers.

88. Who became the first person in Assam to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)?

नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम (CAA) के तहत असम में भारतीय नागरिकता प्राप्त करने वाली पहली व्यक्ति कौन बनी?

- (a) Dipali Das
- (b) Anjali Roy
- (c) Rina Dutta
- (d) Sunita Paul
- (e) Malati Sarkar

Ans. a

Sol. Assam Woman Becomes First to Receive Indian Citizenship Under CAA

A 60-year-old woman, Dipali Das from Cachar district, Assam, became the first person in the state to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), receiving her certificate on March 6.

She migrated from Bangladesh to India in 1988 and settled in Assam, but due to lack of proper documents, the authorities in 2013 investigated her nationality and later declared her a foreigner.

Dipali Das was detained in Silchar detention camp in 2019, but was released in April 2020 following a Supreme Court order during the COVID-19 pandemic; her citizenship was finally granted under the CAA, ending years of legal uncertainty.

About Assam

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

89. Pondicherry University signed an MoU with which office to promote accessibility and rights of persons with disabilities?

पुडुचेरी विश्वविद्यालय ने दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के अधिकारों और सुगम्यता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस कार्यालय के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
- (b) National Human Rights Commission
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) University Grants Commission
- (e) Ministry of Education

Ans. a

Sol. Pondicherry University Signs MoU with CCPD to Promote Disability Inclusion and Accessibility

Pondicherry University signed an MoU with the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The partnership aims to promote accessibility, inclusion, and rights of persons with disabilities through academic–policy collaboration, research, practical exposure, and capacity-building initiatives.

The MoU will support joint research, conferences, seminars, workshops, and awareness programs on disability rights, inclusive education, employment opportunities, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

90. Students from which state successfully launched the 600-gram mini satellite 'Vikko Sat-1'?

किस राज्य के छात्रों ने 600 ग्राम का मिनी सैटेलाइट 'Vikko Sat-1' सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च किया?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Tamil Nadu Students Launch Mini Satellite to 22 km Height

13 students of the Class XI batch of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu have successfully launched a 600-gram mini satellite named "Vikko Sat-1" using a helium balloon to collect real-time atmospheric data.

The student-built device reached a height of about 22 km in the stratosphere before being safely recovered, demonstrating significant scientific and technical skills.

The mission aimed to detect fungal spores in the upper atmosphere using five sensors, helping researchers understand their impact on crop health and environmental cycles.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

91. The historic 'Hatti Risala' procession, which recently marked its 138th year, is associated with which city?

हाल ही में 138वाँ वर्ष मनाने वाला ऐतिहासिक 'हट्टी रिसाला' जुलूस किस शहर से संबंधित है?

- (a) Aurangabad
- (b) Jalna
- (c) Nashik
- (d) Kolhapur
- (e) Nagpur

Ans. b

Sol. 138-Year-Old 'Hatti Risala' Festival Celebrated with Grandeur in Jalna During Dhulivandan

The 'Hatti Risala' procession, a historic cultural tradition of Jalna, celebrated 138 years of heritage during the festival of Dhulivandan.

During the procession, a decorated elephant carries a symbolic king and prime minister, who distribute sweets (revdis) to the crowd while people dressed in traditional attire celebrate with drum beats and colors.

The festival is considered a symbol of cultural heritage and communal harmony, with people from different religions participating together in the celebrations across Maharashtra

92. Consider the following statements regarding the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026:

ICC मेन्स T20 वर्ल्ड कप 2026 के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. India national cricket team became the first team to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup four times.
2. Jasprit Bumrah was named Player of the Match in the final.
3. Sanju Samson was named Player of the Series.
4. Sanju Samson scored the most runs in the tournament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans. a

Sol. India Wins Third ICC Men's T20 World Cup Title

India national cricket team defeated New Zealand national cricket team by 96 runs to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final held at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

With this victory, India successfully defended the T20 World Cup title after previously winning the tournament in 2024.

India became the first team to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup three times and also the first host nation to win the tournament at home.

The 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, the 10th edition of the tournament, was co-hosted by Board of Control for Cricket in India and Sri Lanka Cricket.

Player of the Match: Jasprit Bumrah

Player of the Series: Sanju Samson

Most Runs: Sahibzada Farhan (383 runs)

Most Wickets: Jasprit Bumrah (14 wickets) and Varun Chakravarthy (14 wickets)

93. Who has been reappointed as the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)?

ड्रग्स कंट्रोलर जनरल ऑफ़ इंडिया (DCGI) के तौर पर किसे फिर से नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi
 (b) Rajiv Kumar
 (c) Vivek Joshi
 (d) Sanjay Malhotra
 (e) T. V. Somanathan

Ans. a

Sol. Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi Reappointed as Drugs Controller General of India
 Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi has been reappointed as the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) with approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He will continue to serve at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the national regulatory body for pharmaceuticals and medical devices in India.

The DCGI heads CDSCO and is responsible for ensuring drug quality, approving new drugs, and regulating clinical trials across India.

94. Which state government launched the 'Chief Minister's Krishi Vistara' Scheme in Budget 2026–27?

किस राज्य सरकार ने बजट 2026-27 में 'चीफ मिनिस्टर कृषि विस्तार' स्कीम शुरू की?

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

Ans. a

Sol. Karnataka Launched ₹100 Crore 'Chief Minister's Krishi Vistara' Scheme
 The Karnataka government has launched the 'Chief Minister's Krishi Vistara' Scheme in the Karnataka Budget 2026–27 to help increase farmers' income.

The scheme has an outlay of ₹100 crore for three years and aims to strengthen post-harvest activities and market linkages for farmers.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

95. India's first riverine lighthouses are being constructed along which river to enhance inland waterway navigation?

भारत के पहले रिवराइन लाइटहाउस किस नदी के किनारे बनाए जा रहे हैं ताकि इनलैंड वॉटरवे नेविगेशन को बेहतर बनाया जा सके?

- (a) Ganga River
- (b) Yamuna River
- (c) Brahmaputra River
- (d) Godavari River
- (e) Narmada River

Ans. c

Sol. Sarbananda Sonowal Lays Foundation for India's First Riverine Lighthouses on the Brahmaputra River

Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones for India's first riverine lighthouses from Lachit Ghat along the Brahmaputra River (National Waterway 2).

Four lighthouses will be built at Pandu, Silghat, Biswanath Ghat, and Bogibeel, enabling 24-hour navigation on inland waterways and improving river transport safety.

The ₹84 crore project is a joint initiative of the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships and the Inland Waterways Authority of India, with 20-metre tall solar-powered lighthouses also planned as tourism landmarks.

96. Which bank has raised ₹10,000 crore through the issuance of Series I Long-Term Green Infrastructure Bonds in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में किस बैंक ने सीरीज़ I लॉन्ग-टर्म ग्रीन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बॉन्ड जारी करके ₹10,000 करोड़ जुटाए हैं?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through India's First Domestic Green Infrastructure Bond Issue

Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore by issuing Series I Long-Term Green Infrastructure Bonds, becoming the first bank in India to issue a domestic Green Infrastructure Bond.

The bond issue received strong investor demand with bids worth ₹16,415 crore, over three times the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore, and was priced at a 7.10% coupon rate.

According to Debadatta Chand, the funds will support green and sustainable infrastructure projects, strengthening India's ESG-focused financing and clean growth transition.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

97. Which financial institution launched the 'Spoorthi' programme aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in India?

भारत में महिला एंटरप्रेन्योर्स को मज़बूत बनाने के मकसद से किस फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन ने 'स्पूरथी' प्रोग्राम लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Bajaj Finance
- (b) Mahindra Finance
- (c) L&T Finance Ltd.
- (d) Muthoot Finance
- (e) Shriram Finance

Ans. c

Sol. L&T Finance Ltd. Launches 'Spoorthi' Programme to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

L&T Finance Ltd. launched the 'Spoorthi' programme on the occasion of International Women's Day to empower women entrepreneurs by providing financial support.

The initiative offers Home Loans and Loan Against Property (LAP) to women who are individually or jointly running businesses, helping them purchase property or expand their businesses.

Under the Spoorthi programme, benefits include home loan and LAP tenors up to 25 years, industrial LAP up to 12 years, and relaxed eligibility norms with higher debt-to-income ratios to improve financial access.

98. Which two institutions jointly provided a \$76-million co-financing package to Shriram Finance Ltd?

श्रीराम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड को किन दो इंस्टीट्यूशन ने मिलकर \$76 मिलियन का को-फाइनेंसिंग पैकेज दिया?

- (a) World Bank & HSBC
- (b) DEG & Citigroup
- (c) Asian Development Bank & Standard Chartered
- (d) International Finance Corporation & Barclays
- (e) New Development Bank & Deutsche Bank

Ans. b

Sol. DEG and Citigroup Provide \$76 Million Co-Financing to Shriram Finance Ltd to Boost Inclusive and Green Financing in India

DEG and Citigroup have announced a \$76-million co-financing package for Shriram Finance Ltd to promote economic inclusion, rural development, and climate-aligned mobility across India.

Under the financing arrangement, DEG will provide a €40 million loan (about \$46 million) while Citi will extend a ₹260 crore loan, with Citi acting as the lead arranger and coordinator of the deal.

The funds will support MSMEs, electric vehicle (EV) financing, women borrowers, and underserved customers, helping expand access to formal credit in India.

99. Which basketball player broke the all-time field goal record in the National Basketball Association in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में किस बास्केटबॉल खिलाड़ी ने नेशनल बास्केटबॉल एसोसिएशन में ऑल-टाइम फील्ड गोल रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा?

- (a) Michael Jordan
- (b) LeBron James
- (c) Kobe Bryant
- (d) Stephen Curry
- (e) Magic Johnson

Ans. b

Sol. LeBron James Breaks National Basketball Association All-Time Field Goal Record
LeBron James broke the all-time field goal record in the National Basketball Association, surpassing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

James achieved 15,838 career field goals in his 23rd NBA season, overtaking Abdul-Jabbar's previous record of 15,837 field goals set during his 20-year NBA career.

100. CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on which date?

CISF स्थापना दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 March
- (b) 8 March
- (c) 10 March
- (d) 15 March
- (e) 11 March

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Shah Addresses 57th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Force at Mundali

Amit Shah addressed the 57th Raising Day ceremony of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Mundali.

CISF Raising Day is celebrated on March 10 every year to mark the establishment of the force in 1969, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

CISF provides security to airports and key installations across India, and has also been designated as the nodal agency for drone security and port security in the country.

101. Which ministry launched the second phase of the 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme'?

किस मिनिसट्री ने 'विकसित भारत युवा कनेक्ट प्रोग्राम' का दूसरा फेज़ लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (d) Ministry of Culture
- (e) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans. b

Sol. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Launches Phase-2 of 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme' in Delhi

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the second phase of the 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme' in Delhi to strengthen youth engagement with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme is organised through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and will see participation from over 10,000 students from more than 35 colleges across the national capital through dialogues, interactive sessions, and engagement activities. The initiative has already reached 274 universities and colleges across 22 States and Union Territories, mobilising nearly 20,000 youth, with participation facilitated through the MY Bharat digital platform.

102. Who became the first Indian House Ambassador for the luxury brand Chanel?

लज़री ब्रांड चैनल के लिए पहली इंडियन हाउस एंबेसडर कौन बनी?

- (a) Bhavitha Mandava
- (b) Priyanka Chopra
- (c) Deepika Padukone
- (d) Alia Bhatt
- (e) Sonam Kapoor

Ans. a

Sol. Bhavitha Mandava Becomes First Indian House Ambassador for Chanel

Bhavitha Mandava became the first Indian House Ambassador for Chanel, marking a major milestone for Indian representation in global luxury fashion.

She also made history as the first Indian model to open a Chanel fashion show in New York City.

Bhavitha Mandava studied architecture at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University before beginning her successful career in international modelling.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Sania Mirza - The Derma Company
- Sachin Tendulkar - Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations
- Shikhar Dhawan - Delhi Khel Mahakumbh 2026
- A R Rahman - DAC Developers
- MS Dhoni - Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026
- Amitabh Bachchan - Reliance Campa Sure Packaged Water

103. Which of the following ministries launched the nationwide social media campaign "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" to address the practice of 'Sarpanch Pati' in village governance?

इनमें से किस मिनिसट्री ने गांव के शासन में 'सरपंच पति' की प्रथा को खत्म करने के लिए देश भर में सोशल मीडिया कैम्पेन "से नो टू प्रॉक्सी सरपंच" शुरू किया?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'Say No To Proxy Sarpanch' Campaign to Empower Women Leaders in Panchayats

Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched a nationwide social media campaign "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" to stop the practice of male relatives exercising power on behalf of elected women sarpanches.

The campaign targets the issue of "Sarpanch Pati", where husbands or male relatives take decisions instead of elected women representatives in village governance.

The initiative was launched around International Women's Day and aims to empower women leaders and strengthen democratic participation in Panchayati Raj institutions.

104. Lance Havildar K. G. George, who recently passed away, was a decorated hero of which war?

लांस हवलदार के. जी. जॉर्ज, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस युद्ध के हीरो थे?

- (a) Kargil War
- (b) Indo-Pakistani War of 1965
- (c) Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
- (d) Sino-Indian War

(e) First Indo-Pakistani War**Ans. b****Sol.** K. G. George, Hero of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, Passes Away at 95

K. G. George, a hero of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 and recipient of the Vir Chakra, passed away at the age of 95 in Kottayam, Kerala.

He served in the Indian Army Corps of Signals, which is responsible for maintaining secure and reliable battlefield communication during military operations.

During the 1965 war, George was honoured for his bravery and dedication in maintaining crucial communication lines despite heavy enemy attacks.

105. Which Indian women's cricketer has become the first cricketer in the world to receive her own Barbie doll, recognising her achievements and influence in global sports?

कौन सी भारतीय महिला क्रिकेटर दुनिया की पहली क्रिकेटर बन गई हैं जिन्हें उनकी उपलब्धियों और ग्लोबल स्पोर्ट्स में उनके प्रभाव को पहचान देते हुए उनकी अपनी बार्बी डॉल मिली है?

- (a) Mithali Raj
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (c) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) Jhulan Goswami
- (e) Shafali Verma

Ans. c**Sol.** Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Cricketer to Get Her Own Barbie Doll by Mattel Ahead of International Women's Day

Smriti Mandhana became the first cricketer to receive her own Barbie doll, recognising her achievements and influence in women's cricket.

The doll was created by Mattel as part of its initiative to celebrate inspiring and trailblazing women across different fields.

The announcement was made ahead of International Women's Day, highlighting Mandhana's role as a global role model encouraging young girls to pursue sports.

106. RM Nachammai recently created history by becoming the first woman Chief Superintendent of a functional nuclear power plant under which organisation?

आरएम नचम्मा ने हाल ही में किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के तहत एक फंक्शनल न्यूक्लियर पावर प्लांट की पहली महिला चीफ सुपरिटेण्डेंट बनकर इतिहास रच दिया?

- (a) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- (b) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited
- (c) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

(d) Department of Atomic Energy

(e) Indian Space Research Organisation

Ans. b

Sol. RM Nachammai Becomes First Woman At Helm Of Functional Nuclear Power Plant

RM Nachammai became the first woman Chief Superintendent of a functional nuclear power plant under Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

She has taken charge of Units 3 and 4 at Kaiga Generating Station, overseeing operations, maintenance, and engineering support of the reactors.

Her appointment marks a major milestone for women's leadership in India's nuclear energy sector as the country aims to reach 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047.

107. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed a Flexible MoU with which company for automotive training?

कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय ने ऑटोमोटिव प्रशिक्षण के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ फ्लेक्सिबल MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

(a) Tata Motors

(b) Mahindra & Mahindra

(c) Bajaj Auto Limited

(d) Maruti Suzuki

(e) Hero MotoCorp

Ans.).

Sol. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Signs MoU with Bajaj Auto Limited to Boost Automotive Skills Training

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, through the Directorate General of Training, signed a Flexible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Auto Limited.

The partnership aims to provide industry-integrated training to youth in advanced automotive manufacturing systems at facilities in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

108. NITI Aayog recently signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with which organisation to strengthen health and nutrition interventions in Aspirational Districts?

हाल ही में NITI Aayog ने आकांक्षी जिलों में स्वास्थ्य और पोषण हस्तक्षेप को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ स्टेटमेंट ऑफ इंटेंट (SOI) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

(a) World Health Organisation

(b) UNICEF India

(c) UNESCO

(d) World Bank

(e) International Monetary Fund**Ans. b****Sol.** NITI Aayog Signs Statement of Intent with UNICEF India to Strengthen Health and Nutrition in Aspirational Districts

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with UNICEF India to strengthen health and nutrition interventions in Aspirational Districts and Blocks across India.

The partnership aims to improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes in underserved regions by combining the expertise and institutional capacities of both organisations.

The agreement was signed by Rohit Kumar and Arjan de Wagt, focusing on data-driven strategies to enhance healthcare delivery and nutrition services at the grassroots level.

109. Who is set to become the next Prime Minister of Nepal after strong parliamentary election results?

मजबूत संसदीय चुनाव परिणामों के बाद नेपाल के अगले प्रधानमंत्री कौन बनने वाले हैं?

- (a) KP Sharma Oli
- (b) Sher Bahadur Deuba
- (c) Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- (d) Balendra "Balen" Shah
- (e) Khadga Prasad Sharma

Ans. d**Sol.** Balendra "Balen" Shah Set to Become Nepal's Next Prime Minister

Balendra "Balen" Shah, leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), is set to become Nepal's next Prime Minister after strong results in the parliamentary elections.

The 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician earlier served as the Mayor of Kathmandu and rose to national prominence through anti-establishment politics.

The election followed the 2025 Gen Z Protests in Nepal, which led to the fall of the government led by KP Sharma Oli; the RSP, founded on 1 July 2022, has since emerged as a major political force in Nepal.

About Nepal

- **Capital**- Kathmandu
- **Currency**- Nepalese rupee
- **President**- Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime minister**- Balendra "Balen" Shah

110. Who will take over as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of India from April 1, 2026?

भारत के अगले वाइस चीफ ऑफ आर्मी स्टाफ (VCOAS) के रूप में 1 अप्रैल 2026 से कौन पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे?

- (a) Lt Gen PP Singh
- (b) Lt Gen Dheeraj Seth
- (c) Lt Gen VMB Krishnan
- (d) Lt Gen Sandeep Jain
- (e) Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh

Ans. b

Sol. Lt Gen Dheeraj Seth to Become Next Vice Chief of Army Staff from April 1
Lt Gen Dheeraj Seth will take charge as the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) from 1 April 2026 in New Delhi, while the current VCOAS Lt Gen PP Singh will become the Western Army Commander on the same day.

Lt Gen VMB Krishnan will assume charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of Eastern Army Command, and Lt Gen Sandeep Jain will take over as the Southern Army Commander from 1 April 2026.

Recent Appointments in Defence Sector

- **GOC-in-C of Western Command** - Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh
- **Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)** - B.P. Singh (replace Divakar Jayant)
- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
- **DG of the Border Security Force (BSF)** - Praveen Kumar (till Sep 2030)
- **DG of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)** - Rakesh Aggarwal (till Aug 2028)

111. No Smoking Day is observed on which day every year?

No Smoking Day हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Second Monday of March
- (b) Second Wednesday of March
- (c) Third Friday of March
- (d) Fourth Tuesday of March
- (e) 11 March every year

Ans. b

Sol. 11 March 2026 - No Smoking Day

No Smoking Day is observed every year on the second Wednesday of March. This year, it falls on 11 March in 2026.

The day encourages smokers to quit smoking and promotes healthier lifestyles through awareness campaigns and public initiatives.

It was first observed in 1984 in the United Kingdom and is now supported by health organisations worldwide to reduce tobacco consumption.

112. Which state government has launched the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojna to provide monthly financial assistance to women?

किस राज्य सरकार ने महिलाओं को हर महीने पैसे की मदद देने के लिए मुख्यमंत्री मासिक वेतन सावधिकर योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Haryana Government
- (b) Punjab Government
- (c) Rajasthan Government
- (d) Uttar Pradesh Government
- (e) Himachal Pradesh Government

Ans. b

Sol. Punjab Launches Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojna to Provide Monthly Financial Aid to Women

The Punjab Government launched the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojna in the 2026–27 Budget on International Women's Day to provide financial assistance to women across the state.

Under the scheme, eligible women will receive ₹1,000 per month, while women from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community will get ₹1,500 per month, directly transferred to their bank accounts.

The scheme, a pre-poll promise of the Aam Aadmi Party, aims to help women manage household expenses and children's education, with the state allocating ₹9,300 crore for FY 2026–27.

About Punjab

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

113. Which regulatory body approved the certificate of registration for Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance?

किस नियामक संस्था ने Allianz Jio Reinsurance और Kiwi General Insurance को पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान करने की मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- (e) Competition Commission of India

Ans. c

Sol. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Approves Registration for Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the certificate of registration for Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance during its 134th meeting.

Allianz Jio Reinsurance is an equal joint venture between Jio Financial Services and Allianz Group, incorporated in September 2025, to operate in the reinsurance business.

The regulator also discussed the new regulatory framework after the enactment of the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025, which amended the Insurance Act, 1938 and IRDA Act, 1999, and approved drafting of new regulations for stakeholder consultation.

114. Which bank launched a \$500 million syndicated social term loan facility focused on women's empowerment?

महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण पर केंद्रित 500 मिलियन डॉलर का सिंडिकेटेड सोशल टर्म लोन किस बैंक ने शुरू किया?

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

Ans. c

Sol. State Bank of India Launches \$500 Million Social Loan Facility to Promote Women's Empowerment

State Bank of India (SBI) launched a \$500 million syndicated social term loan facility with a greenshoe option, aimed at promoting women's empowerment, on the eve of International Women's Day.

The initiative supports the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) financing framework and aims to reduce the gender gap while enhancing social impact.

According to C. S. Setty, Chairman of State Bank of India, the loan aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal – SDG 5: Gender Equality, focusing on empowering women and promoting inclusive growth.

115. Which bank partnered with NBFCs to expand its retail lending business outside Jammu and Kashmir?

किस बैंक ने जम्मू और कश्मीर के बाहर अपने रिटेल लेंडिंग व्यवसाय का विस्तार करने के लिए NBFCs के साथ साझेदारी की?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Jammu & Kashmir Bank

(d) Canara Bank

(e) Union Bank of India

Ans. c

Sol. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Partners with Home First Finance Company India Limited and IIFL Finance to Expand Retail Lending

Jammu & Kashmir Bank partnered with two NBFCs to expand its retail lending business, especially outside Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on home and gold loans.

The bank signed co-lending agreements with Home First Finance Company India Limited for home loans and IIFL Finance for gold loans.

116. The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will be hosted by which state of India?

भारत में आयोजित होने वाले पहले Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 की मेजबानी कौन-सा राज्य करेगा?

(a) Odisha

(b) Jharkhand

(c) Madhya Pradesh

(d) Chhattisgarh

(e) Telangana

Ans. d

Sol. Chhattisgarh to Host First Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

The first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will be held from 25 March to 6 April 2026 in Chhattisgarh. The Games will be organised across three cities — Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja.

The event will feature seven medal sports — athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting, archery, swimming and wrestling, while Mallakhamb and Kabaddi will be included as demonstration sports.

The Games will be organised jointly by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India, Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh state organising committee.

117. Former Indian Olympian footballer Syed Habibul Hassan, popularly known as Hamid, passed away recently. He represented India in which Olympic Games?

पूर्व भारतीय ओलंपियन फुटबॉलर सैयद हबीबुल हसन, जिन्हें हमीद के नाम से जाना जाता था, ने भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किस ओलंपिक खेलों में किया था?

(a) 1956 Summer Olympics

(b) 1960 Summer Olympics

(c) 1964 Summer Olympics

(d) 1968 Summer Olympics

(e) 1972 Summer Olympics

Ans. b

Sol. Syed Habibul Hassan, Former 1960 Summer Olympics Footballer, Passes Away
Former Indian Olympian footballer Syed Habibul Hassan, popularly known as Hamid, passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 85 after a prolonged illness. He represented India in the 1960 Rome Olympics, one of the significant international tournaments for Indian football during that era.

118. Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed every year on which date to promote awareness about generic medicines?

जन औषधि दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है ताकि जेनेरिक दवाओं के उपयोग के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके?

(a) 1 March

(b) 5 March

(c) 7 March

(d) 10 March

(e) 12 March

Ans. c

Sol. 7 March - Jan Aushadhi Diwas

Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed every year on 7 March to raise awareness of affordable generic medicines and promote the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Week-long celebrations are organised across India from 1 March to 7 March, and in 2026, the programme was flagged off on 1 March in the National Capital Region (NCR) to increase awareness about the scheme.

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, launched in November 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, provides quality medicines at affordable prices through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs).

119. The International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on which date?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला न्यायाधीश दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

(a) 8 March

(b) 9 March

(c) 11 March

(d) 10 March

(e) 12 March

Ans. d

Sol. 10 March - International Day of Women Judges

International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on 10 March to highlight the importance of gender equality and women's participation in judicial systems worldwide.

The day aims to promote the full and equal participation of women in the judiciary, encouraging more women to pursue careers as judges and legal professionals.

120. The 11th edition of the joint military exercise Exercise Lamitiye 2026 is being conducted between India and which country?

संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास Exercise Lamitiye 2026 भारत और किस देश के बीच आयोजित किया जाता है?

- (a) Seychelles
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Mauritius
- (d) Maldives
- (e) Indonesia

Ans. a

Sol. Exercise Lamitiye 2026 Between India and Seychelles Begins to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

The 11th edition of Exercise Lamitiye 2026 between India and Seychelles is being conducted from 9–20 March 2026 at the Seychelles Defence Academy to strengthen military cooperation.

The Indian contingent includes personnel from the Assam Regiment, along with participation from the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, including INS Trikand and a Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft.

The biennial exercise LAMITIYE (meaning "Friendship" in Creole) aims to enhance joint operational capabilities, peacekeeping cooperation, and interoperability between the armed forces of both countries.

121. The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission till which year to ensure continued access to safe and adequate drinking water in rural areas?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षित और पर्याप्त पेयजल की निरंतर उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने Jal Jeevan Mission को किस वर्ष तक बढ़ाने की मंजूरी दी है?

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

(e) 2030

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet approves extension of Jal Jeevan Mission up to December 2028

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission till December 2028, with the scheme being restructured to shift focus from infrastructure creation to improved water service delivery.

The Cabinet enhanced the total outlay of the Jal Jeevan Mission to ₹8.69 lakh crore, including ₹3.59 lakh crore central assistance, and approved a national digital framework "Sujalam Bharat" to digitally map drinking water supply systems in villages.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared several infrastructure projects, including a 31.42 km connectivity corridor to Noida International Airport (Jewar Airport) and major railway line expansion projects, aimed at improving transport connectivity and logistics efficiency across the region.

122. Who took oath as the 30th Governor of Himachal Pradesh?

30वें हिमाचल प्रदेश के राज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ किसने ली?

- (a) Rajendra Vishwanath
- (b) Kavinder Gupta
- (c) Virbhadra Singh
- (d) P. S. Badal
- (e) Anandiben Patel

Ans. b

Sol. Kavinder Gupta Sworn in as the 30th Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Kavinder Gupta took oath as the 30th Governor of Himachal Pradesh at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan in Shimla.

The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

About Himachal Pradesh

- **Capital** – Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- **Chief Minister** – Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Mukesh Agnihotri
- **Governor** – Kavinder Gupta

123. Recently, Jishnu Dev Varma was sworn in as the Governor of which state?

हाल ही में जिशु देव वर्मा किस राज्य के राज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ ग्रहण किए?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Maharashtra

(d) Uttar Pradesh

(e) Bihar

Ans. c

Sol. Jishnu Dev Varma Sworn in as the New Governor of Maharashtra

Jishnu Dev Varma was sworn in as the Governor of Maharashtra at Darbar Hall, Lok Bhavan, Mumbai. The oath was administered by Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

Mr. Varma succeeded Acharya Devvrat, who was holding additional charge as Maharashtra Governor.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Jishnu Dev Varma

124. Who was appointed as the Supreme Leader of Iran in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में इरान का सर्वोच्च नेता किसके रूप में नियुक्त हुआ?

(a) Ali Khamenei

(b) Hassan Rouhani

(c) Mojtaba Khamenei

(d) Ebrahim Raisi

(e) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Ans. c

Sol. Mojtaba Khamenei Appointed as the Third Supreme Leader of Iran

Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Iran's Assembly of Experts, succeeding his father, Ali Khamenei. His appointment followed the death of former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed in airstrikes earlier in the conflict, creating the vacancy for the country's highest authority.

The leadership transition marks only the third time in the Islamic Republic's history that a new Supreme Leader has been named since its establishment in 1979, highlighting continuity amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

About Iran

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **Supreme Leader** - Mojtaba Khamenei

125. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the declaration of Madurai Airport as an International Airport. It is located in which state?

केंद्र मंत्रिमंडल, जिसका नेतृत्व नरेंद्र मोदी कर रहे हैं, ने मदुरै हवाई अड्डे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रूप में घोषित किया। यह किस राज्य में स्थित है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Madurai Airport Declared as an International Airport by the Union Cabinet
 The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the declaration of Madurai Airport in Madurai, Tamil Nadu as an International Airport.
 Madurai Airport, situated in the famous temple city of Madurai, is among the oldest airports in Tamil Nadu, enhancing its role in domestic and international connectivity.

126. What is PB-SHABD, which was recently seen in the news?

PB-SHABD क्या है, जो हाल ही में न्यूज़ में देखा गया था?

- (a) A radio channel
- (b) A news-sharing platform
- (c) A government policy
- (d) A social media app
- (e) A sports network

Ans. b

Sol. PB-SHABD Launched by Prasar Bharati to Provide Free, Logo-Free News Content to Media Organisations

PB-SHABD (Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination) is a news-sharing platform launched by Prasar Bharati to provide authentic news content to media organisations.

The platform offers logo-free news content, allowing media organisations to use the content without giving any credit, promoting ease of dissemination.

Free access to the platform is provided to media organisations until March next year to encourage the wider use of genuine and verified news content.

127. The Uttar Pradesh government signed an initial pact on March 9, 2026, with OneOTT Entertainment Ltd, a subsidiary of the Hinduja Group, to expand high-speed broadband connectivity across the state. Under which initiative will high-speed broadband connectivity be expanded in Uttar Pradesh?

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 9 मार्च, 2026 को हिंदुजा ग्रुप की सब्सिडियरी कंपनी OneOTT इंटरटेनमेंट लिमिटेड के साथ पूरे राज्य में हाई-स्पीड ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के लिए एक

शुरुआती समझौता किया। किस पहल के तहत उत्तर प्रदेश में हाई-स्पीड ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाई जाएगी?

- (a) Project Udaan
- (b) Project Ganga
- (c) Digital India
- (d) BharatNet
- (e) Project Saraswati

Ans. b

Sol. Uttar Pradesh Signs MoU with OneOTT Entertainment Ltd to Expand High-Speed Broadband under 'Project Ganga'

The Uttar Pradesh government signed an initial pact on March 9, 2026, with OneOTT Entertainment Ltd, a subsidiary of the Hinduja Group, to expand high-speed broadband connectivity across the state under 'Project Ganga'.

The MoU, signed between the State Transformation Commission and OneOTT Entertainment Ltd, aims to provide high-speed internet to over 20 lakh households in the next two to three years.

Under Project Ganga (Government Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement), the initiative is expected to benefit nearly one crore people and promote technology-driven employment opportunities for youth in the state.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

128. The International Malaria Conference 2026 was held in New Delhi and organised by the ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research under the Indian Council of Medical Research. What was the theme of the International Malaria Conference 2026?

इंटरनेशनल मलेरिया कॉन्फ्रेंस 2026 नई दिल्ली में हुई थी और इसे इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ़ मेडिकल रिसर्च के तहत ICMR-नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ मलेरिया रिसर्च ने ऑर्गनाइज़ किया था। इंटरनेशनल मलेरिया कॉन्फ्रेंस 2026 की थीम क्या थी?

- (a) Malaria Awareness and Prevention
- (b) Discovery, Development and Delivery
- (c) Global Health Challenges
- (d) Vaccination for All
- (e) Disease Surveillance and Response

Ans. b

Sol. International Malaria Conference 2026 Held in New Delhi

The International Malaria Conference 2026 was held in New Delhi and organised by the ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research under the Indian Council of Medical Research.

The conference focused on accelerating global efforts for malaria control and elimination, with the theme: "Discovery, Development and Delivery: Driving Malaria Elimination and Beyond."

India aims to eliminate malaria by 2030 under the National Framework for Malaria Elimination, highlighting the country's commitment to public health goals.

129. Which organization partnered with Tata Electronics to promote electronics manufacturing in India?

भारत में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए टाटा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के साथ किस संगठन ने साझेदारी की?

- (a) Make in India
- (b) Ministry of Electronics
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) ISRO
- (e) Department of Science & Technology

Ans. c

Sol. NITI Aayog Partners with Tata Electronics Private Limited to Boost Electronics and Semiconductor Manufacturing in India

NITI Aayog partnered with Tata Electronics Private Limited to promote the growth of electronics manufacturing in India, supporting the country's industrial development goals.

The partnership aligns with government initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming to strengthen domestic capabilities in electronics and semiconductor manufacturing.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- ***Founded*** - 1st January 2015
- ***Preceding*** - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- ***Headquarters*** - New Delhi
- ***Chairperson*** - Narendra Modi
- ***Vice Chairperson*** - Suman K Bery
- ***CEO*** - Nidhi Chhibber (replac B. V. R. Subrahmanyam)
- *NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry*

130. Swiggy and HDFC Bank launched two new co-branded credit cards. Which of the following correctly names these cards designed for different types of spenders?

स्विगी और HDFC बैंक ने दो नए को-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किए हैं। नीचे दिए गए में से कौन सा कार्ड अलग-अलग तरह के खर्च करने वालों के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए इन कार्ड का सही नाम है?

- (a) Swiggy Gold and Swiggy Silver
- (b) Swiggy BLCK and Swiggy Ornge
- (c) Swiggy Prime and Swiggy Elite
- (d) Swiggy Red and Swiggy Blue
- (e) Swiggy Plus and Swiggy Max

Ans. b

Sol. Swiggy and HDFC Bank Launch Two New Co-Branded Credit Cards — BLCK and Ornge

Swiggy and HDFC Bank launched two new co-branded credit cards— the Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card and the Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card — expanding their partnership that began in 2023.

The BLCK card targets lifestyle and premium spenders, offering 10% cashback on Swiggy transactions, up to 5% cashback on entertainment, travel, and e-commerce, along with a three-month complimentary Swiggy One BLCK membership.

The Ornge card is designed for everyday shoppers, providing 5% cashback on Swiggy and other online categories like travel and local cabs, a 12-month Swiggy One membership, and 1% cashback on all other transactions.

131. According to the Brand Finance Banking 500 2026 report, State Bank of India (SBI) was named the strongest Indian bank and also received a top-tier brand strength rating reflecting its exceptional reputation, customer trust, and global resilience. What was this brand strength rating awarded to SBI?

ब्रांड फाइनेंस बैंकिंग 500 2026 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, State Bank of India (SBI) को भारत का सबसे मजबूत बैंक नामित किया गया और इसे अपनी असाधारण प्रतिष्ठा, ग्राहक विश्वास और वैश्विक स्थिरता को दर्शाने वाली उच्च स्तरीय ब्रांड स्ट्रेंथ रेटिंग दी गई। SBI को यह ब्रांड स्ट्रेंथ रेटिंग कौन सी मिली?

- (a) AA
- (b) AAA
- (c) AAA+
- (d) A+
- (e) BB

Ans. c

Sol. SBI Named Strongest Indian Bank with AAA+ Brand Rating

State Bank of India (SBI) has been named the strongest Indian bank and the 16th strongest globally, earning the AAA+ brand strength rating, highlighting its reputation, customer trust, and brand resilience in the global banking sector.

HDFC Bank remains India's most valuable banking brand, valued at \$12.4 billion, despite a 7% YoY decline, and improved its global brand strength ranking, reflecting strong customer confidence and influence.

ICICI Bank showed a 19% YoY increase in brand value to \$5.5 billion and improved its global rank to 76th, indicating a strong growth trajectory among Indian private sector banks.

132. Which organization signed a MoU with commercial vehicle aggregator platforms to improve commuting for drivers on National Highways?

कौन सा संगठन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर चालकों के लिए आवागमन सुधारने के लिए कमर्शियल व्हीकल एग्रीगेटर प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किया?

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (b) National Highways Authority of India
- (c) Indian Railways
- (d) Delhi Transport Corporation
- (e) Central Road Research Institute

Ans. b

Sol. National Highways Authority of India Signs MoU with Commercial Vehicle Aggregator Platforms to Enhance Safety and Efficiency on National Highways
The National Highways Authority of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with commercial vehicle aggregator platforms to enhance commuting ease, safety, and efficiency for commercial vehicle drivers and fleet operators on National Highways in New Delhi.

Under the agreement, aggregator platforms will integrate the Rajmargyatra App and a dedicated Call 1033 feature, enabling timely safety communication and one-click access to the National Highway Helpline.

The initiative will also include Vishisht Saarthi commercial driver recognition to encourage safe driving, along with Jan Bhagidari – Driver-Led Reporting, allowing geo-tagged reporting of National Highway issues to be integrated with the Rajmargyatra ecosystem for centralized resolution.

133. How much cash reward did BCCI announce for Suryakumar Yadav and the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team?

Suryakumar Yadav और T20 वर्ल्ड कप जीतने वाली भारतीय टीम के लिए BCCI ने कितनी नकद इनाम राशि की घोषणा की?

- (a) ₹100 crore
- (b) ₹125 crore
- (c) ₹131 crore
- (d) ₹140 crore

(e) ₹150 crore

Ans. c

Sol. BCCI Announces Record ₹131 Crore Cash Reward for Suryakumar Yadav and India's T20 World Cup-Winning Team

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a record ₹131 crore cash reward for Suryakumar Yadav and the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team following their historic triumph in Ahmedabad.

This reward is the highest ever in Indian cricket, surpassing the ₹125 crore awarded to Rohit Sharma and his team after winning the T20 World Cup in Barbados two years ago.

For context, India's Champions Trophy-winning team received ₹58 crore, and last year's Women's World Cup-winning team was awarded ₹51 crore, highlighting the scale of the new reward.

134. Who has been appointed as the new head coach of the Sri Lanka men's national cricket team?

श्रीलंका पुरुष राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट टीम का नया हेड कोच किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

(a) Ricky Ponting

(b) Gary Kirsten

(c) Michael Hussey

(d) Jacques Kallis

(e) Anil Kumble

Ans. b

Sol. Sri Lanka Cricket Appoints Former South African Cricketer Gary Kirsten as Head Coach of Men's National Team

Sri Lanka Cricket has appointed former South African cricketer Gary Kirsten as the head coach of the national men's team, effective from 15th April 2026, for a two-year term ending 14th April 2028.

Kirsten previously served as India men's national team head coach (2008–2011), leading them to the 2011 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup victory, and as South Africa head coach (2011–2013), guiding them to become the number 1-ranked team in all formats in 2013.

During his international playing career (1993–2004), Kirsten scored 14,087 runs across Tests and ODIs, including 21 Test centuries and 13 ODI centuries, highlighting his distinguished cricketing record.

135. DRDO and the Indian Navy recently conducted successful in-flight release trials of which indigenous system from the P-8I aircraft to enhance naval operational logistics?

DRDO और भारतीय नौसेना ने नौसेना की लॉजिस्टिक क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए P-8I विमान से किस स्वदेशी प्रणाली का सफल इन-फ्लाइट रिलीज़ परीक्षण किया?

- (a) ADC-100
- (b) ADC-120
- (c) ADC-150
- (d) ADC-200
- (e) ADC-300

Ans. c

Sol. DRDO and Indian Navy Successfully Conduct In-Flight Trials of Indigenous ADC-150 Air Droppable Container from P-8I Aircraft

DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted four in-flight release trials of the indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC-150) from the P-8I aircraft off the coast of Goa.

The ADC-150 is designed to deliver up to 150 kg payload, enabling quick supply of critical equipment, medical aid, and stores to naval ships deployed in deep sea during emergencies.

The system was developed with contributions from Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (Visakhapatnam), Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (Agra) for the parachute system, and Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (Bengaluru) for flight clearance.

136. Who has stepped down as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo with immediate effect?

इंडिगो के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO) पद से तुरंत प्रभाव से किसने इस्तीफा दिया है?

- (a) Rahul Bhatia
- (b) Ronjoy Dutta
- (c) Pieter Elbers
- (d) Aditya Ghosh
- (e) Campbell Wilson

Ans. c

Sol. Pieter Elbers Steps Down as IndiGo CEO; Rahul Bhatia to Oversee Operations Temporarily

Pieter Elbers has stepped down as the CEO of IndiGo with immediate effect, following operational challenges faced by the airline in December 2025.

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, the parent company of IndiGo, announced that Managing Director Rahul Bhatia will temporarily oversee the airline's management until a new CEO is appointed.

Pieter Elbers had taken charge as CEO of IndiGo in September 2022, after a long and distinguished career with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

137. The sporting ties between India and New Zealand trace back to which historic event in 1926, due to which the year 2026 will mark 100 years of sporting relations between the two nations?

भारत और न्यूज़ीलैंड के बीच खेल संबंधों की शुरुआत 1926 की किस ऐतिहासिक घटना से मानी जाती है, जिसके कारण वर्ष 2026 दोनों देशों के बीच खेल संबंधों के 100 वर्ष पूरे होने का प्रतीक होगा?

- (a) First cricket tour of India to New Zealand
- (b) Indian Army hockey tour to New Zealand
- (c) First rugby series between the two nations
- (d) Commonwealth Games participation
- (e) First bilateral athletics championship

Ans. b

Sol. India and New Zealand Discuss Expanding Sports Cooperation as 2026 Marks 100 Years of Sporting Ties

Mansukh Mandaviya, India's Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi with a New Zealand sports delegation to discuss expanding bilateral sports cooperation between the two countries.

The year 2026 will mark 100 years of sporting ties between India and New Zealand, tracing back to the historic 1926 Indian Army hockey tour to New Zealand, one of the earliest sporting engagements between the two nations.

The delegation was led by Chris Bishop and included former cricketer Ross Taylor; both countries agreed to form a Joint Working Group to strengthen sports collaboration and monitor future initiatives.

138. Indian Railways recently launched which mobile application to enable women employees to report sexual harassment complaints at the workplace?

भारतीय रेल ने कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न की शिकायत दर्ज कराने के लिए महिला कर्मचारियों के लिए कौन-सा मोबाइल ऐप लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) SURAKSHA
- (b) SHAKTI
- (c) SHINE
- (d) SAKHI
- (e) NARI

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Railways Launches 'SHINE' App to Empower Women and Report Workplace Harassment

Indian Railways has launched a customised mobile application "SHINE" (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) to help women employees report sexual harassment complaints at the workplace.

The SHINE app was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2026), aiming to strengthen safety and empowerment for women staff in the railway system.

The app allows complaints through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) and can also be used to report incidents involving visitors, contractual staff, students, and others, ensuring confidential and faster grievance redressal.

139. Which Indian athlete created history by successfully completing the Ironman New Zealand triathlon in 11 hours and 50 minutes, finishing the challenging swimming, cycling and marathon run segments?

किस भारतीय एथलीट ने मुश्किल स्विमिंग, साइकलिंग और मैराथन रन सेगमेंट को 11 घंटे 50 मिनट में सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करके आयरनमैन न्यूज़ीलैंड ट्रायथलॉन पूरा करके इतिहास रचा?

- (a) Milind Soman
- (b) Neeraj Chopra
- (c) Avinash Sable
- (d) Anant Rana
- (e) Shivpal Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Anant Rana Creates History by Completing Ironman New Zealand Triathlon in 11 Hours 50 Minutes

Anant Rana created history by completing the Ironman New Zealand triathlon in 11 hours and 50 minutes in Taupo, becoming one of the notable Indian athletes to finish the challenging endurance event.

The triathlon included 3.8 km swimming, 180 km cycling, and a 42 km marathon run, which he successfully completed within the 17-hour time limit.

The 33-year-old athlete from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, associated with the Tata Steel Adventure Foundation, finished swimming in 1h 28m, cycling in 6h 19m, and the marathon in 3h 46m.

140. In March 2026, who took oath as the Governor of Telangana?

मार्च 2026 में तेलंगाना के गवर्नर के तौर पर किसने शपथ ली?

- (a) Bandaru Dattatreya
- (b) Tamilisai Soundararajan
- (c) Thaawarchand Gehlot
- (d) Kalraj Mishra
- (e) Shiv Pratap Shukla

Ans. e

Sol. Shiv Pratap Shukla Sworn in as 5th Governor of Telangana, Replaces Jishnu Dev Varma

Shiv Pratap Shukla took oath as the Governor of Telangana at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.

The oath of office was administered by Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.

He replaced Jishnu Dev Varma, who was transferred as Governor of Maharashtra, and became the 5th Governor of Telangana since the state was formed in 2014.

About Telangana

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy
- **Deputy CM** - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
 - **Governor** – Shiv Pratap Shukla

141. Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, and Nidhi Chhibber, CEO of NITI Aayog, released the second edition of the “Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026” in New Delhi. The Fiscal Health Index primarily evaluates the fiscal performance of which entities in India?

NITI आयोग की वाइस-चेयरमैन सुमन बेरी और NITI आयोग की CEO निधि छिब्बर ने नई दिल्ली में “फिस्कल हेल्थ इंडेक्स (FHI) 2026” का दूसरा एडिशन जारी किया। फिस्कल हेल्थ इंडेक्स मुख्य रूप से भारत में किन एंटीटीज़ के फिस्कल परफॉर्मेंस का मूल्यांकन करता है?

- (a) Public sector banks
- (b) Central ministries
- (c) Municipal corporations
- (d) Private companies
- (e) State governments

Ans. e

Sol. NITI Aayog Releases Second Edition of Fiscal Health Index 2026 to Assess Financial Performance of Indian States

Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, and Nidhi Chhibber, CEO of NITI Aayog, released the second edition of the “Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026” in New Delhi.

The Fiscal Health Index provides a data-driven assessment of the fiscal performance of Indian states, helping evaluate fiscal soundness, guide reforms, and support evidence-based policymaking.

The 2026 edition expanded coverage from 18 major states to include 10 North-Eastern and Himalayan states, which are evaluated separately due to structural differences.

The report highlights key priorities such as enhancing revenue mobilisation, improving capital expenditure quality, rationalising committed expenditure, and strengthening fiscal management to ensure long-term macroeconomic stability in India.

Achiever	Front Runner	Performer	Aspirational
Odisha (1)	Karnataka (6)	Tamil Nadu (12)	Kerala (16)
Maharashtra (2)	Uttar Pradesh (7)	Andhra Pradesh (13)	West Bengal (17)
Gujarat (3)	Madhya Pradesh (8)	Haryana (14)	Punjab (18)
Chhattisgarh (4)	Goa (9)	Rajasthan (15)	
Jharkhand (5)	Telangana (10)		
	Bihar (11)		

States	FHI Score	Rank 2023-24
Odisha	73.1	1
Goa	54.7	2
Jharkhand	50.5	3
Gujarat	49.9	4
Maharashtra	45.0	5
Chhattisgarh	44.3	6
Telangana	44.3	7
Uttar Pradesh	41.9	8

142. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated the 40th edition of the AAHAR International Food and Hospitality Fair in New Delhi. The AAHAR International Food and Hospitality Fair is organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and which organisation?

केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने नई दिल्ली में AAHAR इंटरनेशनल फूड एंड हॉस्पिटैलिटी फेयर के 40वें एडिशन का उद्घाटन किया। AAHAR इंटरनेशनल फूड एंड हॉस्पिटैलिटी फेयर का आयोजन फूड प्रोसेसिंग इंडस्ट्रीज़ मंत्रालय और किस संगठन द्वारा किया जाता है?

- (a) FICCI
- (b) ASSOCHAM
- (c) Confederation of Indian Industry
- (d) India Trade Promotion Organisation
- (e) Export Promotion Council

Ans. d

Sol. Piyush Goyal Inaugurates 40th AAHAR International Food and Hospitality Fair in New Delhi

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated the 40th edition of the AAHAR International Food and Hospitality Fair in New Delhi.

The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

Italy is the Country Partner for the 40th AAHAR International Food and Hospitality Fair.

143. In March 2026, who represented India at the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony in Santiago, Chile?

मार्च 2026 में सैंटियागो, चिली में आयोजित राष्ट्रपति शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किसने किया?

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) V. Muraleedharan
- (c) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Kirti Vardhan Singh

Ans. e

Sol. Kirti Vardhan Singh Represents India at Chile Presidential Inauguration as José Antonio Kast Takes Office

Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, arrived in Santiago, Chile to represent India at the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

During the visit, India aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Chile in areas such as trade, critical minerals, energy, and people-to-people ties.

José Antonio Kast became the President of Chile, succeeding Gabriel Boric, who served as President from 2022 to 2026.

About Chile

- Capital- Santiago
- Official language- Spanish
- Continent- South America

144. Donald Trump, President of the United States, announced a \$300 billion partnership with Reliance Industries to establish a new oil refinery project called "America First Refining." The new oil refinery under the "America First Refining" project will be located at which port in the United States?

अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के साथ 300 अरब डॉलर की साझेदारी में "America First Refining" नामक नई तेल रिफाइनरी परियोजना की घोषणा की। यह नई तेल रिफाइनरी अमेरिका के किस बंदरगाह पर स्थापित की जाएगी?

- (a) Port of Houston

(b) Port of Los Angeles

(c) Port of Seattle

(d) Port of Miami

(e) Port of Brownsville

Ans. e

Sol. Donald Trump Announces \$300 Billion 'America First Refining' Project with Reliance Industries in the US

Donald Trump, President of the United States, announced a \$300 billion partnership with Reliance Industries to establish a new oil refinery project called "America First Refining."

The project aims to build the first major new oil refinery in the United States in nearly 50 years, marking a significant development in the country's energy sector.

The refinery will be located at the Port of Brownsville in Texas, United States.

With an estimated value of \$300 billion, the project is being described as one of the largest investment initiatives in U.S. history.

145. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU to collaborate on research related to human spaceflight and astronaut health. The collaboration will mainly focus on research in which field?

ऑल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ मेडिकल साइंसेज (AIIMS) और इंडियन स्पेस रिसर्च ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन (ISRO) ने ह्यूमन स्पेसफ़्लाइट और एस्ट्रोनॉट हेल्थ से जुड़े रिसर्च पर मिलकर काम करने के लिए एक MoU साइन किया है। यह सहयोग मुख्य रूप से किस फ़ील्ड में रिसर्च पर फ़ोकस करेगा?

(a) Nuclear medicine

(b) Marine biology

(c) Artificial intelligence

(d) Space medicine

(e) Agricultural biotechnology

Ans. d

Sol. AIIMS New Delhi and ISRO Sign MoU to Collaborate on Space Medicine Research

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU to collaborate on research in space medicine.

The collaboration will focus on ground-based and space-based research in areas such as human physiology, cardiovascular regulation, musculoskeletal health in microgravity, microbiome, genomics, and behavioural health to support India's human spaceflight programme.

146. In March 2026, which countries were added to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List?

मार्च 2026 में, किन देशों को फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF) की ग्रे लिस्ट में जोड़ा गया?

- (a) Saudi Arabia and Fiji
- (b) Kuwait and Papua New Guinea
- (c) Brazil and Argentina
- (d) Egypt and Jordan
- (e) Malaysia and Singapore

Ans. b

Sol. FATF Adds Kuwait and Papua New Guinea to Grey List

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Kuwait and Papua New Guinea to its list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring, commonly known as the Grey List.

With this addition, the total number of countries on the FATF Grey List increased to 22.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **Founded** - 1989
- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Membership** - 40
- **President** - Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico)

147. Which two major banks recently signed a strategic partnership to enhance bilateral financial collaboration, facilitate cross-border capital flows, and strengthen the India–Japan economic corridor, supporting both Japanese corporates expanding in India and Indian enterprises pursuing international growth?

हाल ही में किन दो प्रमुख बैंकों ने द्विपक्षीय वित्तीय सहयोग बढ़ाने, सीमा-पार पूंजी प्रवाह को सुगम बनाने और भारत-जापान आर्थिक कॉरिडोर को मजबूत करने के लिए रणनीतिक साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जो भारत में विस्तार करने वाली जापानी कंपनियों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास कर रही भारतीय उद्यमों दोनों का समर्थन करती है?

- (a) ICICI Bank and Bank of Japan
- (b) HDFC Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
- (c) State Bank of India and MUFG Bank
- (d) Axis Bank and Mizuho Bank
- (e) Punjab National Bank and Japan Post Bank

Ans. c

Sol. SBI and MUFG Bank Sign Strategic Partnership to Strengthen India–Japan Economic Corridor

State Bank of India (SBI) and Japan's MUFG Bank signed a strategic partnership agreement to enhance bilateral financial collaboration and strengthen the India-Japan economic corridor.

The agreement aims to facilitate cross-border capital flows, create synergistic financing opportunities, and support sustainable economic growth across two of Asia's largest economies.

The partnership will support Japanese corporates expanding in India and Indian enterprises pursuing international growth, including entry into Japan and other global markets.

148. Which company launched the RuPay 'On-The-Go' Card for contactless public transport payments?

सार्वजनिक परिवहन में संपर्क रहित भुगतान के लिए RuPay 'On-The-Go' कार्ड किस कंपनी ने लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) Google Pay
- (c) PhonePe Limited
- (d) SBI Card
- (e) Amazon Pay

Ans. c

Sol. PhonePe Limited Launches RuPay 'On-The-Go' Card to Promote Contactless Public Transport Payments

PhonePe Limited launched the RuPay 'On-The-Go' Card, a National Common Mobility Card for contactless payments in public transport.

The card supports the Government of India's "One Nation One Card" initiative, aiming to create a single interoperable transit payment system.

149. Which municipal corporation became Maharashtra's first urban local body to list its Green Municipal Bond on the National Stock Exchange?

महाराष्ट्र का पहला शहरी निकाय जिसने अपने ग्रीन म्युनिसिपल बॉन्ड को नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज पर सूचीबद्ध किया?

- (a) Pune Municipal Corporation
- (b) Mumbai Municipal Corporation
- (c) Nagpur Municipal Corporation
- (d) Nashik Municipal Corporation
- (e) Thane Municipal Corporation

Ans. d

Sol. Nashik Municipal Corporation Becomes Maharashtra's First to List Green Municipal Bond on National Stock Exchange

Nashik Municipal Corporation became Maharashtra's first urban local body to list its Green Municipal Bond public issue on the National Stock Exchange. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis rang the ceremonial bell at the NSE in Mumbai to mark the occasion, celebrating this historic milestone in urban finance. The Green Municipal Bond initiative will mobilise resources for public welfare projects, strengthen Nashik's urban infrastructure, and support preparations for the upcoming Nashik Kumbh Mela.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Jishnu Dev Varma

150. The Government of India has taken a step to expand the digital reach of traditional wellness products by launching a dedicated AYUSH Store through a collaboration between the AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL) and a quick-commerce company. The dedicated AYUSH Store was launched on which quick-commerce platform?

भारत सरकार ने पारंपरिक वेलनेस प्रोडक्ट्स की डिजिटल पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए एक कदम उठाया है। इसके लिए आयुष एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल (AYUSHEXCIL) और एक क्विक-कॉमर्स कंपनी के बीच कोलेबोरेशन से एक डेडिकेटेड आयुष स्टोर लॉन्च किया गया है। डेडिकेटेड आयुष स्टोर किस क्विक-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म पर लॉन्च किया गया?

- (a) Blinkit
- (b) Swiggy
- (c) Zomato
- (d) Zepto
- (e) Amazon

Ans. d

Sol. Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav Launches Dedicated AYUSH Store on Zepto
Prataprao Jadhav inaugurated a dedicated AYUSH Store on the Zepto platform to boost the digital reach of traditional wellness products.

The initiative is a collaboration between the AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL) and Zepto to enhance the accessibility of authentic AYUSH products for consumers.

The storefront features a curated range of traditional Indian wellness products, making them easily discoverable through Zepto's digital platform and delivery network.

151. Which port in India has become the first to launch the Digital Twin initiative for port management?

भारत में पोर्ट प्रबंधन के लिए डिजिटल ट्विन पहल शुरू करने वाला पहला बंदरगाह कौन-सा बना है?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
- (b) Cochin Port Authority
- (c) V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority
- (d) Chennai Port Authority
- (e) Paradip Port Authority

Ans. c

Sol. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Launches India's First Digital Twin Platform for Smart Port Management

V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in India to launch a Digital Twin initiative for advanced and technology-driven port management. The Digital Twin system creates a real-time replica of port infrastructure and operations, using technologies like IoT, GPS, LiDAR, drones, and CCTV to improve monitoring, predictive maintenance, and operational efficiency.

152. The Government of India launched the country's first Integrated Life-Cycle Support Model primarily for which group?

भारत सरकार ने देश का पहला इंटीग्रेटेड लाइफ-साइकिल सपोर्ट मॉडल मुख्य रूप से किसके लिए शुरू किया है?

- (a) Persons with visual impairment
- (b) Persons with hearing impairment
- (c) Senior citizens
- (d) Women entrepreneurs
- (e) School students

Ans. b

Sol. India Launches First Integrated Life-Cycle Support Model for Persons with Hearing Impairment

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has partnered with the "Coalition of the Willing" to support persons with hearing impairment.

The initiative aims to create India's first integrated life-cycle support model, providing assistance from early intervention and education to skilling, employment and social inclusion.

The coalition includes organisations such as Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), Yunikee, Blee Tech Innovations, TEACH, WinVinaya

Foundation, Buddy4Study India Foundation and VCrop Technologies to develop innovative accessibility and empowerment solutions.

153. Oil India Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in tribal areas?

आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने के लिए Oil India Limited ने किस संगठन के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- (b) National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation
- (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- (d) National Skill Development Corporation
- (e) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India

Ans. b

Sol. Oil India Ltd Signs MoU with NSTFDC to Strengthen Healthcare in Tribal Areas

Oil India Limited signed an MoU with National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Section 8 company under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Noida.

Under the agreement, Oil India Limited has sanctioned ₹86.27 lakh to strengthen healthcare facilities at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, an Aspirational District.

The initiative aims to improve access to quality healthcare for tribal and underserved communities by providing ambulances, diagnostic equipment, and advanced life-support systems.

154. The WHO Foundation has entered into a collaboration to raise awareness and strengthen prevention efforts against childhood obesity in India through school-based health programmes and improved healthcare readiness. It has partnered with which global healthcare company for this initiative?

WHO Foundation ने भारत में बचपन के मोटापे की रोकथाम के लिए जागरूकता बढ़ाने, स्कूल-आधारित स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों को मजबूत करने और स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की तैयारी में सुधार के लिए एक सहयोग शुरू किया है। इस पहल के लिए उसने किस वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य सेवा कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Pfizer
- (b) GlaxoSmithKline
- (c) Roche
- (d) Johnson & Johnson
- (e) Novo Nordisk

Ans. b

Sol. WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk Partner to Combat Childhood Obesity in India

The WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk have partnered to raise awareness and strengthen prevention efforts against childhood obesity in India.

The initiative will support a scalable school-based health programme and improve health-system readiness to address obesity through early risk identification, physical activity promotion, and healthier early-life environments.

The collaboration is part of Novo Nordisk's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and aims to reduce obesity-related risks such as cardiovascular diseases and type-2 diabetes highlighted by the World Health Organization.

155. According to the latest outlook report by CRISIL, what is the projected GDP growth rate for India in FY2026–27 (FY27)?

CRISIL की नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार FY2026–27 में India की GDP वृद्धि दर कितनी रहने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 6.7%
- (c) 7.1%
- (d) 7.5%
- (e) 8.0%

Ans. c

Sol. CRISIL Forecasts 7.1% Economic Growth for India in FY27 Amid Global Trade and West Asia Risks

CRISIL has projected 7.1% economic growth for India in FY2026–27, driven mainly by strong private consumption and a gradual rise in private investment.

The outlook report titled "India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters" states that India's economy continues to show strong resilience despite global economic turbulence.

156. The second leg of the Asia Cup Archery 2027 will be hosted in which city of India?

एशिया कप तीरंदाजी 2027 का दूसरा चरण भारत के किस शहर में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

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

Ans. d

Sol. India to Host 2027 Asia Cup Archery Second Leg in Delhi After 22 Years

India will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery in 2027 in Delhi, marking the return of a major international archery event after 22 years.

India last hosted a major international archery tournament when the Asian Archery Championships were held in Delhi in 2005.

The decision was finalised after a meeting between Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol and Virendra Sachdeva regarding upcoming international archery events.

157. World Kidney Day 2026 was observed on 12 March 2026 (the second Thursday of March) to raise global awareness about kidney health and the prevention of kidney diseases. What is the theme of World Kidney Day 2026?

विश्व किडनी दिवस 2026, 12 मार्च 2026 (मार्च के दूसरे गुरुवार) को किडनी के स्वास्थ्य और किडनी रोगों की रोकथाम के बारे में वैश्विक जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया गया। विश्व किडनी दिवस 2026 का विषय (Theme) क्या है?

- (a) Kidney Health for Everyone
- (b) Protect Kidneys, Save Lives
- (c) Kidney Care for Future
- (d) Kidney Health for All
- (e) Healthy Kidney, Healthy World

Ans. d

Sol. 12 March 2026 - World Kidney Day

World Kidney Day 2026 was observed on 12 March 2026 (the second Thursday of March) to raise global awareness about kidney health and the prevention of kidney diseases.

The theme for 2026 is "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet."

It was first launched in 2006 as a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations to promote global awareness about kidney health.

158. Vinay Muralidhar Tonse has been appointed as MD & CEO-designate of which bank?

विनय मुरलीधर टोंसे को किस बैंक का MD और CEO-डिज़िग्रेट नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Yes Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) IndusInd Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Vinay Muralidhar Tonse Appointed MD & CEO-Designate of Yes Bank

Vinay Muralidhar Tonse has joined Yes Bank as Managing Director (MD) and CEO-designate, with his appointment approved by the Reserve Bank of India. He has been appointed for a three-year term and will officially take charge on 6 April 2026, succeeding Prashant Kumar as the bank's CEO. Prior to this role, Tonse served as Managing Director at State Bank of India, India's largest public sector bank.

159. The 22nd instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme was released by PM Narendra Modi from which city?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने PM-KISAN योजना की 22वीं किस्त असम के किस शहर से जारी की?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Guwahati
- (e) Bhopal

Ans. d

Sol. PM Modi Releases 22nd Instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi from Guwahati

PM Narendra Modi released the 22nd instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi from Guwahati, Assam.

Around ₹18,640 crore was transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to nearly 9.32 crore farmers directly into their bank accounts.

With this instalment, the total amount transferred under PM-KISAN exceeded ₹4.27 lakh crore, while more than ₹4.09 lakh crore had already been distributed earlier.

160. Under which mission was ₹20,000 crore allocated for the research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMR) के अनुसंधान और विकास के लिए ₹20,000 करोड़ किस मिशन के तहत आवंटित किए गए हैं?

- (a) National Energy Mission
- (b) Hydrogen Energy Mission
- (c) Green Power Mission
- (d) Nuclear Energy Mission
- (e) Clean India Energy Mission

Ans. d

Sol. India Launches Indigenous Small Modular Reactors Under ₹20,000 Crore Nuclear Energy Mission

Under the Nuclear Energy Mission, the Government has allocated ₹20,000 crore for the research, design, development, and deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in India.

The Department of Atomic Energy is developing indigenous reactors including 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200), 55 MWe SMR-55, and a High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGCR) for hydrogen generation.

The lead units of BSMR-200 and SMR-55 are proposed to be set up at Tarapur Atomic Power Station, while the HTGCR will be built at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Visakhapatnam.

According to Jitendra Singh, India aims to expand its nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047, up from the current 8.78 GW, under the long-term nuclear energy roadmap.

161. How many research and development projects for 6G technology have been approved by the Government under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme?

टेलीकॉम टेक्नोलॉजी डेवलपमेंट फंड (TTDF) योजना के तहत सरकार ने 6G तकनीक के लिए कितने अनुसंधान एवं विकास परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) 84
- (b) 94
- (c) 104
- (d) 114
- (e) 124

Ans. c

Sol. Government Approves 104 Projects Worth ₹271 Crore to Boost 6G Research in India

The Government has approved 104 research and development projects worth ₹271 crore for 6G technology under the Telecom Technology Development Fund.

The Bharat 6G Vision Document has been released, outlining the roadmap for research, development, spectrum planning, and deployment of 6G services in India. According to Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, 5G services have already been rolled out in all states and UTs, covering 99.9% of districts with over 5.23 lakh 5G base stations installed nationwide.

162. Which scheme has been extended to mustard procurement by the Central Government in Madhya Pradesh?

केंद्र सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश में सरसों की खरीद के लिए किस योजना का विस्तार किया है?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

(c) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

(d) Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana (BBY)

(e) Price Support Scheme (PSS)

Ans. d

Sol. Centre Approves Extension of Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana for Mustard Procurement in Madhya Pradesh

The Central Government has approved a proposal by the Madhya Pradesh government to extend the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana to mustard procurement, after its use for soybean in 2025.

The scheme compensates farmers when market prices fall below government benchmark levels, helping protect them from price volatility while allowing sales in the open market.

163. Which organisation facilitated the first export consignment of GI-tagged Joha Rice from Assam to Europe?

असम से यूरोप को GI-टैग वाले जोहा चावल के पहले निर्यात को किस संगठन ने सुगम बनाया?

(a) Food Corporation of India

(b) NABARD

(c) Agricultural Marketing Board

(d) APEDA

(e) NAFED

Ans. d

Sol. GI-Tagged Joha Rice Exported from Assam to Europe for the First Time
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority facilitated the first export consignment of GI-tagged Joha Rice from Assam to Europe.
The shipment included 25 metric tonnes of Joha rice, exported to the United Kingdom and Italy.

164. Which edtech company has collaborated with Mission Karmayogi to upskill civil servants and government officials in India?

भारत में सिविल सेवकों और सरकारी अधिकारियों को कौशल उन्नयन देने के लिए मिशन कर्मयोगी के साथ किस एडटेक कंपनी ने सहयोग किया है?

(a) Ambitious Baba

(b) Byju's

(c) Unacademy

(d) Coursera

(e) Khan Academy

Ans. d

Sol. Coursera Partners with Mission Karmayogi to Upskill Civil Servants

Coursera has collaborated with Mission Karmayogi to upskill civil servants and government officials in India.

Under the partnership, training will be delivered through the iGOT platform, which is part of the government's capacity-building initiative.

The collaboration will offer a curated set of courses focused on advanced competencies and professional skills for civil servants and public sector officials.

165. Who has taken oath as the new Governor of Bihar?

बिहार के नए राज्यपाल के रूप में किसने शपथ ली है?

- (a) Arif Mohammad Khan
- (b) Syed Ata Hasnain
- (c) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- (d) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (e) Bandaru Dattatreya

Ans. b

Sol. Syed Ata Hasnain Takes Oath as 43rd Governor of Bihar

Syed Ata Hasnain, a retired Lieutenant General of the Indian Army, took oath as the Governor of Bihar.

The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Sangam Kumar Sahoo at the Patna High Court.

He became the 43rd Governor of Bihar since India's Independence, succeeding Arif Mohammad Khan.

Recently Appointed Governors

- **Governor of Telangana** - Shiv Pratap Shukla
- **Governor of Maharashtra** - Jishnu Dev Varma
- **Governor of Nagaland** - Nand Kishore Yadav
- **Governor of West Bengal** - RN Ravi
- **Governor of Tamil Nadu** - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- **Governor of Himachal Pradesh** - Kavinder Gupta
- **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh** - Vinai Kumar Saxena
- **Lieutenant Governor of Delhi** - Taranjit Singh Sandhu

166. Purple Fest was organised by which ministry in Rashtrapati Bhavan?

पर्पल फेस्ट राष्ट्रपति भवन में किस मिनिस्ट्री ने ऑर्गनाइज़ किया था?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (c) Ministry of Education
- (d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

(e) Ministry of Women and Child Development**Ans. b****Sol.** Rashtrapati Bhavan Hosts Purple Fest to Celebrate Talent and Aspirations of Divyangjan

Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the Purple Fest to celebrate the talent, achievements, and aspirations of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities).

The event was organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to promote inclusion, awareness, and respect for persons with disabilities.

More than 8,000 Divyangjan visited the Amrit Udyan, which was opened exclusively for them during the event.

167. National Highways Authority of India has revised the FASTag Annual Pass fee from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075 for the financial year 2026–27. From which date will the revised FASTag Annual Pass fee come into effect?

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 के लिए FASTag वार्षिक पास शुल्क को ₹3,000 से बढ़ाकर ₹3,075 कर दिया है। FASTag वार्षिक पास का यह संशोधित शुल्क किस तारीख से लागू होगा?

- (a) 1 June 2026
- (b) 1 April 2026
- (c) 1 July 2026
- (d) 1 May 2026
- (e) 1 October 2026

Ans. b**Sol.** NHAI Revises FASTag Annual Pass Fee to ₹3,075 for FY 2026–27

National Highways Authority of India has revised the FASTag Annual Pass fee from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075 for the financial year 2026–27, effective from 1 April 2026.

The revision has been made under the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, which governs toll fee determination and collection on national highways.

The FASTag Annual Pass is available for eligible non-commercial vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans with a valid FASTag, and it can be used on National Highways and National Expressways.

The pass, launched on 15 August 2025, remains valid for one year or up to 200 toll plaza crossings (whichever is earlier) and can be purchased via the Rajmarg Yatra App or the National Highways Authority of India.

168. The Central Government has approved the renaming of Tuticorin Airport to what new name in Tamil Nadu?

केंद्र सरकार ने तमिलनाडु में तूतीकोरिन हवाई अड्डे का नाम बदलकर क्या नया नाम रखने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Madurai Airport
- (b) Thoothukudi Airport
- (c) Chennai Airport
- (d) Tiruchirappalli Airport
- (e) Salem Airport

Ans. b

Sol. Centre Renames Tuticorin Airport as Thoothukudi Airport in Tamil Nadu

The Central Government has approved the renaming of Tuticorin Airport as Thoothukudi Airport in Tamil Nadu.

The renaming ceremony was formally inaugurated by Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu at the airport.

The airport is operated by the Airports Authority of India under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

169. The spring festival 'Chapchar Kut' is celebrated by which community in India?

'चपचार कुट' वसंत उत्सव भारत में किस समुदाय द्वारा मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Naga community
- (b) Khasi community
- (c) Mizo community
- (d) Bodo community
- (e) Garo community

Ans. c

Sol. Chapchar Kut Celebrated with Traditional Fervour in Aizawl

The spring festival Chapchar Kut was celebrated with traditional fervour in Aizawl. It is the largest traditional spring festival of the Mizo people, celebrated after clearing forests for jhum (shifting) cultivation, marking the arrival of spring.

The week-long festival concluded with the theme "Zo Nun Ze Mawi: Inremna" (Mizo Ethics: Reconciliation) and witnessed a large gathering, including V. K. Singh and C. Lalsawivunga.

About Mizoram

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

170. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, in collaboration with Securities and Exchange Board of India, will organise a 'Niveshak Shivir' in Bhubaneswar on 27 March 2026. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) functions under which ministry?

इन्वेस्टर एजुकेशन एंड प्रोटेक्शन फंड अथॉरिटी, सिक्योरिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया के साथ मिलकर 27 मार्च 2026 को भुवनेश्वर में एक 'निवेशक शिविर' लगाएगी। इन्वेस्टर एजुकेशन एंड प्रोटेक्शन फंड अथॉरिटी (IEPFA) किस मिनिस्ट्री के तहत काम करती है?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- (e) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Ans. c

Sol. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority to Organise 'Niveshak Shivir' in Bhubaneswar

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in collaboration with Securities and Exchange Board of India, will organise a 'Niveshak Shivir' in Bhubaneswar on 27 March 2026.

The initiative aims to provide a one-stop facilitation platform to help investors resolve issues related to unclaimed dividends and shares, along with on-ground grievance redressal and investor services.

The camp will offer recovery assistance for unclaimed dividends and shares, on-the-spot KYC updation, nomination services, and resolution of pending IEPFA claims, promoting direct interaction between investors, companies, and RTAs.

171. According to Fitch Ratings, what is India's projected GDP growth for FY2025–26?

फिच रेटिंग्स के अनुसार FY2025–26 के लिए भारत की अनुमानित GDP वृद्धि दर क्या है?

- (a) 6.2%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 7.5%
- (e) 8.0%

Ans. d

Sol. Fitch Ratings Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.5% for FY26

Fitch Ratings has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 7.5% for FY2025–26 and 6.7% for FY2026–27.

The revised projections were released in the Global Economic Outlook - March 2026.

GDP Projection List 2025

- CRISIL – 7.1% (FY27)
- Moody's Rating – 6.45 (FY27)
- Goldman Sachs - 6.9% (FY26)
- IMF - 7.3% (FY26)
- CareEdge – 7% (FY27)
- World Bank – 7.2% (FY26)

172. Tamil writer Vairamuthu has been awarded the prestigious Jnanpith Award. He received the 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025, one of India's highest literary honours. Vairamuthu became the _____ Tamil writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.

तमिल लेखक वैरामुथु को प्रतिष्ठित ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। उन्हें साल 2025 के लिए 60वां ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार मिला, जो भारत के सबसे बड़े साहित्यिक सम्मानों में से एक है। वैरामुथु ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार पाने वाले _____ तमिल लेखक बन गए हैं।

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

Ans. c

Sol. Vairamuthu Selected for the 60th Jnanpith Award for 2025

Vairamuthu has been selected for the prestigious Jnanpith Award.

He will receive the 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025, one of India's highest literary honours.

With this recognition, Vairamuthu becomes the third Tamil writer to receive the award after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002).

59th Jnanpith Award (for 2024) - Hindi author and poet Vinod Kumar Shukla

58th Jnanpith Award (for 2023) - Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya.

About Jnanpith Award

- *The Jnanpith Award is regarded as the highest literary honour in India, given for outstanding contribution to Indian literature.*
- *It was instituted in 1961, and the first award was presented in 1965.*
- *The award is presented annually by Bharatiya Jnanpith.*
- *It is awarded to Indian citizens writing in any language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India or in English.*
- *The first recipient was G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for his poetry collection Odakkuzhal, and the award carries a cash prize of about ₹11 lakh along with a citation and a bronze statue of Goddess Saraswati.*

173. Arpita Patra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, successfully climbed Nevado Ojos del Salado. She reached the 6,893-metre summit, becoming the second Indian woman to scale the peak. Nevado Ojos del Salado, climbed by Arpita Patra, is located on the border of which two countries?

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस की प्रोफेसर अर्पिता पात्रा ने नेवाडो ओजोस डेल सलाडो पर सफलतापूर्वक चढ़ाई की। वह 6,893 मीटर ऊंचे शिखर पर पहुंचीं, और ऐसा करने वाली दूसरी भारतीय महिला बन गईं। नेवाडो ओजोस डेल सलाडो, जिस पर अर्पिता पात्रा ने चढ़ाई की, किन दो देशों के बॉर्डर पर है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Arpita Patra Becomes Second Indian Woman to Scale Nevado Ojos del Salado
Arpita Patra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, successfully climbed Nevado Ojos del Salado.

She reached the 6,893-metre summit, becoming the second Indian woman to scale the peak.

Nevado Ojos del Salado is located in the Atacama Desert in the Andes Mountains on the Chile–Argentina border and is the highest mountain in Chile.

Earlier, she had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mount Elbrus (Europe), Mount Giluwe (Oceania), and Pico de Orizaba (North America).

174. Mayank Chakraborty became India's 94th Grandmaster (GM) in chess.

Mayank Chakraborty is the first Chess Grandmaster from which Indian state?

मयंक चक्रवर्ती शतरंज में भारत के 94वें ग्रैंडमास्टर (GM) बने। मयंक चक्रवर्ती भारत के किस राज्य से पहले शतरंज ग्रैंडमास्टर बने हैं?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Assam
- (d) Meghalaya
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. c

Sol. Mayank Chakraborty Becomes India's 94th Chess Grandmaster, First from Assam
Mayank Chakraborty became India's 94th Grandmaster (GM) in chess. He is the first chess Grandmaster from Assam, marking a historic milestone for the state.

The Grandmaster (GM) title is awarded by the world chess governing body FIDE.

Previous Chess Grand Masters

- 93rd Grandmaster - Aarav Dengla (Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- 92nd Grandmaster - Aaryan Varshney (Delhi)
- 91th - Raahul V.S. (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)

175. Which athlete set a new pole vault world record of 6.31 metres at the Mondo Classic held in Uppsala?

किस एथलीट ने उप्साला में हुए मॉंडो क्लासिक में 6.31 मीटर का नया पोल वॉल्ट वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बनाया?

- (a) Sam Kendricks
- (b) Shawn Barber
- (c) Thiago Braz
- (d) Renaud Lavillenie
- (e) Armand Duplantis

Ans. e

Sol. Armand Duplantis Sets New Pole Vault World Record of 6.31m at Mondo Classic

Armand Duplantis set a new pole vault world record of 6.31 metres at the Mondo Classic held in Uppsala.

This achievement marks the 15th time Duplantis has broken the pole vault world record, further strengthening his dominance in the sport.

He had earlier set the record at 6.28 metres in Stockholm in 2025, and the 6.31m jump is his fourth world record of the year.

176. Who won his first Formula One race at the Chinese Grand Prix at the age of 19?

19 वर्ष की आयु में चीनी ग्रां प्री में अपना पहला फॉर्मूला वन रेस किसने जीता?

- (a) Lewis Hamilton
- (b) Charles Leclerc
- (c) Kimi Antonelli
- (d) Lando Norris
- (e) George Russell

Ans. c

Sol. Kimi Antonelli Wins Chinese Grand Prix, Becomes Second-Youngest F1 Race Winner

Kimi Antonelli, aged 19, won his first Formula One race at the Chinese Grand Prix, becoming the second-youngest race winner in F1 history.

The youngest F1 race winner remains Max Verstappen, who won a Grand Prix at the age of 18 in 2016.

Kimi Antonelli currently drives for the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team.

177. Sarfaraz Ahmed has announced his retirement from international cricket after a notable career. Sarfaraz Ahmed is a cricketer from which country?

सरफ़राज़ अहमद ने एक शानदार करियर के बाद इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट से रिटायरमेंट की घोषणा की है। सरफ़राज़ अहमद किस देश के क्रिकेटर हैं?

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Pakistan
- (e) Afghanistan

Ans. d

Sol. Sarfaraz Ahmed Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Sarfaraz Ahmed, the former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter and captain, announced his retirement from international cricket after a notable career.

He led Pakistan to victory in the 2006 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, becoming one of the few players to win an ICC title at the junior level as captain.

Under his captaincy, Pakistan also won the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, making him the only captain to win ICC trophies at both junior and senior levels organised by the International Cricket Council.

Recently Retired Players

- *Saina Nehwal (India) - Badminton*
- *Alyssa Healy (Australia)- All forms of international cricket*
- *Jinson Johnson (Kerala, India) - Middle-distance Runner*
- *Usman Khawaja (Australia) - International cricket*
- *Doug Bracewell (New Zealand) - All forms of international cricket*

178. The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed on which date each year?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय इस्लामोफोबिया से मुकाबला दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 March
- (b) 12 March
- (c) 15 March
- (d) 20 March
- (e) 25 March

Ans. c

Sol. 15 March - International Day to Combat Islamophobia

The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed every year on 15 March to raise awareness about discrimination, intolerance, and violence against Muslims around the world.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 to promote religious tolerance, dialogue, and respect for cultural diversity.

The observance encourages governments, organisations, and communities to combat Islamophobia and promote peace, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding.

179. World Sleep Day is observed every year on 13 March to raise awareness about the importance of healthy sleep and sleep-related issues. What is the theme for World Sleep Day 2026?

हर साल 13 मार्च को 'विश्व नींद दिवस' (World Sleep Day) मनाया जाता है, ताकि अच्छी नींद के महत्व और नींद से जुड़ी समस्याओं के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके। विश्व नींद दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Sleep Better, Live Longer
- (b) Sleep Well, Live Better
- (c) Healthy Sleep, Healthy Life
- (d) Dream Big, Sleep Well
- (e) Rest and Relax

Ans. b

Sol. 13 March - World Sleep Day

World Sleep Day is observed every year on 13 March to raise awareness about the importance of healthy sleep and sleep-related issues.

Theme 2026 - Sleep Well, Live Better

The day aims to highlight the impact of sleep on physical, mental, and emotional well-being, encouraging people to adopt better sleep habits.

Observance of World Sleep Day promotes research, education, and public campaigns to address sleep disorders and improve overall quality of life.

180. Which of the following hospitals is set to launch India's first online critical care follow-up clinic to provide post-ICU consultation to patients at home?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा अस्पताल ICU से छुट्टी पाए मरीजों को घर बैठे परामर्श देने हेतु भारत का पहला ऑनलाइन क्रिटिकल केयर फॉलो-अप क्लिनिक शुरू करने जा रहा है?

- (a) AIIMS, New Delhi
- (b) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- (c) Safdarjung Hospital
- (d) Apollo Hospital, Chennai
- (e) Fortis Hospital, Gurugram

Ans. c

Sol. Safdarjung Hospital Launches India's First Online Critical Care Follow-Up Clinic for ICU Patients

Safdarjung Hospital will launch India's first online critical care follow-up clinic for ICU-discharged patients to receive medical guidance from home.

The service will be available through the e-Sanjivani OPD portal every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Patients and their families can log in online to consult doctors, ensuring continuous post-ICU care and better recovery monitoring.

181. Kushal Das, who recently passed away, was associated with which organization as General Secretary?

कुशल दास, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस संगठन से जनरल सेक्रेटरी के तौर पर जुड़े थे?

- (a) BCCI
- (b) FIFA
- (c) All India Football Federation
- (d) Hockey India
- (e) ICC

Ans. c

Sol. Former General Secretary of All India Football Federation Kushal Das passes away

General Secretary of All India Football Federation, Kushal Das, passed away at the age of 66; he served the federation from 2010 to 2022.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, he also worked as the Chief Financial Officer at the International Cricket Council in Dubai, gaining vast experience in international sports administration.

182. Department of Posts has launched the '24 Speed Post', offering next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery for urgent consignments. In the first phase, how many cities are covered under '24 Speed Post'?

डाक विभाग ने '24 स्पीड पोस्ट' शुरू किया है, जो ज़रूरी कंसाइनमेंट के लिए अगले दिन (D+1) गारंटीड डिलीवरी देता है। पहले चरण में, '24 स्पीड पोस्ट' के तहत कितने शहरों को शामिल किया गया है?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 3
- (d) 8
- (e) 6

Ans. e

Sol. Department of Posts Launches '24 Speed Post' with Next-Day Guaranteed Delivery in Six Major Cities

Department of Posts has launched the '24 Speed Post', offering next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery for urgent consignments, inaugurated by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. In the first phase, the service will be available in six major cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, enhancing fast logistics in metro regions.

The service includes OTP-based secure delivery, real-time tracking with SMS alerts, free pickup, BNPL facility, and money-back guarantee, strengthening premium services of India Post.

183. Madhu Malhotra, who recently passed away, was a veteran figure in which industry?

हाल ही में निधन हुई मधु मल्होत्रा किस उद्योग की प्रसिद्ध हस्ती थीं?

- (a) Sports Industry
- (b) Politics
- (c) Music Industry
- (d) Bollywood
- (e) Literature

Ans. d

Sol. Actor Madhu Malhotra dies at 71

Madhu Malhotra, a veteran Bollywood actor, passed away at the age of 71 due to heart failure.

She was best known for her roles in films like Satte Pe Satta and Karz, along with appearances in many other popular movies.

With a career spanning from the 1970s to 1990s, she acted in over 100 films, gaining recognition for her strong supporting and cameo performances.

184. Who received the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women for her outstanding contribution to women's cricket?

महिलाओं के क्रिकेट में उत्कृष्ट योगदान के लिए BCCI लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड (महिला) किसे दिया गया?

- (a) Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (c) Jhulan Goswami
- (d) Mithali Raj
- (e) Shafali Verma

Ans. d

Sol. Naman Awards 2026: BCCI to honour Rahul Dravid, Mithali Raj, Roger Binny with Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Board of Control for Cricket in India hosted the Naman Awards 2026 in New Delhi to honour excellence across international, domestic, and age-group cricket. Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid received the Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honour of the BCCI.

Mithali Raj was honoured with the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women for her outstanding contribution to women's cricket.

Shubman Gill and Smriti Mandhana received the Best International Cricketer (Men & Women) awards for the 2024–25 season.

The awards also recognised top domestic performers like Ira Jadhav, Shafali Verma, Ayush Mhatre, and Harsh Dubey, along with the Mumbai Cricket Association for best performance.

A major highlight was the felicitation of five ICC trophy-winning Indian teams, marking a historic celebration of India's global cricketing success.

185. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed an MoU with which organization to strengthen India's global skills mobility ecosystem?

भारत के वैश्विक स्किल मोबिलिटी इकोसिस्टम को मजबूत करने के लिए कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय ने किस संगठन के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) NSDC
- (c) GATI Foundation
- (d) World Bank
- (e) UNDP

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Signs MoU with GATI Foundation to Boost Global Skill Mobility

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed an MoU with GATI Foundation to boost global skill mobility and overseas employment opportunities for Indian workers.

This marks the first Central government partnership for GATI Foundation, aiming to improve coordination between Union and State Governments in workforce mobility initiatives.

The collaboration focuses on aligning national skilling priorities with state-level implementation, ensuring better institutional support for international job placements.

186. The Government has appointed Kompella Venkata Ramana Murty as a Whole-Time Member of which organisation?

सरकार ने के. वी. रमण मूर्ति को किस संगठन का पूर्णकालिक सदस्य नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) IRDAI
- (d) NABARD
- (e) PFRDA

Ans. b

Sol. Govt Appoints Kompella Venkata Ramana Murty as Whole-Time Member of SEBI
 The Government has appointed Kompella Venkata Ramana Murty as Whole-Time Member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for a three-year term. A 1991-batch IDAS officer, Murty previously served as Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts and had also been a part-time member of SEBI representing the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The SEBI board, headed by Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey, consists of a chairman, four whole-time members, and four part-time members.

187. Which company has appointed Jasprit Bumrah as its brand ambassador for India?

किस कंपनी ने जसप्रीत बुमराह को भारत के लिए अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Uniqlo Appoints Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador for India
 Uniqlo has appointed Jasprit Bumrah as its brand ambassador for India.

Uniqlo is a subsidiary of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. and is a leading global apparel retailer from Japan.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Bhavitha Mandava - First Indian House Ambassador for Chanel
- Sania Mirza - The Derma Company
- Sachin Tendulkar - Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations
- Shikhar Dhawan - Delhi Khel Mahakumbh 2026
- A R Rahman - DAC Developers

188. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Haldia Bulk Terminal, a fully automated dry bulk handling facility at the Haldia Dock Complex. The Haldia Bulk Terminal is located at which port?

PM नरेंद्र मोदी ने हल्दिया डॉक कॉम्प्लेक्स में हल्दिया बल्क टर्मिनल का उद्घाटन किया है, जो पूरी तरह से ऑटोमेटेड ड्राई बल्क हैंडलिंग सुविधा है। हल्दिया बल्क टर्मिनल किस बंदरगाह पर स्थित है?

- (a) Mumbai Port
- (b) Chennai Port
- (c) Visakhapatnam Port
- (d) Paradip Port
- (e) Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Fully Automated Haldia Bulk Terminal at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Haldia Bulk Terminal, a fully automated dry bulk handling facility at the Haldia Dock Complex.

The terminal is part of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port and is India's first fully automated dry bulk cargo handling facility on the Hooghly River.

It has been developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, boosting efficiency in cargo operations and maritime infrastructure.

189. Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project, located in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts. The Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project is located in which state?

नरेंद्र मोदी ने दीमा हसाओ और कार्बी आंगलॉंग जिलों में मौजूद 120 MW के लोअर कोपिली हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक प्रोजेक्ट का वर्चुअली उद्घाटन किया। लोअर कोपिली हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक प्रोजेक्ट किस राज्य में है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. PM Modi Virtually Inaugurates 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project in Assam

Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project in Assam, located in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts.

The project is a run-of-river hydropower project built in the Kopili River basin, enhancing clean energy generation.

It has been developed by Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited with financial support from the Asian Development Bank under the Assam Power Sector Investment Program.

About Assam

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

190. The Government of Maharashtra signed an MoU with which organisation to deploy AI in public health programmes?

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों में AI लागू करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU किया?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) WHO
- (c) Google Health
- (d) Wadhvani AI
- (e) Microsoft

Ans. d

Sol. Maharashtra Govt Signs MoU with Wadhvani AI to Boost AI-Driven Public Health Services

The Government of Maharashtra signed an MoU with Wadhvani AI to deploy AI technologies in public health programmes like tuberculosis control, maternal & child health, and primary healthcare.

The agreement was signed under the guidance of Devendra Fadnavis to enhance diagnosis, treatment monitoring, and healthcare service delivery.

The initiative aims to make public health services more technology-driven, efficient, and accessible across the state.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Jishnu Dev Varma

191. The Government of Himachal Pradesh signed an MoU with which organisation to strengthen the dairy sector?

हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने डेयरी क्षेत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU किया?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) FSSAI
- (c) NDDDB
- (d) AMUL

(e) NITI Aayog

Ans. c

Sol. Himachal Pradesh Govt Signs MoU with National Dairy Development Board to Boost Dairy Sector and Milk Processing Capacity

The Government of Himachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board to strengthen the dairy sector and boost milk processing capacity.

The agreement, led by Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, aims to introduce world-class technology and improve dairy infrastructure, including bio-products.

The initiative will support the Dagwar dairy project, enhance computerised quality control, and generate employment opportunities for farmers.

192. What was the amount of penalty imposed on Cashfree Payments India Pvt Ltd by the RBI?

RBI द्वारा कैशफ्री पेमेंट्स इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड पर कितना जुर्माना लगाया गया?

- (a) ₹1 lakh
- (b) ₹2 lakh
- (c) ₹3.1 lakh
- (d) ₹5 lakh
- (e) 7.5 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹3.1 Lakh Penalty on Cashfree Payments India Private Ltd for Regulatory Violations

Reserve Bank of India imposed a ₹3.1 lakh penalty on Cashfree Payments India Private Ltd for non-compliance with regulatory directions.

The penalty was due to an impermissible debit from an escrow account, as identified by the RBI.

Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution

- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Rs 11.50 lakh) by RBI** - due to violations found during the annual inspection for FY ending March 31, 2025.
- **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.

193. What was India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in February 2026?

फरवरी 2026 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति कितनी रही?

- (a) 1.81%
- (b) 2.13%
- (c) 2.45%
- (d) 1.50%
- (e) 2.13%

Ans. e

Sol. India's WPI Inflation Rises to 2.13% in February 2026

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to 2.13% in February 2026, marking an 11-month high.

It recorded the fourth consecutive monthly increase, rising from 1.81% in January 2026.

WPI data is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **October 2025** – (-)1.21%
- **November 2025** – (-) 0.32%
- **December 2025** – 0.83%
- **January 2026** – 1.81%

194. World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and promote fair practices in the marketplace. What is the theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2026?

विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस हर साल 15 मार्च को मनाया जाता है, ताकि उपभोक्ताओं के अधिकारों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके और बाज़ार में निष्पक्ष प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Consumer First, Safety Always
- (b) Safe Products, Confident Consumers
- (c) Empowering Consumers Globally
- (d) Fair Trade for All
- (e) Digital Rights for Everyone

Ans. b

Sol. 15 March -World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and promote fair practices in the marketplace.

Theme 2026 - Safe Products, Confident Consumers

The day highlights issues such as consumer protection, product safety, digital rights, and ethical business practices globally.

Observance of this day encourages governments, organizations, and individuals to empower consumers and ensure access to safe, fair, and sustainable products and services.

195. When is National Vaccination Day observed in India?

भारत में राष्ट्रीय टीकाकरण दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 14
- (b) March 15
- (c) March 16
- (d) March 17
- (e) March 18

Ans. c

Sol. 16 March - National Vaccination Day

National Vaccination Day, also called National Immunisation Day, is observed every year on March 16 in India to promote the importance of immunisation and vaccines for preventing diseases.

The day commemorates the first oral polio vaccine dose administered in 1995 and aims to raise awareness about vaccination against vaccine-preventable diseases like polio, tuberculosis, measles, mumps, and rubella.

196. Arpita Patra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, became the second Indian woman to summit Nevado Ojos del Salado, the world's highest volcanic peak (6,893 m). Earlier, she had climbed the highest volcanic peaks of four continents. Which of the following volcanic peaks was NOT climbed by Arpita Patra earlier?

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस की प्रोफेसर अर्पिता पात्रा, दुनिया की सबसे ऊंची ज्वालामुखी चोटी (6,893 m) नेवाडो ओजोस डेल सलाडो पर चढ़ने वाली दूसरी भारतीय महिला बन गईं। इससे पहले, उन्होंने चार महाद्वीपों की सबसे ऊंची ज्वालामुखी चोटियों पर चढ़ाई की थी। इनमें से कौन सी ज्वालामुखी चोटी अर्पिता पात्रा ने पहले नहीं चढ़ाई थी?

- (a) Mount Kilimanjaro
- (b) Mount Elbrus
- (c) Mount Giluwe
- (d) Pico de Orizaba
- (e) Mount Fuji

Ans. e

Sol. Arpita Patra Becomes Second Indian Woman to Summit Nevado Ojos del Salado
Arpita Patra Becomes Second Indian Woman to Summit Nevado Ojos del Salado,
World's Highest Volcanic Peak
Arpita Patra, a professor at the Indian Institute of

Science, became the second Indian woman to summit Nevado Ojos del Salado, the world's highest volcanic peak (6,893 m).

She achieved this feat on March 6, marking a significant milestone in Indian mountaineering.

Earlier, she had climbed the highest volcanic peaks of four continents, including Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, Mount Giluwe, and Pico de Orizaba.

197. Which country topped the medal table at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 in New Delhi?

विश्व पैराएथलेटिक्स ग्रैंड प्रिक्स 2026 नई दिल्ली में कौन सा देश मेडल तालिका में शीर्ष पर रहा?

- (a) Russia
- (b) India
- (c) Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (d) USA
- (e) China

Ans. b

Sol. India Tops Medal Table with 208 Medals at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, New Delhi

India topped the medal table at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 in New Delhi, winning a total of 208 medals — 75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze.

Russia finished second with 35 medals, while Bosnia and Herzegovina placed third with three medals.

The event featured 257 athletes from eight countries and served as the second stop of the 13th Grand Prix season, offering key classification opportunities ahead of the 2026 World Para Athletics Championships and 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics.

198. Which state achieved a historic milestone by successfully launching its first sounding rocket from Dholera, reaching an altitude of approximately three kilometres?

किस राज्य ने धोलेरा से लगभग तीन किलोमीटर ऊँचाई तक पहुँचने वाले अपने पहले साउंडिंग रॉकेट को सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च करके एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि हासिल की?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Gujarat Achieves Space Milestone with First Sounding Rocket Launch at Dholera

Gujarat achieved a historic milestone in space research with the successful launch of its first sounding rocket at Dholera, reaching an altitude of approximately three kilometres.

The single-stage sub-orbital rocket, developed by an Ahmedabad-based startup, carried a mini-satellite to collect essential weather data.

The rocket's carbon fiber airframe was developed under the 'Make in India' initiative, with the launch authorised by IN-SPACe and supported by the Gujarat Spacotech Policy 2025-2030.

199. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, launched the SATHEE app, a free digital learning platform to help students prepare for major competitive exams. What is the full form of SATHEE?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने IIT कानपुर के साथ मिलकर SATHEE ऐप लॉन्च किया है। यह एक फ्री डिजिटल लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म है जिससे स्टूडेंट्स को बड़े कॉम्पिटिटिव एग्जाम की तैयारी में मदद मिलेगी। SATHEE का फुल फॉर्म क्या है?

- (a) Student Assessment Test and Higher Education
- (b) Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Exams
- (c) Study and Test Hub for Education Excellence
- (d) Scholarly Assessment Tools for Higher Education
- (e) Systematic Approach to Test and Higher Education

Ans. b

Sol. Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur Launch Free SATHEE App for Competitive Exam Preparation

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, launched the SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) app, a free digital learning platform to help students prepare for major competitive exams.

The app provides high-quality study resources, including video lectures, mock tests, study material, and previous years' question papers for exams like JEE, NEET, SSC, IBPS, and CUET.

Designed with a simple interface, SATHEE ensures that students from rural areas and those who cannot afford expensive coaching can access competitive exam preparation easily.

200. Three 22-year-old Indian Americans — Brendan Foody, Adarsh Hiremath, and Surya Midha — became the world's youngest self-made billionaires by co-founding a San Francisco-based AI hiring platform. Which company did the trio co-found?

तीन 22 साल के इंडियन अमेरिकन — ब्रेंडन फूडी, आदर्श हीरिमथ, और सूर्या मिधा — सैन फ्रांसिस्को में मौजूद AI हायरिंग प्लेटफॉर्म को-फाउंड करके दुनिया के सबसे कम उम्र के सेल्फ-मेड बिलियनेयर बन गए। इन तीनों ने कौन सी कंपनी को-फाउंड की?

- (a) TechNova
- (b) InnovAI
- (c) Mercor
- (d) Infosys
- (e) Tesla

Ans. c

Sol. 22-Year-Old Indian Americans Become World's Youngest Self-Made Billionaires
 Three 22-year-old Indian Americans — Brendan Foody, Adarsh Hiremath, and Surya Midha — became the world's youngest self-made billionaires by co-founding San Francisco-based AI hiring platform Mercor.

Mercor raised \$350 million in Series C funding, valuing the startup at \$10 billion, surpassing Mark Zuckerberg's record of becoming a billionaire at 23.

Each founder holds over \$2 billion in net worth and are Thiel Fellowship recipients, with Foody as CEO, Hiremath as CTO, and Midha as Board Chair.

201. Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of _____ on Manappuram Finance for violating guidelines related to compensation of Key Managerial Personnel (KMP).

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) के वेतन संबंधी दिशा-निर्देशों के उल्लंघन पर Manappuram Finance पर _____ का जुर्माना लगाया।

- (a) ₹1.5 lakh
- (b) ₹2.7 lakh
- (c) ₹5.7 lakh
- (d) ₹10 lakh
- (e) ₹25 lakh

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹2.7 Lakh Penalty on Manappuram Finance for KMP Pay Rule Violation

Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of ₹2.7 lakh on Manappuram Finance for violating guidelines related to compensation of Key Managerial Personnel (KMP). The violation involved paying full variable pay upfront without deferral, identified during RBI's inspection based on the company's financial position as of March 31, 2025.

Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution

- **Cashfree Payments India Private Ltd (₹3.1 lakh) by RBI - for non-compliance with regulatory directions.**

- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Rs 11.50 lakh) by RBI** - due to violations found during the annual inspection for FY ending March 31, 2025.
- **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.

202. Who won the Best Actor award at the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026) for his performance in the film Sinners?

98वें अकादमी अवॉर्ड्स (ऑस्कर 2026) में फिल्म Sinners में अपने प्रदर्शन के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता का पुरस्कार किसने जीता?

- (a) Leonardo DiCaprio
- (b) Cillian Murphy
- (c) Michael B. Jordan
- (d) Brad Pitt
- (e) Joaquin Phoenix

Ans. c

Sol. "One Battle After Another" Dominates Oscars 2026 with Six Awards; Michael B. Jordan Wins Best Actor

The 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026) were held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA, celebrating the best films of 2025.

The ceremony was hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien.

One Battle After Another emerged as the biggest winner, securing six awards, while Michael B. Jordan won his first Best Actor Oscar for Sinners.

Presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the Oscars remain the most prestigious film awards globally, first held in 1929.

Major Winners

- *Best Picture: One Battle After Another*
- *Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson - One Battle After Another*
- *Best Actor: Michael B. Jordan - Sinners*
- *Best Actress: Jessie Buckley - Hamnet*
- *Best Supporting Actor: Sean Penn - One Battle After Another*
- *Best Supporting Actress: Amy Madigan - Weapons*

203. Which state has launched the 'Divyang Shakti' free bus travel scheme for differently abled persons?

किस राज्य ने दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए 'दिव्यांग शक्ति' फ्री बस यात्रा योजना शुरू की है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Divyang Shakti' Scheme for Free Bus Travel to Differently Abled Persons

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a free bus travel scheme for differently abled persons under the Divyang Shakti scheme.

The scheme was inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati. Persons with 40% or more disability will be eligible for free travel in APSRTC buses, including express services.

About Andhra Pradesh

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

204. Which state has launched the Gaudham Yojana to manage and protect stray cattle?

किस राज्य ने आवारा पशुओं के प्रबंधन और संरक्षण के लिए गौधाम योजना शुरू की है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Chhattisgarh Launches Gaudham Yojana to Protect Stray Cattle

Chhattisgarh CM, Vishnu Deo Sai, has launched the Gaudham Yojana in Bilaspur to manage and protect stray cattle.

The scheme aims to establish 1,460 cattle shelters (Gaudhams) across Chhattisgarh. In the first phase, 29 Gaudhams in 11 districts were virtually inaugurated and named "Surabhi Gaudham."

205. What is the name of Asia's largest tulip garden, located in Srinagar at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range overlooking Dal Lake, which attracts thousands of tourists every year?

श्रीनगर में ज़बरवान रेंज की तलहटी में डल झील के किनारे स्थित एशिया का सबसे बड़ा ट्यूलिप गार्डन, जो हर साल हजारों पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करता है, उसका नाम क्या है?

- (a) Mughal Garden
- (b) Nishat Bagh
- (c) Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden
- (d) Shraddha Raj Tulip Garden
- (e) Botanical Garden

Ans. c

Sol. Omar Abdullah Inaugurates Asia's Largest Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden
 Omar Abdullah inaugurated the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, marking the start of the spring tourism season in the Valley.

The garden, Asia's largest tulip garden, features over 1.8 million tulips across 70–75 varieties, along with other spring flowers like hyacinths and daffodils.

Spread over 74 acres near Dal Lake, the garden attracts thousands of tourists annually, with improved facilities and a Tulip Festival planned during peak bloom.

206. Which organization has reaffirmed its commitment to expand UPI merchant acceptance in Sri Lanka to enhance cross-border digital payments for Indian tourists?

किस संगठन ने भारतीय पर्यटकों के लिए क्रॉस-बॉर्डर डिजिटल भुगतान को बेहतर बनाने हेतु श्रीलंका में UPI मर्चेट स्वीकृति के विस्तार के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई है

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)
- (c) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) World Bank

Ans. b

Sol. NPCI International Payments Limited Expands UPI Acceptance in Sri Lanka via LankaQR Codes

NPCI International Payments Limited plans to expand UPI merchant acceptance in Sri Lanka, allowing payments via LankaQR codes.

The initiative aims to enhance cross-border payment convenience for Indian tourists and support Sri Lanka's growing digital economy.

UPI, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India, enables real-time, secure, account-to-account transactions through mobile apps.

About NIPL

- NPCI International Payments Limited is the international arm of NPCI
- It is a wholly owned subsidiary of NPCI
- Founded - 3 April 2020

•Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

207. Which bank has introduced a UPI-based cash withdrawal facility at business correspondent (BC) touchpoints to enable cardless cash access, especially for rural and semi-urban customers?

किस बैंक ने BC टचपॉइंट्स पर UPI आधारित कैश निकासी सुविधा शुरू की है, जिससे विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों के ग्राहकों को बिना डेबिट कार्ड के नकद निकासी की सुविधा मिल सके?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Jio Payments Bank Launches UPI-Based Cardless Cash Withdrawal Facility to Boost Financial Inclusion

Jio Payments Bank has introduced UPI-based cash withdrawal at business correspondent (BC) touchpoints to strengthen the digital payments ecosystem. The feature allows customers, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, to withdraw cash by scanning a UPI QR code without using debit cards or ATMs. This initiative promotes financial inclusion by bridging the gap between digital payments and cash access, offering a secure and assisted experience for first-time UPI users.

208. Which bank raised ₹6,051 crore through Tier II bonds in FY 2025–26?

किस बैंक ने वित्त वर्ष 2025–26 में टियर II बॉन्ड्स के माध्यम से ₹6,051 करोड़ जुटाए?

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

Ans. e

Sol. SBI Raises ₹6,051 Crore via Basel III-Compliant Tier II Bonds at 7.05% Coupon Rate

State Bank of India raised ₹6,051 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant Tier II bonds at a coupon rate of 7.05% during FY 2025–26.

The bonds have a tenure of 10 years, with a call option available after 5 years and on every anniversary thereafter.

209. When is Ordnance Factories Day observed in India?

भारत में ऑर्डनेंस फैक्ट्री दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 15
- (b) March 16
- (c) March 17
- (d) March 18
- (e) March 19

Ans. d

Sol. March 18 Observed as Ordnance Factories Day in India

Ordnance Factories Day is observed annually on March 18 in India to commemorate the establishment of the first Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.

The day highlights the role of Ordnance Factories in strengthening India's defence manufacturing and supplying arms, ammunition, and military equipment to the armed forces.

210. For which initiative was the Reserve Bank of India awarded the 'Initiative of the Year' by Central Banking, London, aimed at strengthening the security of India's digital banking ecosystem?

भारत के डिजिटल बैंकिंग इकोसिस्टम की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से Central Banking, London द्वारा RBI को 'Initiative of the Year' किस पहल के लिए प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) UPI launch
- (b) Digital Rupee
- (c) ".bank.in" domain launch
- (d) RTGS system
- (e) NEFT upgrade

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Wins 'Initiative of the Year' Award for Launching ".bank.in" Domain to Boost Digital Banking Security

Reserve Bank of India received the "Initiative of the Year" award from Central Banking for launching the ".bank.in" domain to enhance digital banking security in India.

The initiative was implemented in coordination with multiple stakeholders, including the Government of India, National Internet Exchange of India, Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology, and various banks.

211. The Government of India has extended the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework by introducing ALMM List-III for solar ingots and wafers. In this context, from which date will ALMM List-III become

effective, making it mandatory for all solar projects (including net metering and open access) to use ALMM-listed wafers?

भारत सरकार ने **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM)** ढांचे का विस्तार करते हुए सोलर इंगट्स और वेफर्स के लिए **ALMM List-III** शुरू की है। इस संदर्भ में, **ALMM List-III** किस तिथि से प्रभावी होगी, जिससे सभी सोलर परियोजनाओं (नेट मीटरिंग और ओपन एक्सेस सहित) के लिए **ALMM सूचीबद्ध वेफर्स** का उपयोग अनिवार्य हो जाएगा?

- (a) 1 January 2027
- (b) 1 April 2028
- (c) 1 June 2028
- (d) 15 August 2028
- (e) 1 January 2029

Ans. c

Sol. Government Expands ALMM Framework to Solar Ingots & Wafers to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

The government has expanded the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework by introducing ALMM List-III for solar ingots and wafers, effective from 1 June 2028.

From this date, all solar projects (including net metering and open access) must use ALMM-listed wafers, making compliance mandatory.

The move aims to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, strengthen supply chains, and ensure high quality standards in the solar sector.

The policy includes mandatory use in new bids, requires minimum domestic capacity (15 GW) with integrated production, and protects ongoing projects through grandfathering provisions.

212. India is participating in which multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise held in March 2026 near Guam?

भारत मार्च 2026 में गुआम के पास आयोजित किस बहुराष्ट्रीय पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध अभ्यास में भाग ले रहा है?

- (a) Malabar
- (b) RIMPAC
- (c) Sea Dragon
- (d) Varuna
- (e) Indra

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Navy Participates in U.S.-Led 'Sea Dragon 2026' ASW Exercise in Guam
India is participating in the U.S.-led multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise 'Sea Dragon 2026', being held near Guam in March 2026.

The exercise involves countries like Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, aiming to enhance coordination and combat readiness in undersea warfare.

The Indian Navy is participating alongside the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), which has deployed a P-8A Poseidon aircraft and around 50 personnel.

213. How many total medals did India win at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026?

भारत ने World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 में कुल कितने पदक जीते?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Chandrika Pujari Wins Gold as India Secures Five Medals at World Boxing Futures Cup

India secured a total of five medals (1 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze) at the World Boxing Futures Cup.

Chandrika Pujari won the gold medal in the women's 51 kg category, defeating Uzbekistan's Mardonova Nazokat by a unanimous decision.

Other medal winners included Gunjan (48 kg), Joyshree Devi (54 kg), and L. Ambekar Meetei (50 kg) with silver medals, while Radhamani Longjam (57 kg) secured a bronze medal.

214. According to the statement given by the Minister of State for Finance in the Lok Sabha, banks in India have written off a significant amount of non-performing assets (NPAs) over the past 11 financial years. In this context, what is the total value of loans written off by banks during this period?

वित्त राज्य मंत्री द्वारा लोकसभा में दिए गए बयान के अनुसार, भारत में बैंकों ने पिछले 11 वित्तीय वर्षों में बड़ी मात्रा में गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियों (NPAs) को राइट-ऑफ किया है। इस संदर्भ में, इस अवधि के दौरान बैंकों द्वारा कुल कितना ऋण राइट-ऑफ किया गया है?

- (a) ₹7.25 lakh crore
- (b) ₹8.90 lakh crore
- (c) ₹9.75 lakh crore
- (d) ₹10.50 lakh crore
- (e) ₹11.20 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. Banks Write Off ₹9.75 Lakh Crore Loans in 11 Years

Banks have written off ₹9.75 lakh crore worth of loans over the last 11 financial years, as stated by MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

Loan write-offs peaked at ₹1.59 lakh crore in FY20 and have gradually declined to ₹47,568 crore in FY25.

Write-offs showed a rising trend from ₹31,723 crore (FY15) to over ₹1 lakh crore in FY19, indicating increasing NPAs during that period.

Banks have written off Rs 31,723 crore in FY15, Rs 40,416 crore in FY16, Rs 68,308 crore in FY 17, and Rs 99,132 crore in FY18.

215. Which village has been selected as Odisha's first 'Smart Village' under the CSIR initiative?

CSIR पहल के तहत ओडिशा का पहला 'स्मार्ट विलेज' किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Janakpur
- (b) Sawaipura
- (c) Kusunpur
- (d) Bhada
- (e) Joharat

Ans. c

Sol. Odisha's Kusunpur Becomes State's First 'Smart Village' Under CSIR Initiative
Kusunpur village in Odisha's Kendrapada district has been selected as the state's first "Smart Village" under the CSIR initiative.

The project, launched on March 16, aims at technology-driven rural transformation under the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047".

CSIR has identified six villages nationwide as "live laboratories" to implement innovations through a "Lab to Land" approach in areas like agriculture, infrastructure, and rural development.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

216. Which company has approved the merger of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) with itself?

किस कंपनी ने Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) के साथ विलय को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) JSW Steel
- (b) SAIL
- (c) Vedanta
- (d) Jindal Steel

(e) Tata Steel**Ans. e****Sol.** Tata Steel Approves Merger with NINL and \$2 Billion Investment in Singapore Arm

Tata Steel has approved the merger of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL), its wholly-owned subsidiary, with itself.

Tata Steel had earlier acquired NINL in July 2022 for around ₹12,100 crore.

The company has also approved an investment of up to \$2 billion (₹18,488 crore) in its Singapore-based arm T Steel Holdings Pte Ltd (TSHP).

217. Which organization has approved a loan of about USD 300 million for improving air quality in Uttar Pradesh?

किस संगठन ने उत्तर प्रदेश में वायु गुणवत्ता सुधार के लिए लगभग 300 मिलियन डॉलर के ऋण को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) IMF
- (b) World Bank
- (c) ADB
- (d) AIIB
- (e) NDB

Ans. b**Sol.** World Bank Approves \$300 Million Loan for Clean Air Programme in Uttar Pradesh

The World Bank has approved a loan of about USD 300 million for Uttar Pradesh to improve air quality through a clean air programme.

The Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program aims to reduce pollution across sectors like transport, agriculture, and industry, while promoting environmental sustainability and employment generation.

The initiative focuses on measures such as the adoption of electric vehicles, industrial emission monitoring, and clean technologies to achieve sustainable growth and reduced pollution.

About World Bank

- **Founded** – 4 July 1944
- **Headquarters** - Washington DC
- **President** - Ajay Banga (14th)
- **Member Countries** - 189 (Nauru 189th)

218. Which company has secured a \$90 million investment from the International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

किस कंपनी ने International Finance Corporation (IFC) से \$90 मिलियन का निवेश प्राप्त किया है?

- (a) Reliance Industries
- (b) Tata Chemicals
- (c) Adani Enterprises
- (d) UPL Limited
- (e) DCM Shriram

Ans. e

Sol. DCM Shriram Secures \$90 Million Investment from IFC for Sustainable Growth
DCM Shriram has secured \$90 million funding from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) through sustainability-linked non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The funds will be used to expand its chemicals business and support agriculture-related capital expenditure, promoting sustainable growth.
The investment reflects IFC's focus on sustainable industrial development in India, linking financing to environmental and performance targets.

219. Which company has laid the foundation of the world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh?

आंध्र प्रदेश के नेल्लोर ज़िले में दुनिया के पहले ऑटोनॉमस मैरीटाइम जहाज़ निर्माण और सिस्टम सेंटर की नींव किस कंपनी ने रखी है?

- (a) Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
- (b) Cochin Shipyard
- (c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (d) GRSE
- (e) L&T Defence

Ans. a

Sol. Sagar Defence Lays Foundation of World's First Autonomous Shipbuilding Centre in Nellore

Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd. has laid the foundation of the world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.

The centre will operate as an advanced shipyard using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics for modern shipbuilding processes.

It aims to enhance efficiency, productivity, and sustainability in the maritime and defence manufacturing sector.

220. The International Day of Mathematics is celebrated every year on March 14, also known as Pi (π) Day. What is the theme of International Day of Mathematics 2026?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस हर साल 14 मार्च को मनाया जाता है, जिसे पाई (π) दिवस के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस 2026 का विषय (Theme) क्या है?

- (a) Mathematics for Growth
- (b) Mathematics and Innovation
- (c) Mathematics and Hope
- (d) Math for Future
- (e) Global Mathematics

Ans. c

Sol. 14 March - International Day of Mathematics

The International Day of Mathematics is celebrated every year on March 14, also known as Pi (π) Day.

It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2019 to promote the importance of mathematics in education and daily life.

Theme 2026 - Mathematics and Hope

The day highlights the role of mathematics in science, technology, innovation, and sustainable development, encouraging global participation through activities and awareness programs.

221. Atanu Chakraborty has resigned as part-time chairman and independent director of HDFC Bank with immediate effect. Who has been appointed as the interim part-time chairman of HDFC Bank?

अतनु चक्रवर्ती ने तुरंत प्रभाव से HDFC बैंक के पार्ट-टाइम चेयरमैन और इंडिपेंडेंट डायरेक्टर के पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। HDFC बैंक के अंतरिम पार्ट-टाइम चेयरमैन के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Deepak Parekh
- (b) Sashidhar Jagdishan
- (c) Rajnish Kumar
- (d) Uday Kotak
- (e) Keki Mistry

Ans. e

Sol. Atanu Chakraborty Resigns; Keki Mistry Appointed Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank

Atanu Chakraborty has resigned as part-time chairman and independent director of HDFC Bank with immediate effect.

Keki Mistry has been appointed as interim part-time chairman for 3 months from March 19, 2026, with approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

About HDFC Bank

- **Founded** – August 1994
- **Founder** - Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Tagline** - We understand your world

222. Which company became the first in India to produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a single financial year?

कौन सी कंपनी भारत में एक वित्तीय वर्ष में 50 मिलियन टन लौह अयस्क उत्पादन करने वाली पहली कंपनी बनी?

- (a) SAIL
- (b) Tata Steel
- (c) Vedanta
- (d) JSW Steel
- (e) NMDC Limited

Ans. e

Sol. NMDC Limited Becomes First Indian Mining Company to Produce 50 MT Iron Ore in a Year

National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), India's largest iron ore producer, became the first mining company in the country to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year (2025–26).

Established in 1958, NMDC's production has grown from about 10 MT in 1978 to 50 MT, reflecting significant long-term expansion.

Since 2015, production has increased sharply from around 30 MT to 50 MT, highlighting NMDC's key role in strengthening India's iron ore supply chain

223. When is the International Day of Happiness celebrated?

International Day of Happiness कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 18
- (b) March 19
- (c) March 21
- (d) March 20
- (e) March 22

Ans. d

Sol. 20 March - International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20 to promote happiness and well-being as universal human goals.

It was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2012, recognizing the importance of happiness in public policy and development.

224. World Sparrow Day is observed every year on which date?

वर्ल्ड स्पैरो डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
- (b) March 19
- (c) March 17
- (d) March 21
- (e) March 22

Ans. a

Sol. 20 March - World Sparrow Day

World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20 to raise awareness about the conservation of sparrows.

The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society in 2010 to protect declining sparrow populations.

It highlights the impact of urbanization, pollution, and habitat loss on sparrows and promotes efforts for their protection and conservation.

225. Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 commenced in New Delhi, showcasing tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and cultural performers from across India. The festival is organised by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Who is the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs of India?

भारत ट्राइब्स फेस्ट 2026 नई दिल्ली में शुरू हुआ, जिसमें पूरे भारत से आदिवासी कारीगरों, उद्यमियों और सांस्कृतिक कलाकारों को प्रदर्शित किया गया। इस उत्सव का आयोजन जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय के सहयोग से भारतीय जनजातीय सहकारी विपणन विकास महासंघ (TRIFED) द्वारा किया जाता है। भारत के जनजातीय मामलों के केंद्रीय मंत्री कौन हैं?

- (a) Arjun Munda
- (b) Jual Oram
- (c) Durgadas Uikey
- (d) Kiren Rijju
- (e) Smriti Irani

Ans. b

Sol. Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 Begins in New Delhi, Showcasing Tribal Culture and Entrepreneurship

Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 commenced in New Delhi, showcasing tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and cultural performers from across India.

The festival is organised by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram inaugurated the festival in the presence of Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey.

A key highlight is the Bharat Tribes Business Conclave, scheduled from March 19 to 27, focusing on promoting tribal trade and entrepreneurship.

226. Asia Africa Agri Alliance has been formed as a new institutional platform to enhance agricultural trade, cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between the two regions. Asia and Africa together account for approximately what share of global agricultural production?

एशिया अफ्रीका एग्री अलायंस को इन दोनों क्षेत्रों के बीच कृषि व्यापार, सहयोग, निवेश और प्रौद्योगिकी के आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक नए संस्थागत मंच के रूप में गठित किया गया है। एशिया और अफ्रीका मिलकर वैश्विक कृषि उत्पादन में लगभग कितना हिस्सा रखते हैं?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 50%
- (e) 60%

Ans. c

Sol. Asia Africa Agri Alliance Formed to Boost Agricultural Trade, Investment and Cooperation

Asia Africa Agri Alliance has been formed as a new institutional platform to enhance agricultural trade, cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between the two regions.

It is established as a Section 8 not-for-profit institution, aiming to build structured frameworks for trade partnerships, policy alignment, and agri-food value chain development.

Asia and Africa together contribute over 40% of global agricultural production, with bilateral agri-trade exceeding \$90 billion annually, highlighting the alliance's strategic importance.

227. Which country has decided to withdraw from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March 2026?

मार्च 2026 में किस देश ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) से हटने का निर्णय लिया है?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Mexico
- (d) Canada
- (e) Iran

Ans. b

Sol. Argentina Withdraws from World Health Organisation

Argentina has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organisation, following a similar move by the United States.

The withdrawal was initially announced in February last year and later formalised, with the US completing its exit in January.

The decision was taken under the government of Javier Milei, marking a significant shift in global health cooperation.

About Argentina

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso
- President - Javier Milei
- National sport- Pato
- Continent – South America

228. Axis Bank has approved an investment of how much in Axis Finance?

एक्सिस बैंक ने एक्सिस फाइनेंस में कितने रुपये निवेश को मंजूरी दी है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Axis Bank to Infuse ₹1,500 Crore into Axis Finance to Boost Growth

Axis Bank has approved an investment of ₹1,500 crore in its wholly owned subsidiary Axis Finance (AFL) through a rights issue, to be completed by March 31, 2027, after approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

The bank will retain 100% shareholding in AFL both before and after the capital infusion, aimed at strengthening the NBFC's growth.

229. The Government of India has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore to develop plug-and-play industrial parks across the country. How many industrial parks will be developed under the BHAVYA scheme?

भारत सरकार ने देश भर में प्लग-एंड-प्ले इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क बनाने के लिए ₹33,660 करोड़ के खर्च के साथ भारत औद्योगिक विकास योजना (BHAVYA) को मंजूरी दी है। BHAVYA स्कीम के तहत कितने इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क बनाए जाएंगे?

- (a) 50
- (b) 75
- (c) 100
- (d) 150

(e) 200

Ans. c

Sol. Government Approves ₹33,660 Crore BHAVYA Scheme to Develop 100 Industrial Parks

The Government of India has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet chaired by Narendra Modi, aims to boost manufacturing, industrial infrastructure, and economic growth, as highlighted by Ashwini Vaishnav.

BHAVYA is expected to generate around 15 lakh direct jobs, with industrial parks spanning 100–1,000 acres and financial support of up to ₹1 crore per acre.

230. The "Yoga 365" campaign has been launched by which ministry?

“योगा 365” अभियान किस मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) Ministry of Health
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of Defence
- (d) Ministry of Ayush
- (e) Ministry of Sports

Ans. d

Sol. Ministry of Ayush Launches “Yoga 365” Campaign to Promote Daily Yoga Practice

Ministry of Ayush launched the “Yoga 365” campaign to promote yoga as a daily practice instead of a once-a-year activity, unveiled during Yoga Mahotsav–2026 at Vigyan Bhawan.

The initiative aims to bridge the gap between high awareness (95% in rural and 96% in urban areas) and actual practice, promoting yoga for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

The campaign builds on initiatives like Y-Break and Common Yoga Protocol, supporting the growing global movement of yoga with over 26 crore participants in International Day of Yoga 2025.

231. Phool Dei festival is celebrated in which state?

फूल देई त्योहार किस राज्य में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

(e) Assam**Ans. b**

Sol. Pushkar S Dhama Celebrates Phool Dei Festival Marking Arrival of Spring in Uttarakhand

Pushkar Singh Dhama celebrated the traditional folk festival Phool Dei in Uttarakhand.

The festival marks the arrival of the spring season and is considered a Spring/Harvest Festival. It is mainly celebrated in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions, reflecting the rich cultural traditions of the state.

About Uttarakhand

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

232. India successfully tested an indigenously developed Floating LiDAR Buoy System, marking a major milestone in ocean observation and atmospheric data collection, conducted off the coast of Muttom. The Floating LiDAR Buoy System was developed by which organisation?

भारत ने देश में बने फ्लोटिंग LiDAR बॉय सिस्टम का सफलतापूर्वक टेस्ट किया, जो समुद्र की निगरानी और एटमोस्फेरिक डेटा कलेक्शन में एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है। यह टेस्ट मट्टम के तट पर किया गया। फ्लोटिंग LiDAR बॉय सिस्टम किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन ने बनाया था?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) NIOT
- (d) CSIR
- (e) BARC

Ans. c

Sol. India Successfully Tests Indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy System for Advanced Ocean and Wind Monitoring

India successfully tested an indigenously developed Floating LiDAR Buoy System, marking a major milestone in ocean observation and atmospheric data collection, conducted off the coast of Muttom.

The system, developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), uses LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to measure wind speed, direction, and variations over offshore environments.

It works by emitting laser pulses from a floating buoy and can measure wind profiles up to 300 metres above sea level, offering highly accurate real-time atmospheric data.

233. The Prambanan Temple, recently in the news, is located in which country?

प्रम्बानन मंदिर, जो हाल ही में चर्चा में रहा, किस देश में स्थित है?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Cambodia
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Indonesia
- (e) Vietnam

Ans. d

Sol. India–Indonesia Launch Joint Restoration of Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta
India and Indonesia have launched a joint initiative to restore the Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta, strengthening cultural cooperation.

Prambanan Temple is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia, located in Sleman near Yogyakarta, and is also known as Roro Jonggrang ("Temple of the Slender Virgin").

Built in the 9th century by the Sanjaya Dynasty, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti—Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma.

The complex comprises around 240 temples with advanced architecture and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

234. Consider the following statements about Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025:

साहित्य अकादमी अवॉर्ड्स 2025 के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Assamese award was given to Karhi Khelar Sadhu, a novel by Devabrat Das.
2. English work Crimson Spring is written by Navtej Sarna.
3. Urdu work Safar Jaari Hai is a poetry book.
4. Jeete Jee Allahabad by Mamta Kalia is a memoir.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1, 2 and 3
- (c) Only 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (e) None of the above

Ans. d

Sol. Sahitya Akademi Announces Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 Honouring Excellence in 24 Languages

Sahitya Akademi, under the Ministry of Culture, announced the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 to honour excellence in Indian literature.

The awards recognise outstanding literary works in 24 Indian languages, promoting linguistic and cultural diversity.

8 books of poetry, 4 novels, 6 books of short stories, 2 essays, 1 literary criticism, 1 autobiography and 2 memoirs have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025.

The award includes an engraved copper plaque designed by Satyajit Ray, a ceremonial shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.

Language	Title & Genre	Author
Assamese	Karhi Khelar Sadhu (Novel)	Devabrat Das
Bengali	Shrestha Kabita (Poetry)	Prasun Bandyopadhyay
Bodo	Dwngnwi Lama Mwunse Gathwn (Novel)	Sahaisuli Brahma
Dogri	Thakur Satsayie (Poetry, Couplets)	Khajur Singh Thakur
English	Crimson Spring (Novel)	Navtej Sarna
Gujarati	Bhattkhadaki (Poetry)	Yogesh Vaidya
Hindi	Jeete Jee Allahabad (Memoir)	Mamta Kalia
Kannada	Dada Seerisu Tande (Short Stories)	Amaresh Nugadoni
Kashmiri	Najdavanek'y Pot Aalav (Poetry)	Ali Shaida
Konkani	Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Essays)	Henry Mendonca (H.M. Pernal)
Maithili	Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Memoir)	Mahendra
Malayalam	Maayaamanushyar (Novel)	N. Prabhakaran
Manipuri	Kanglamdriba Eephut (Short Stories)	Haobam Nalini
Marathi	Kalyanilya Resha (Autobiography)	Raju Baviskar
Nepali	Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Essays)	Prakash Bhattarai
Odia	Padapurana (Poetry)	Girjakumar Baliyar Singh
Punjabi	Safety Kit (Stories)	Jinder
Rajasthani	Bharkhama (Stories)	Jitender Kumar Soni
Sanskrit	Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah (Poetry)	Mahamahopadhyaya Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Santali	Mid Birna Chenne Saon Inag Sagai (Short Stories)	Sumitra Soren
Sindhi	Waghoo (Stories)	Bhagwan Atlani
Tamil	Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (Literary Criticism)	Sa. Tamilselvan
Telugu	Animesha (Poetry)	Nandini Sidha Reddy
Urdu	Safar Jaari Hai (Poetry)	Pritpal Singh Betab

235. The Narcotics Control Bureau celebrated its 41st Raising Day on which date?

नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो ने अपना 41वां स्थापना दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया?

- (a) 15 March
- (b) 16 March
- (c) 17 March
- (d) 18 March
- (e) 19 March

Ans. c

Sol. Narcotics Control Bureau Marks 41st Raising Day (17th March) with Nationwide Campaign for Drug-Free India

Narcotics Control Bureau marked its 41st Raising Day, celebrating over four decades of efforts against drug trafficking and substance abuse in India.

Nationwide youth mobilisation programmes for a Drug-Free India were held at around 40 locations, including Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Chennai.

236. Who has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to China?

भारत के चीन में अगले राजदूत के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Pradeep Kumar Rawat
- (b) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- (c) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- (d) Vikram K. Doraiswami
- (e) Ruchira Kamboj

Ans. d

Sol. Vikram K. Doraiswami Appointed as India's Next Ambassador to China

Vikram K. Doraiswami has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to China, as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs.

He is currently serving as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and is expected to take up the new assignment soon.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat is the current Ambassador to China, while Doraiswami has earlier served as Ambassador to Bangladesh, South Korea, and Uzbekistan.

237. Who has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand?

थाईलैंड के प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में किसे पुनः चुना गया है?

- (a) Prayut Chan-o-cha
- (b) Srettha Thavisin
- (c) Yingluck Shinawatra
- (d) Abhisit Vejjajiva
- (e) Anutin Charnvirakul

Ans. e

Sol. Anutin Charnvirakul Re-elected as 32nd Prime Minister of Thailand

Anutin Charnvirakul has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand after a parliamentary vote, becoming the country's 32nd Prime Minister.

He is the leader of the Bhumjaithai Party and continues to play a key role in Thailand's political landscape.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- *PM of Nepal - Balendra "Balen" Shah*
- *Interim Supreme Leader of Iran - Ayatollah Alireza Arafii*
- *PM of the Netherlands - Rob Jetten (Youngest and First Openly Gay PM)*
- *Interim President of Peru - Jose Maria Balcazar*
- *PM of Barbados- Mia Mottley*

238. Who was awarded an honorary knighthood by the British government?

ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा किसे मानद नाइटहुड प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) N. Chandrasekaran
- (b) Gautam Adani
- (c) Mukesh Ambani
- (d) Ratan Tata
- (e) Anand Mahindra

Ans. a

Sol. N. Chandrasekaran Conferred Honorary Knighthood by United Kingdom

N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Group, has been awarded an honorary knighthood by the United Kingdom for strengthening India–UK business ties.

He was conferred the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE), recognising his outstanding contribution to global business relations.

Recent Awards

- ***META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 - Veteran Actor-Filmmaker Amol Palekar***
- ***GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona - Sunil Bharti Mittal***
- ***Speaker of the Knesset Medal (Israel) - Narendra Modi***
- ***2025 ASQ Award for Best Airport at Arrivals (Globally) - Mangaluru International Airport***
- ***BAFTA Award for Best Children's & Family Film in London - Manipuri film Boong***

239. The Ministry of Ayush signed an MoU with which force to enhance preventive healthcare among its personnel?

आयुष मंत्रालय ने अपने कर्मियों में निवारक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस बल के साथ MoU किया?

- (a) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (b) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (c) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- (d) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (e) National Security Guard (NSG)

Ans. d

Sol. Ayush Ministry Signs MoU with CISF to Promote Preventive Healthcare and Wellness

The Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with Central Industrial Security Force to promote preventive healthcare and wellness among personnel.

The initiative focuses on AYUSH-based practices including yoga, stress management, and holistic well-being for CISF personnel and their families.

The Ministry of Ayush will provide technical support and expert guidance, while CISF will ensure implementation across its units and establishments.

240. Which of the following organisations has been designated by the Government of India as the central nodal agency for undertaking Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in cotton, ensuring procurement of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) cotton directly from farmers when market prices fall below MSP levels?

भारत सरकार द्वारा किस संगठन को कपास के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) संचालन हेतु केंद्रीय नोडल एजेंसी के रूप में नामित किया गया है, जो बाजार मूल्य MSP से कम होने पर किसानों से सीधे उचित औसत गुणवत्ता (FAQ) कपास की खरीद सुनिश्चित करता है?

- (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- (c) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet Approves ₹1,718.56 Crore MSP Funding to Strengthen Cotton Procurement and Support Farmers

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved MSP funding of ₹1,718.56 crore to Cotton Corporation of India for the 2023–24 cotton season to support farmers.

The funding ensures direct price support as the government procures cotton at MSP when market prices fall, providing a safety net to farmers based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

Cotton Corporation of India acts as the central nodal agency, procuring Fair Average Quality (FAQ) cotton without any quantity limit across major cotton-growing states. To strengthen procurement, CCI has set up over 508 centres in 152 districts and introduced tech initiatives like Bale Identification and Traceability System (BITS) and the "Cott-Ally" mobile app for better transparency and farmer outreach.

241. The Geological Survey of India has declared the hill region around Kalinjar Fort as a National Geo-Heritage Site, recognising its geological, historical, and cultural importance. In which district of Uttar Pradesh is Kalinjar Fort located?

भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण ने कालिंजर किले के आसपास के पहाड़ी क्षेत्र को, उसके भूवैज्ञानिक, ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व को मान्यता देते हुए, एक 'राष्ट्रीय भू-विरासत स्थल' घोषित किया है। कालिंजर किला उत्तर प्रदेश के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Jhansi
- (b) Banda
- (c) Chitrakoot
- (d) Mirzapur
- (e) Prayagraj

Ans. b

Sol. GSI Declares Kalinjar Fort Hill a National Geo-Heritage Site Highlighting Rare Geological Formation

The Geological Survey of India has declared the hill region around Kalinjar Fort (Banda district of Uttar Pradesh) as a National Geo-Heritage Site on 16 March 2026, recognising its geological, historical, and cultural importance.

The site features the rare Eparchaeon Unconformity, where ~2.5 billion-year-old Bundelkhand granite is overlain by ~1.2 billion-year-old Kaimur sandstone, offering key insights into Earth's geological evolution.

Located in the Vindhya Range, the region is expected to boost geo-tourism and be part of a tourism circuit linking Kalinjar, Khajuraho, and Chitrakoot.

242. The Punjab Government has launched 'Punjab Sikhya Kranti 2.0' in collaboration with _____ to strengthen and modernize the state's school education system.

पंजाब सरकार ने राज्य की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ और आधुनिक बनाने के लिए _____ के सहयोग से 'पंजाब शिक्षा क्रांति 2.0' का शुभारंभ किया है।

- (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (c) World Bank
- (d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (e) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Ans. c**Sol.** Punjab Launches 'Sikhya Kranti 2.0' with ₹3,500 Crore Investment to Transform School Education

The Punjab Government has launched 'Punjab Sikhya Kranti 2.0' in collaboration with the World Bank to strengthen and modernize the state's school education system. The programme aims to make Punjab's education system globally competitive by improving quality, infrastructure, and learning outcomes.

The initiative involves a total investment of ₹3,500 crore over six years, including ₹2,500 crore from World Bank assistance and ₹1,000 crore from the state government.

About Punjab

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

243. Consider the following statements regarding the World Happiness Report 2026:

वर्ल्ड हैप्पीनेस रिपोर्ट 2026 के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. Finland is the happiest country for the 9th consecutive year.
2. The report is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre.
3. India ranks in the top 100 countries.
4. Afghanistan is among the unhappiest countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

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

Ans. a**Sol.** Finland Tops World Happiness Report 2026 for 9th Year

Finland remains the world's happiest country for the 9th consecutive year, continuing the dominance of Nordic nations in global happiness rankings.

The World Happiness Report 2026 highlights that excessive social media use is reducing happiness levels among young people, especially in Western and English-speaking countries.

India ranks 116th out of 147 countries, showing a slight improvement from its 118th position in 2025.

The report is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Top 10 countries happiest countries

1. Finland
2. Iceland
3. Denmark
4. Costa Rica
5. Sweden
6. Norway
7. Netherlands
8. Israel
9. Luxembourg
10. Switzerland

Last 10 unhappiest countries

137. Tanzania
138. Egypt
139. DR Congo
140. Lebanon
141. Yemen
142. Botswana
143. Zimbabwe
144. Malawi
145. Sierra Leone
146. Afghanistan

244. India will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships in which year?

भारत किस वर्ष वर्ल्ड इंडोर एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2028
- (d) 2029
- (e) 2030

Ans. c

Sol. India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar
 India will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, marking a major boost for India's global sports profile.

The hosting rights were granted by the World Athletics Council, reflecting confidence in India's sporting infrastructure and organizational capacity.

The event will take place at the Kalinga Stadium Complex, while the 2025 edition is being held in Toruń, Poland.

245. What was the growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) in February 2026?

फरवरी 2026 में आठ प्रमुख उद्योगों के सूचकांक (ICI) की वृद्धि दर क्या थी?

- (a) 1.8%
- (b) 2.3%
- (c) 3.5%
- (d) 4.7%
- (e) 5.2%

Ans. b

Sol. Core Industries Growth Rises to 2.3% in February 2026

The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) grew by 2.3% (provisional) in February 2026 compared to February 2025.

Cement, Steel, Fertilisers, Coal, and Electricity sectors recorded positive growth during February 2026.

The ICI tracks performance of eight core industries (including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, etc.) and has a 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The final growth rate for January 2026 stood at 4.7%, while the cumulative growth (April–February 2025–26) was 2.9% (provisional).

246. Which of the following banks was penalised ₹31.80 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for regulatory non-compliance?

निम्नलिखित में से किस बैंक पर भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने नियामकीय अनुपालन न करने के कारण ₹31.80 लाख का जुर्माना लगाया?

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

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC for Non-Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a ₹31.80 lakh penalty on HSBC for regulatory non-compliance.

The penalty was due to violation of RBI guidelines related to "Inoperative Accounts / Unclaimed Deposits in Banks – Revised Instructions."

Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution

- **Manappuram Finance (₹2.7 Lakh) by RBI** - for violating guidelines related to compensation of Key Managerial Personnel (KMP).
- **Cashfree Payments India Private Ltd (₹3.1 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions.
- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Rs 11.50 lakh) by RBI** - due to violations found during the annual inspection for FY ending March 31, 2025.
- **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.

247. Lionel Messi became the second men's footballer to reach which milestone in official matches?

लियोनेल मेसी आधिकारिक मैचों में कौन-सा मील का पत्थर हासिल करने वाले दूसरे पुरुष फुटबॉलर बने?

- (a) 700 goals
- (b) 800 goals
- (c) 900 goals
- (d) 950 goals
- (e) 1000 goals

Ans. c

Sol. Lionel Messi Becomes Second Footballer to Score 900 Career Goals

Lionel Messi became only the second men's footballer to score 900 official goals, achieving the milestone for Inter Miami CF against Nashville SC in the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

He joins Cristiano Ronaldo, who reached the 900-goal mark earlier in 2024 and currently leads with 965 goals, aiming for the historic 1,000-goal milestone.

Messi reached 900 goals in 1,142 matches, faster than Ronaldo (1,236 games), while Pelé ranks third on the all-time list with 765 goals.

248. FIFA imposed a fine of \$190,700 on the _____ for breaching anti-discrimination rules.

FIFA ने भेदभाव-विरोधी नियमों के उल्लंघन के लिए \$190,700 का जुर्माना _____ पर लगाया।

- (a) UEFA
- (b) Israeli Football Association (IFA)
- (c) Irani Football Confederation (AFC)
- (d) All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- (e) English Football Association (FA)

Ans. b

Sol. FIFA Fines Israeli FA \$190,700 Over Anti-Discrimination Violations

FIFA imposed a fine of \$190,700 on the Israeli Football Association for breaching anti-discrimination rules.

The action was taken due to failure to address racist behaviour associated with Beitar Jerusalem.

249. World Sparrow Day is observed annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the declining population of sparrows. What is the theme of World Sparrow Day 2026?

विश्व गौरैया दिवस हर साल 20 मार्च को गौरैया की घटती आबादी के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व गौरैया दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Save Birds Save Earth
- (b) Protect Urban Wildlife
- (c) Creating Bird-Friendly Cities & Communities
- (d) Birds and Biodiversity
- (e) Nature Conservation First

Ans. c

Sol. 20 March - World Sparrow Day

World Sparrow Day is observed annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the declining population of sparrows.

Theme 2026 - Creating Bird-Friendly Cities & Communities

The day highlights the need for conservation of house sparrows and protection of their natural habitats.

It was first celebrated in 2010, initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India.

250. World Forestry Day is observed annually on which date?

विश्व वानिकी दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
- (b) March 21
- (c) March 22
- (d) March 23
- (e) March 24

Ans. b

Sol. 21 March - World Forestry Day

World Forestry Day (also known as International Day of Forests) is observed annually on March 21.

Theme 2026 - Forests and Economies

The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of forests and their role in sustaining biodiversity and climate balance.

It was established by the United Nations to promote forest conservation and sustainable management worldwide.

251. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नस्लीय भेदभाव उन्मूलन दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
- (b) March 21
- (c) March 22
- (d) March 23

(e) March 24

Ans. b

Sol. 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21.

Theme 2026 - Mobilizing political will: 60 years of commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The day commemorates the victims of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. It aims to promote equality, justice, and elimination of racial discrimination worldwide.

The United Nations proclaimed the observance to encourage global efforts against racism.

252. World Poetry Day is observed annually on March 21 to celebrate the power of poetry and promote linguistic diversity. What is the theme of World Poetry Day 2026?

विश्व कविता दिवस हर साल 21 मार्च को कविता की शक्ति का जश्न मनाने और भाषाई विविधता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व कविता दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Poetry for All
- (b) Words for Peace
- (c) Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion
- (d) Voices of Humanity
- (e) Poems for Unity

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March - World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day is observed annually on March 21 to celebrate the power of poetry and promote linguistic diversity.

Theme 2026 - Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion

The day encourages reading, writing, publishing, and teaching poetry across cultures worldwide.

It was established by UNESCO in 1999 to support poets and revive oral traditions of poetry.

253. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Postal Cooperation with which country to enhance bilateral postal services?

भारत ने डाक सेवाओं में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए किस देश के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Bhutan

(d) Sri Lanka

(e) Maldives

Ans. c

Sol. India and Bhutan Sign MoU to Boost Postal Cooperation and Technology Collaboration

India and Bhutan signed an MoU on Postal Cooperation to strengthen collaboration between India Post and Bhutan Post.

The agreement focuses on postal operations, technology development, logistics, capacity building, philately, and knowledge exchange.

Both countries aim to enhance cooperation in the technology domain, sharing best practices and experiences related to modern postal systems.

254. The government has launched the 'PRARAMBH 2026' campaign to raise awareness about which upcoming legislation, being introduced with the objective of simplifying India's tax system?

सरकार ने भारत की कर प्रणाली को सरल बनाने के उद्देश्य से पेश किए जा रहे किस आगामी कानून के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए 'PRARAMBH 2026' अभियान शुरू किया है?

(a) Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017

(b) Income Tax Act, 2025

(c) Companies Act, 2013

(d) Banking Regulation Act, 1949

(e) Digital India Act, 2023

Ans. b

Sol. Nirmala Sitharaman Launches 'PRARAMBH 2026' to Promote Awareness of New Income Tax Act 2025

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'PRARAMBH 2026', a nationwide awareness campaign by the Income Tax Department to educate citizens about the Income Tax Act, 2025, effective from April 1, 2026.

The campaign will run across print, TV, radio, digital, and social media, and will provide guidance materials, FAQs, tutorials, and multilingual content in 10 regional languages, along with Hindi and English.

She also unveiled Income Tax Website 2.0 and emphasised a simple, stable, and technology-driven tax system to encourage voluntary compliance and citizen-centric reforms.

An AI chatbot 'Kar Saathi', workshops, and support through Aaykar Seva Kendras have been introduced to assist taxpayers and spread awareness under the PRARAMBH initiative.

255. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has constituted an Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species to address ecological, agricultural, and

socio-economic threats posed by such species in India. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Expert Committee?

राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण (NBA) ने भारत में ऐसी प्रजातियों से उत्पन्न होने वाले पारिस्थितिक, कृषि और सामाजिक-आर्थिक खतरों से निपटने के लिए 'आक्रामक विदेशी प्रजातियों' (Invasive Alien

Species) पर एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया है। इस विशेषज्ञ समिति के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ravi Agrawal
- (b) Arvind Shrivastava
- (c) Dhananjai Mohan
- (d) Ajay Kumar
- (e) Sanjeev Sanyal

Ans. e

Sol. NBA Forms Expert Committee to Combat Invasive Alien Species and Protect India's Biodiversity

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has constituted an Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species to address ecological, agricultural, and socio-economic threats posed by such species in India.

The decision follows a National Green Tribunal (NGT) suo motu case and recommendations from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to conduct a comprehensive study and form a dedicated expert body. The Committee will prepare a national list of invasive alien species, identify high-risk species, and recommend management strategies, control measures, and policy guidelines under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (amended in 2023).

Chaired by Dhananjai Mohan, the committee includes experts from key institutions like ZSI, BSI, ICAR, WII, and will function for two years to strengthen biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.

256. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every year on which date?

नस्लीय भेदभाव के उन्मूलन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 19
- (b) March 15
- (c) March 21
- (d) March 25
- (e) March 23

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every year on March 21 to promote equality and end all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

Theme 2026 – Mobilizing political will: 60 years of commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The day commemorates the Sharpeville Massacre (1960) in South Africa, a key event in the fight against apartheid, where peaceful protestors were killed during a demonstration.

The observance is supported by the United Nations and aims to encourage awareness, education, and action to build a society free from discrimination and racial inequality.

257. International Nowruz Day is celebrated every year on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नवरोज़ दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
- (b) March 21
- (c) March 22
- (d) March 23
- (e) March 25

Ans. b

Sol. 21 March – International Nowruz Day

International Nowruz Day is celebrated every year on 21 March to mark the beginning of the Persian New Year and the arrival of spring, symbolising renewal and rebirth.

It is recognized by the United Nations and celebrated across countries in regions like Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia, promoting peace, cultural diversity, and harmony.

258. World Down Syndrome Day is observed every year on 21 March to raise awareness about Down syndrome and promote the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with the condition. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2026 is:

विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस हर साल 21 मार्च को मनाया जाता है, ताकि डाउन सिंड्रोम के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके और इस स्थिति वाले लोगों के अधिकारों, समावेशन और भलाई को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस 2026 का विषय है:

- (a) Equal Opportunities for All
- (b) Inclusion Matters
- (c) Together Against Loneliness
- (d) Celebrate Diversity
- (e) Leave No One Behind

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March – World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is observed every year on 21 March to raise awareness about Down syndrome and promote the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with the condition.

Theme 2026 – Together Against Loneliness

The date 21/3 symbolizes the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which is the genetic cause of Down syndrome.

It is supported by the United Nations and encourages people worldwide to wear different socks as a symbol of diversity and inclusion.

259. World Day for Glaciers is observed every year on which date?

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

- (a) 20 March
- (b) 21 March
- (c) 22 March
- (d) 23 March
- (e) 24 March

Ans. b

Sol. 21 March – World Day for Glaciers

World Day for Glaciers is observed on 21 March to raise awareness about the importance of glaciers and their role in maintaining the global climate and water cycle.

The day highlights the rapid melting of glaciers due to climate change, which poses serious threats to sea levels, freshwater availability, and ecosystems.

260. Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on which date?

बिहार दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
- (b) March 21
- (c) March 22
- (d) March 23
- (e) March 24

Ans. c

Sol. 22 March – Bihar Diwas

Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on 22 March to mark the formation of the state of Bihar in 1912, when it was separated from the Bengal Presidency during British rule.

The day highlights Bihar's rich history, culture, and heritage, including its contributions to education, politics, and ancient civilizations like Magadh.

261. World Water Day is observed every year on 22 March to highlight the importance of freshwater and promote sustainable management of water resources. What is the theme of World Water Day 2026?

हर साल 22 मार्च को 'विश्व जल दिवस' मनाया जाता है, जिसका उद्देश्य ताज़े पानी के महत्व को उजागर करना और जल संसाधनों के सतत प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देना है। 'विश्व जल दिवस 2026' का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Water for Life
- (b) Save Water Save Future
- (c) Water and Gender
- (d) Clean Water for All
- (e) Water Security

Ans. c

Sol. 22 March – World Water Day

World Water Day is observed every year on 22 March to highlight the importance of freshwater and promote sustainable management of water resources.

Theme 2026 – Water and Gender

It was established by the United Nations in 1993 to raise awareness about the global water crisis and scarcity issues.

The day focuses on ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water and achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 – clean water and sanitation for all.

262. The government has proposed Biopharma SHAKTI in the Union Budget 2026–27 to make India a global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub, with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore over five years. What is the full form of the Biopharma SHAKTI initiative?

सरकार ने केंद्रीय बजट 2026–

27 में भारत को एक वैश्विक बायोफार्मास्यूटिकल विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाने के लिए 'बायोफार्मा SHAKTI' का प्रस्ताव रखा है, जिसके लिए पांच वर्षों में ₹10,000 करोड़ का परिव्यय निर्धारित किया गया है। 'बायोफार्मा SHAKTI' पहल का पूर्ण रूप क्या है?

- (a) Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation
- (b) System for Health Access, Knowledge, Technology and Integration
- (c) Scheme for Health and Knowledge Transformation Initiative
- (d) Strategy for Human Advancement through Knowledge and Technology
- (e) System for Healthcare and Knowledge Transfer in India

Ans. a

Sol. Government Unveils ₹10,000 Crore Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative to Boost India as Global Pharma Hub

Government Unveils ₹10,000 Crore Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative to Boost India as Global Pharma Hub
 The government has proposed Biopharma SHAKTI (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) in the Union Budget 2026–27 to make India a global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub, with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore over five years.

The initiative aims to strengthen the ecosystem for domestic production of biologics and biosimilars, boosting innovation, technology, and self-reliance in the pharma sector.

India's pharmaceutical industry ranks 3rd globally by volume and 11th by value, with a turnover of ₹4.72 lakh crore (FY2025) and contributes about 20% of global generic medicine supply.

263. Fanny Utagushimaninde became the youngest centurion in Women's T20I history, scoring 111* off 65 balls against Ghana in the Nigeria Invitational Tournament at just 15 years and 223 days. She is a cricketer from which country?

फैनी उटागुशिमानिंदे महिला T20I इतिहास में सबसे कम उम्र की शतकवीर बन गईं; उन्होंने नाइजीरिया इनविटेशनल टूर्नामेंट में घाना के खिलाफ 65 गेंदों में 111* रन बनाए, तब उनकी उम्र मात्र 15 वर्ष और 223 दिन थी। वह किस देश की क्रिकेटर हैं?

- (a) Uganda
- (b) Ghana
- (c) Rwanda
- (d) Nigeria
- (e) Kenya

Ans. c

Sol. Fanny Utagushimaninde Becomes Youngest Centurion in Women's T20I History with Record-Breaking Debut

Rwanda's Fanny Utagushimaninde became the youngest centurion in Women's T20I history, scoring 111 off 65 balls* against Ghana in the Nigeria Invitational Tournament at just 15 years and 223 days.

She surpassed the record held by Uganda's Prosscovia Alako, who was 16 years and 233 days old when she scored a ton against Mali in 2019.

Utagushimaninde's unbeaten 111 was also the highest score by a Women's player on T20I debut, going past Australia's Karen Rolton, who scored an unbeaten 96 against England in 2005.

264. South Indian Bank has appointed whom as the Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman in March 2026?

South Indian Bank ने मार्च 2026 में किसे नॉन-एग्जीक्यूटिव पार्ट-टाइम चेयरमैन नियुक्त किया?

- (a) V J Kurian
 (b) Jose Joseph Kattoor
 (c) Shaktikanta Das
 (d) Uday Kotak
 (e) Rajnish Kumar

Ans. b

Sol. South Indian Bank Appoints Jose Joseph Kattoor as New Non-Executive Chairman

South Indian Bank has appointed Jose Joseph Kattoor as Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman (Independent Director) for a three-year term starting March 23, 2026. He succeeds V J Kurian after RBI approval; Kattoor has been serving as an Independent Director since July 18, 2024.

About South Indian Bank

- *Founded – 1929*
- *Headquarters – Thrissur, Kerala*
- *Chairman – Jose Joseph Kattoor (replace VJ Kurian)*
- *Tagline – Experience Next Generation Banking.*

265. Yamaha Music India Private Ltd has appointed whom as its brand ambassador?

यामाहा म्यूजिक इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने किसे अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Arijit Singh
 (b) Sonu Nigam
 (c) A. R. Rahman
 (d) Shankar Mahadevan
 (e) Vishal Dadlani

Ans. c

Sol. Yamaha Music India Private Ltd Appoints A. R. Rahman as Brand Ambassador
 Yamaha Music India Private Ltd has appointed music legend A. R. Rahman as its brand ambassador.

It is the Indian arm of Japan's Yamaha Corporation.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- *Jasprit Bumrah – Uniqlo (subsidiary of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd)*
- *Bhavitha Mandava – First Indian House Ambassador for Chanel*
- *Sania Mirza – The Derma Company*
- *Sachin Tendulkar – Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations*
- *Shikhar Dhawan – Delhi Khel Mahakumbh 2026*

266. Narendra Modi has become India's longest-serving head of an elected government, completing 8,931 days in office. Who previously held the record for the longest-serving head of an elected government in India?

नरेंद्र मोदी भारत में सबसे लंबे समय तक चुनी हुई सरकार के मुखिया बन गए हैं, उन्होंने ऑफिस में 8,931 दिन पूरे कर लिए हैं। इससे पहले भारत में सबसे लंबे समय तक चुनी हुई सरकार के मुखिया का रिकॉर्ड किसके नाम था?

- (a) Pandit Jawhar Lal Nehru
- (b) Nitish Kumar
- (c) Indira Gandhi
- (d) Pawan Kumar Chamling
- (e) Jyoti Basu

Ans. d

Sol. Narendra Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Leader

Narendra Modi has become India's longest-serving head of an elected government, completing 8,931 days in office.

This tenure includes his service as Chief Minister of Gujarat (2001–2014) and as Prime Minister of India (since 2014).

He surpassed the previous record of 8,930 days held by Pawan Kumar Chamling.

267. The 3rd North-East India Film Festival is being held in which city?

तीसरा नॉर्थ-ईस्ट इंडिया फिल्म फेस्टिवल 2026 किस शहर में आयोजित हो रहा है?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Shillong
- (c) Imphal
- (d) Aizawl
- (e) Kohima

Ans. c

Sol. Third North-East India Film Festival 2026 begins in Imphal

The 3rd North-East India Film Festival has begun at TanthaPolis Cinema Lamphel in Imphal, Manipur.

The two-day festival will showcase nine films from the North-East, including films from Manipur, Assam, and Meghalaya.

The event aims to promote a vibrant and inclusive film industry and encourage appreciation of cinema as an art form.

About Manipur

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

268. Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, announced a financial assistance package of ₹9,000 crore for farmers under which of the following schemes?

तेलंगाना के मुख्यमंत्री ए. रेवंत रेड्डी ने इनमें से किस स्कीम के तहत किसानों के लिए ₹9,000 करोड़ के फाइनेंशियल मदद पैकेज का ऐलान किया?

- (a) CM-KISAN Samman Nidhi
- (b) KALIA Scheme
- (c) Rythu Bharosa
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- (e) National Agriculture Market

Ans. c

Sol. A. Revanth Reddy Launches ₹9,000 Crore Rythu Bharosa Disbursement for Farmers

Telangana CM, A. Revanth Reddy announced ₹9,000 crore under the Rythu Bharosa to be deposited in farmers' accounts in three instalments within 45 days.

The first instalment was released by the Telangana government during the inauguration of an Oil Palm factory at Narmetta.

The scheme mainly benefits farmers with up to one acre of land, providing financial assistance for agricultural activities.

About Telangana

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy
- **Deputy CM** – Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
- **Governor** – Shiv Pratap Shukla

269. K. Ram Mohan Naidu announced a comprehensive development plan under the PRASAD Scheme to enhance pilgrim facilities and infrastructure at which of the following temples?

केंद्रीय मंत्री के. राम मोहन नायडू ने तीर्थयात्रियों की सुविधाओं और बुनियादी ढांचे को बेहतर बनाने के लिए PRASAD योजना के तहत किस मंदिर के लिए व्यापक विकास योजना की घोषणा की?

- (a) Tirupati Balaji Temple
- (b) Meenakshi Temple
- (c) Arasavalli Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Temple
- (d) Jagannath Temple
- (e) Somnath Temple

Ans. c

Sol. K. Ram Mohan Naidu Announces ₹58 Crore Development Plan for Arasavalli Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Temple Under PRASAD Scheme

K. Ram Mohan Naidu announced a comprehensive development plan for Arasavalli Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Temple under the PRASAD Scheme to enhance pilgrim facilities.

A total of ₹58 crore development plan has been prepared, including modern kitchen, dining halls, accommodation, and better connectivity; ₹4 crore has already been sanctioned for the Indrapushkarini temple tank modernisation.

About Andhra Pradesh

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

270. Axis Bank has entered into a strategic partnership as the official banking partner with which organisation to promote professional golf in India?

एक्सिस बैंक ने भारत में प्रोफेशनल गोल्फ को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ आधिकारिक बैंकिंग पार्टनर के रूप में रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- (b) All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- (c) DP World Professional Golf Tour of India
- (d) Hockey India
- (e) Sports Authority of India (SAI)

Ans. c

Sol. Axis Bank Partners with DP World Professional Golf Tour of India to Boost Professional Golf in India

Axis Bank has partnered with the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India as its official banking partner.

The collaboration aims to promote the growth of professional golf in India and strengthen sporting excellence and community engagement.

Under this partnership, Axis Bank will support all tournaments this season, enhancing player opportunities, tournament experience, and fan engagement.

About Axis Bank

- **Founded** - 1993
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** – PN Prasad
- **MD & CEO** - Amitabh Chaudhary

• **Tagline** - *Badhti Ka naam Zindagi*

271. Elon Musk has launched the Terafab project to manufacture advanced chips for AI, robotics, and data centres, including future space-based applications. The Terafab facility will be located near which city?

एलन मस्क ने AI, रोबोटिक्स और डेटा सेंटर के लिए एडवांस्ड चिप्स बनाने के लिए टेरफैब प्रोजेक्ट लॉन्च किया है, जिसमें भविष्य के स्पेस-बेस्ड एप्लिकेशन भी शामिल हैं। टेरफैब फैसिलिटी किस शहर के पास होगी?

- (a) New York
- (b) Los Angeles
- (c) Chicago
- (d) Austin
- (e) Houston

Ans. d

Sol. Elon Musk Announces 'Terafab' Project to Build AI Chips with Terawatt-Scale Power Near Austin

Elon Musk has launched the Terafab project to manufacture advanced chips for AI, robotics, and data centres, including future space-based applications. The facility will be located near Austin, Texas.

The facility will be set up near Austin and aims to produce one terawatt of computing power annually.

One terawatt equals one trillion watts, which is nearly comparable to the total power generation capacity of the United States.

272. Who has been named the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize laureate, one of the most prestigious awards in the field of water?

पानी के क्षेत्र में सबसे प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कारों में से एक, 2026 स्टॉकहोम वॉटर प्राइज़ विजेता किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Rajendra Singh
- (b) Sunita Narain
- (c) Kaveh Madani
- (d) Vandana Shiva
- (e) Ramesh Chand

Ans. c

Sol. Kaveh Madani Wins 2026 Stockholm Water Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Water Science

Kaveh Madani, Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water Environment and Health, has been named the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize laureate, one of the most prestigious awards in the field of water.

The award is presented by the Stockholm Water Foundation in collaboration with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The prize includes a cash award of 1 million Swedish Krona along with a crystal sculpture.

Recent Awards

- **Honorary Knighthood by United Kingdom** - N. Chandrasekaran
- **META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** - Veteran Actor-Filmmaker Amol Palekar
- **GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona** - Sunil Bharti Mittal
- **Speaker of the Knesset Medal (Israel)** - Narendra Modi
- **2025 ASQ Award for Best Airport at Arrivals (Globally)** - Mangaluru International Airport

273. In March 2026, Rashtriya Raksha University signed an MoU with which organisation to enhance national security training?

मार्च 2026 में, राष्ट्रीय रक्षा यूनिवर्सिटी ने नेशनल सिव्योरिटी ट्रेनिंग को बढ़ाने के लिए किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के साथ MoU साइन किया?

- (a) CRPF
- (b) BSF
- (c) ITBP
- (d) SSB
- (e) CISF

Ans. d

Sol. Rashtriya Raksha University Signs MoU with Sashastra Seema Bal to Boost National Security Training and Accreditation

Rashtriya Raksha University and Sashastra Seema Bal Academy signed an MoU in New Delhi to strengthen national security training and bridge the gap between academic research and field requirements.

Under the agreement, RRU will provide academic accreditation for SSB training programmes and both institutions will exchange faculty expertise, training tools, and facilities.

The collaboration will offer hands-on training, modern labs, and tech-driven curriculum, enhancing border surveillance and internal security capabilities.

274. The Indian Navy will commission INS Taragiri, an indigenous stealth frigate, on April 3, 2026. INS Taragiri belongs to which class of ships?

इंडियन नेवी 3 अप्रैल, 2026 को स्वदेशी स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट INS तारागिरी को कमीशन करेगी। INS तारागिरी किस क्लास के जहाज़ों से संबंधित है?

- (a) Kolkata-class
- (b) Delhi-class
- (c) Shivalik-class
- (d) Nilgiri-class
- (e) Talwar-class

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Navy to Commission INS Taragiri Stealth Frigate on April 3 in Visakhapatnam

The Indian Navy will commission INS Taragiri, an indigenous stealth frigate, on April 3, 2026. The commissioning ceremony will be held in Visakhapatnam and will be presided over by Rajnath Singh.

INS Taragiri is the fourth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A), showcasing India's advanced naval capabilities.

It is the third vessel built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilding Ltd (MDL) under this project.

275. Who won the Women's Singles title at the Indian Open Squash?

इंडियन ओपन स्क्वैश में महिला एकल खिताब किसने जीता?

- (a) Joshna Chinappa
- (b) Dipika Pallikal
- (c) Anahat Singh
- (d) Hana Moataz
- (e) Tanvi Khanna

Ans. c

Sol. Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh Clinch Singles Titles at Indian Open Squash in Dominant Fashion

Anahat Singh won the Women's Singles title at the Indian Open Squash, defeating Hana Moataz 3-1 to successfully defend her title.

Anahat delivered a dominant performance throughout the tournament, losing only one game across the entire event.

In Men's Singles, Abhay Singh defeated Veer Chotrani 3-0 in an all-Indian final to clinch the title convincingly.

276. Which country has won the 21st edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup?

AFC महिला एशियन कप का 21वां एडिशन किस देश ने जीता है?

- (a) China
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Japan
- (d) Australia

(e) India

Ans. c

Sol. Japan Clinch Third AFC Women's Asian Cup Title, Defeat Australia in Final
Japan won their third AFC Women's Asian Cup title, defeating host Australia in the final of the 21st edition.

Maika Hamano scored the only goal of the match, securing victory for Japan. Japan had previously won the tournament in 2014 and 2018, reaffirming their dominance in Asian women's football.

277. Robert S. Mueller III passed away recently at the age of 81. He was associated with which organisation?

रॉबर्ट एस. म्यूलर III का हाल ही में 81 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया। वह किस संगठन से जुड़े थे?

- (a) CIA
- (b) NSA
- (c) Federal Bureau of Investigation
- (d) Interpol
- (e) Homeland Security

Ans. c

Sol. Robert S. Mueller III, Former Federal Bureau of Investigation Chief
Robert S. Mueller III, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has passed away at the age of 81.

He served as FBI Director for 12 years, beginning his tenure just a week before the September 11 attacks.

278. The Central Government, under Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched a major AI skilling initiative to boost India's creative (orange) economy. The National AI Skilling Initiative was launched in partnership with which companies?

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव के नेतृत्व में केंद्र सरकार ने भारत की क्रिएटिव (ऑरेंज) इकॉनमी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक बड़ी AI स्किलिंग पहल शुरू की है। नेशनल AI स्किलिंग पहल किन कंपनियों के साथ पार्टनरशिप में शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Microsoft & Amazon
- (b) Meta & Instagram
- (c) Google & YouTube
- (d) Infosys & TCS
- (e) Apple & Netflix

Ans. c

Sol. Govt Launches National AI Skilling Initiative to Boost Creative Economy

The Central Government, under Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched a major AI skilling initiative to boost India's creative (orange) economy. Under the National AI Skilling Initiative, 15,000 content creators and media professionals will receive free training to enhance their digital and AI skills. The initiative is implemented in partnership with Google and YouTube through the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), focusing on AVGC sectors like animation, VFX, gaming, comics, and media technology.

279. Which state government has launched the "Ningol Van Initiative" to promote forest conservation and community participation, especially encouraging women's role in biodiversity protection?

किस राज्य सरकार ने जंगल बचाने और कम्युनिटी की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए "निंगोल वन पहल" शुरू की है, खासकर बायोडायवर्सिटी की सुरक्षा में महिलाओं की भूमिका को बढ़ावा देने के लिए?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Tripura
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. b

Sol. Manipur Launches 'Ningol Van Initiative' to Boost Forest Conservation & Women Participation

The Manipur Government launched the "Ningol Van Initiative" on the occasion of International Day of Forests to strengthen forest conservation and promote community participation.

The initiative focuses on enhancing women's participation in biodiversity protection and sustainable practices, with plans to expand similar programmes across all districts.

About Manipur

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

280. 23 March is observed as World Meteorological Day every year to highlight the importance of meteorology and weather-related services. What is the theme of World Meteorological Day 2026?

हर साल 23 मार्च को विश्व मौसम विज्ञान दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है, ताकि मौसम विज्ञान और मौसम से जुड़ी सेवाओं के महत्व को उजागर किया जा सके। विश्व मौसम विज्ञान दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Weather for All
- (b) Climate Action Now
- (c) Early Warning for All
- (d) Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow
- (e) Save Earth Climate

Ans. d

Sol. 23 March - World Meteorological Day

23 March is observed as World Meteorological Day every year to highlight the importance of meteorology and weather-related services.

Theme 2026 - Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

The day commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation in 1950.

It aims to raise awareness about climate change, weather forecasting, and disaster risk reduction worldwide.

281. On which date is Martyr's Day (Shaheed Diwas) observed in India?

भारत में शहीद दिवस (Shaheed Diwas) किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 15
- (b) March 20
- (c) March 23
- (d) March 25
- (e) March 30

Ans. c

Sol. 23 March - Martyrs' Day

March 23 is observed as Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) in India to honour the sacrifice of three great freedom fighters.

It commemorates the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, who were executed by the British in 1931.

The day reminds the nation of their courage, patriotism, and contribution to India's freedom struggle.

282. March 24 is observed as World Tuberculosis (TB) Day every year to raise awareness about tuberculosis, a serious infectious disease. What is the theme of World TB Day 2026?

हर साल 24 मार्च को विश्व क्षय रोग (TB) दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है, ताकि TB जैसी गंभीर संक्रामक बीमारी के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके। विश्व TB दिवस 2026 का विषय (Theme) क्या है?

- (a) Stop TB Now
- (b) End TB Together

- (c) Fight Against TB
(d) Yes! We can end TB
(e) TB Free World

Ans. d

Sol. March 24 - World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

March 24 is observed as World Tuberculosis (TB) Day every year to raise awareness about tuberculosis, a serious infectious disease.

Theme 2026 - Yes! We can end TB!

The day commemorates the discovery of the TB bacterium by Robert Koch in 1882.

The day is supported by organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) to eliminate TB as a public health threat.

283. On which date is the International Day of the Unborn Child observed?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अजन्मे बच्चे का दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 20
(b) March 22
(c) March 25
(d) March 27
(e) March 30

Ans. c

Sol. 25 March - International Day of the Unborn Child

International Day of the Unborn Child is observed every year on March 25 to recognise and value the life of unborn children.

It highlights the importance of protecting life before birth and raising awareness about ethical and moral values.

The day is observed in many countries through prayers, awareness campaigns, and discussions.

It is associated with the Feast of the Annunciation, which commemorates the announcement of the birth of Jesus.

284. The Government has modified the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) to support MSME manufacturers and exporters, in line with Budget 2025–26. What is the guarantee coverage provided under the MCGS by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)?

सरकार ने बजट 2025-26 के हिसाब से MSME मैन्युफैक्चरर्स और एक्सपोर्टर्स को सपोर्ट करने के लिए म्यूचुअल क्रेडिट गारंटी स्कीम (MCGS) में बदलाव किया है। नेशनल क्रेडिट गारंटी ट्रस्टी कंपनी लिमिटेड (NCGTC) MCGS के तहत कितना गारंटी कवरेज देती है?

- (a) 40%
(b) 50%

(c) 60%

(d) 70%

(e) 80%

Ans. c

Sol. Government Expands MCGS to Boost Credit for MSMEs, Manufacturers and Exporters

The Government has modified the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) to support MSME manufacturers and exporters, in line with Budget 2025–26.

The scheme offers 60% guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for loans up to ₹100 crore to eligible MSMEs for purchasing machinery and equipment.

As per the revised norms, the 5% upfront contribution is refundable, with 1% returned annually from the fourth year onwards based on satisfactory loan performance.

The scheme has been expanded to include service sector MSMEs, and the minimum project cost requirement has been reduced from 75% to 60% for machinery and equipment.

These modifications aim to increase credit availability, reduce compliance burden, and boost the manufacturing and export sector in India.

285. Which state will host the 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship 2026 for the first time?

49वीं Yonex Sunrise जूनियर नेशनल बैडमिंटन चैंपियनशिप 2026 पहली बार किस राज्य में आयोजित होगी?

(a) Assam

(b) Manipur

(c) Sikkim

(d) Meghalaya

(e) Tripura

Ans. c

Sol. Sikkim to Host 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship 2026 for the First Time

Sikkim has been selected to host the 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship 2026 (U-19 category).

The tournament will be held from November 14 to November 21, 2026, under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India.

This will be the first time Sikkim is hosting this prestigious national-level badminton championship.

286. Which bank received the 'National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank Linkage 2024-25'?

'SHG बैंक लिंकेज 2024-25 में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन' के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार किस बैंक को मिला?

- (a) Kerala Grameena Bank
- (b) Karnataka Grameena Bank
- (c) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
- (d) Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin Bank
- (e) Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Karnataka Grameena Bank Wins National Award for Outstanding SHG Bank Linkage Performance 2024-25

The Ministry of Rural Development has awarded Karnataka Grameena Bank the 'National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank Linkage 2024-25'.

The award recognises the bank's contribution to rural economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

It was presented during the National Conference on Financial Literacy and Capacity Building in Hyderabad.

The honour highlights the bank's role in promoting financial inclusion and strengthening SHG-bank linkage programmes.

287. Which mountaineer completed the Seven Volcanic Summits challenge in a record time of 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes?

किस पर्वतारोही ने सेवन वोल्केनिक समिट्स चैलेंज को 92 दिन, 4 घंटे और 45 मिनट में पूरा कर रिकॉर्ड बनाया?

- (a) Arunima Sinha
- (b) Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma
- (c) Bachendri Pal
- (d) Santosh Yadav
- (e) Malavath Purna

Ans. b

Sol. Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma Sets World Record for Fastest Ascent of Seven Volcanic Summits

Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma set a world record by climbing the Seven Volcanic Summits in just 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes.

The Seven Volcanic Summits include the highest volcanoes on each continent, such as Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Elbrus, making it a highly challenging expedition.

He began his journey in October 2024 and completed it in January 2025 at Mount Sidley, overcoming extreme climates and terrains.

Seven Volcanic Summits Covered

- Ojos del Salado - South America
- Mount Kilimanjaro - Africa
- Mount Elbrus - Europe
- Mount Damavand - Asia
- Pico de Orizaba - North America
- Mount Giluwe - Oceania
- Mount Sidley - Antarctica

288. Which group-led consortium has acquired 100% ownership of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) from United Spirits Limited?

यूनाइटेड स्पिरिट्स लिमिटेड से रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु (RCB) का 100% स्वामित्व किस समूह-नेतृत्व वाले कंसोर्टियम ने खरीदा है?

- Tata Group-led consortium
- Reliance Group-led consortium
- Aditya Birla Group-led consortium
- Adani Group-led consortium
- Mahindra Group-led consortium

Ans. c

Sol. Aditya Birla Group-Led Consortium Acquires 100% Stake in Royal Challengers Bengaluru for ₹16,706 Crore

A consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group has acquired 100% stake in Royal Challengers Bengaluru for ₹16,706 crore from United Spirits Limited.

The consortium includes Aditya Birla Group, The Times Group, Bolt Ventures, and Blackstone (BXPE strategy).

The deal covers both the men's IPL team and the women's WPL team, operated under Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL).

289. Who won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2026?

फरवरी 2026 के लिए ICC महिला प्लेयर ऑफ द मंथ किसने जीता?

- Smriti Mandhana
- Harmanpreet Kaur
- Shafali Verma
- Arundhati Reddy
- Deepti Sharma

Ans. d

Sol. Sahibzada Farhan and Arundhati Reddy Named ICC Players of the Month for February 2026

Sahibzada Farhan was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2026 for his outstanding performance in the T20 World Cup, where he surpassed a record held by Virat Kohli.

In the women's category, Arundhati Reddy won the award for her impressive bowling in a T20I series in Australia, finishing as the leading wicket-taker.

Both players were recognised for their exceptional performances, highlighting strong contributions from Pakistan and India in international cricket.

ICC Men's Player of the Month

- *November 2025* – Simon Harmer (South Africa)
- *December 2025* - Mitchell Starc (*Australia*)
- *January 2025* - Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand)

ICC Women's Player of the Month

- *November 2025* – Shafali Verma (India)
- *December 2025* - Laura Wolvaardt (*South Africa*)
- *January 2026* - Sobhana Mostary (Bangladesh)

290. The 150th anniversary of the first-ever Test match (1877) will be celebrated in March 2027 with a special match between Australia and England. This historic match is scheduled to be held at which of the following venues?

1877 में खेले गए पहले टेस्ट मैच की 150वीं वर्षगांठ मार्च 2027 में ऑस्ट्रेलिया और इंग्लैंड के बीच एक विशेष मैच के साथ मनाई जाएगी। यह ऐतिहासिक मैच निम्न में से किस स्थल पर आयोजित होगा?

- (a) Lord's Cricket Ground
- (b) Eden Gardens
- (c) Melbourne Cricket Ground
- (d) Sydney Cricket Ground
- (e) The Oval

Ans. c

Sol. Cricket Australia to Host 150th Anniversary Test at MCG in 2027

Cricket Australia will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first-ever Test match (1877) with an Australia vs England Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in March 2027.

The first Test match at MCG in 1877 was won by Australia by 45 runs, and the 100-year anniversary in 1977 was also marked with a similar match at the same venue.

The MCG will continue to host the traditional Boxing Day Test (Dec 26) until 2030–31, while the Sydney Cricket Ground will host the New Year Test.

291. Who received the Women's Empowerment Award for Art and Culture at the UK's House of Commons?

यूके के हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स में कला और संस्कृति के लिए महिला सशक्तिकरण पुरस्कार किसे मिला?

- (a) Kajol
- (b) Vidya Balan
- (c) Rituparna Sengupta
- (d) Deepika Padukone
- (e) Rani Mukerji

Ans. c

Sol. Rituparna Sengupta Honoured with Women Empowerment Award at UK House of Commons

Rituparna Sengupta received the Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture at the House of Commons.

The award was presented during an event organised for International Women's Day, recognising her contributions to art and culture.

292. International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations is observed on which date?

गंभीर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों के संबंध में सत्य के अधिकार के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 March
- (b) 22 March
- (c) 23 March
- (d) 24 March
- (e) 25 March

Ans. d

Sol. 24 March - International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed every year on 24 March.

The day honours victims of serious human rights violations and supports their right to truth and justice.

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.

The day is observed by the United Nations to promote accountability, dignity, and transparency worldwide.

293. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on which date?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय दासता और ट्रान्सअटलांटिक दास व्यापार के पीड़ितों की स्मृति दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 March
- (b) 25 March
- (c) 26 March
- (d) 27 March
- (e) 28 March

Ans. b

Sol. 25 March - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on 25 March.

The day honours and remembers millions of Africans who suffered and died during the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

It aims to raise awareness about the horrors of slavery, racism, and discrimination.

294. International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed on which date?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय बंदी और लापता स्टाफ सदस्यों के साथ एकजुटता दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 March
- (b) 25 March
- (c) 26 March
- (d) 27 March
- (e) 28 March

Ans. b

Sol. 25 March - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed every year on 25 March.

The day highlights the risks faced by staff members of the United Nations and associated organizations working in difficult conditions.

It commemorates the abduction of Alec Collett in 1985.

The day calls for justice, safety, and protection of humanitarian workers worldwide.

295. The Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in collaboration with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will organise the 9th PharmaMed 2026 in New Delhi. What is the central theme of PharmaMed 2026?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय के तहत फार्मास्यूटिकल्स विभाग, PHD चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री के सहयोग से, नई दिल्ली में 9वें PharmaMed 2026 का आयोजन करेगा। PharmaMed 2026 का मुख्य विषय क्या है?

- (a) Digital Healthcare Expansion
- (b) Affordable Medicines for All
- (c) Healthcare Equity: Reaching Every Citizen of Viksit Bharat
- (d) Innovation in Pharma Sector
- (e) Universal Health Infrastructure

Ans. c

Sol. 9th PharmaMed 2026 to be Held in New Delhi with Focus on Healthcare Equity
The Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in collaboration with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will organise the 9th PharmaMed 2026 in New Delhi.

The event will be held under the theme "Healthcare Equity: Reaching Every Citizen of Viksit Bharat", focusing on inclusive and accessible healthcare for all citizens.

296. The Ministry of Finance has decided to retain India's inflation targeting framework unchanged for the period April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031, with a target of 4% and a tolerance band of 2%–6%. Under which section of the RBI Act is the inflation target decided?

वित्त मंत्रालय ने 1 अप्रैल 2026 से 31 मार्च 2031 तक 4% लक्ष्य और 2%–6% सहनशीलता सीमा के साथ मुद्रास्फीति लक्ष्य ढांचे को बनाए रखने का निर्णय लिया है। RBI अधिनियम की किस धारा के तहत यह लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया जाता है?

- (a) Section 21ZA
- (b) Section 35A
- (c) Section 45ZA
- (d) Section 10ZA
- (e) Section 7ZA

Ans. c

Sol. Government Retains 4% Inflation Target Framework for 2026–2031 Period

The Ministry of Finance has decided to retain India's inflation targeting framework unchanged for another five-year period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031.

The inflation target remains at 4%, with a tolerance band of 2% to 6%, ensuring price stability while supporting economic growth.

This marks the third consecutive five-year term (2026–2031) of the same framework, following earlier periods 2016–2021 and 2021–2026.

Under Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, the government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, sets the inflation target every five years; the framework was first introduced on 5 August 2016.

297. SEBI has partnered with which company to curb misleading financial influencers?

SEBI ने भ्रामक वित्तीय इन्फ्लुएंसर्स पर रोक लगाने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Amazon
- (c) Google
- (d) Meta
- (e) Apple

Ans. c

Sol. SEBI Partners with Google to Curb Misleading Finfluencers, Introduces Verified Tick System

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has partnered with Google to curb the misleading activities of financial influencers (finfluencers) and protect investors.

SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced that Google will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify and remove rule-violating financial content online.

A 'tick mark verification system' has also been introduced, where a verified badge will appear next to apps of registered intermediaries to ensure authenticity and build investor trust.

298. Paisalo Digital Limited has been appointed as a Business Correspondent (BC) partner for which bank?

Paisalo Digital Limited को किस बैंक के लिए Business Correspondent (BC) पार्टनर नियुक्त किया गया है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Paisalo Digital Partners with Indian Overseas Bank as BC

Paisalo Digital Limited has been appointed as a Business Correspondent (BC) partner for Indian Overseas Bank, expanding its Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) platform, which already includes State Bank of India and Bank of India.

The new partnership adds a third public sector bank to Paisalo's BC network, strengthening its reach in delivering last-mile banking services across rural and semi-urban areas.

Through this network, Paisalo provides services such as account opening, deposits & withdrawals, remittances, and social security schemes, enhancing financial inclusion at the grassroots level.

299. Which regulatory body approved Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) Bank's ₹39,618 crore investment in Shriram Finance Ltd, marking the largest FDI in India's NBFC sector?

किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने मित्सुबिशी UFJ फाइनेंशियल ग्रुप (MUFG) बैंक के श्रीराम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड में ₹39,618 करोड़ के निवेश को मंजूरी दी, जो भारत के NBFC सेक्टर में अब तक का सबसे बड़ा FDI है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. CCI Approves MUFG's ₹39,618 Crore Investment in Shriram Finance

The Competition Commission of India has approved Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Bank's ₹39,618 crore investment in Shriram Finance Ltd, marking the largest FDI in India's NBFC sector.

MUFG will acquire a 20% stake in Shriram Finance through this ₹39,618 crore (\$4.4 billion) deal, surpassing the previous record investment in RBL Bank by around 47%. The deal, expected to close by April 2026, will help MUFG expand into India's rural and MSME lending market, while strengthening Shriram Finance's capital base and balance sheet.

300. L&T Finance Ltd, one of India's leading NBFCs, has recently become a signatory to which global initiative aimed at promoting corporate sustainability and responsible business practices?

L&T Finance Ltd, जो भारत की अग्रणी NBFCs में से एक है, हाल ही में किस वैश्विक पहल का हस्ताक्षरकर्ता बना है, जिसका उद्देश्य कॉर्पोरेट स्थिरता और जिम्मेदार व्यावसायिक प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना है?

- (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)
- (c) Paris Climate Agreement
- (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (e) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Ans. b

Sol. L&T Finance Joins UN Global Compact

L&T Finance Ltd has become a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, marking a major step in its sustainability journey.

By joining UNGC, the company commits to integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into its core business strategy and operations.

The move aligns L&T Finance with global standards on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, reinforcing its commitment to ethical practices, sustainable development goals, and long-term value creation.

301. Svatantra Microfin Private Limited has merged with which company to strengthen its position in the NBFC-MFI sector?

NBFC-MFI क्षेत्र में अपनी स्थिति को मजबूत करने के लिए स्वतंत्र माइक्रोफिन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड का किस कंपनी के साथ विलय हुआ है?

- (a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (b) Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd
- (c) Bandhan Bank
- (d) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (e) CreditAccess Grameen

Ans. b

Sol. Svatantra Microfin Merger Completed, Emerges as India's Second-Largest NBFC-MFI

Svatantra Microfin Private Limited has completed its merger with Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited and Svatantra Holding Private Limited, after approvals from the National Company Law Tribunal, Reserve Bank of India, Competition Commission of India, and BSE Limited, making it the second-largest NBFC-MFI in India.

The merged entity now has a consolidated AUM of around ₹22,000 crore, operates through 2,200 branches across 20 states, employs 25,000 people, and serves nearly 5 million customers, mainly in microfinance and unbanked segments.

302. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has enabled which new payment mode on the ICEGATE platform?

केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर और सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड (CBIC) ने ICEGATE प्लेटफॉर्म पर किस नए भुगतान मोड को सक्षम किया है?

- (a) Digital Wallet
- (b) Payment Aggregator
- (c) Cryptocurrency
- (d) Cash Payment
- (e) Aadhaar Pay

Ans. b

Sol. CBIC Enables Payment Aggregator on ICEGATE

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has enabled payment aggregator as an authorised mode on the ICEGATE platform to simplify customs duty payments. Importers can now pay duties using credit/debit cards, UPI, and internet banking, with the number of supported banks increasing from 23 to 41, alongside existing modes like NEFT/RTGS via Reserve Bank of India.

Currently, banks like ICICI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, State Bank of India, and HDFC Bank are onboarded, with more banks to be added in future for seamless and instant transactions.

303. In March 2026, which organisation has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 to 7.1%?

मार्च 2026 में, किस संगठन ने वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 के लिए भारत के GDP विकास अनुमान को बढ़ाकर 7.1% कर दिया है?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) IMF
- (c) S&P Global Ratings
- (d) ADB
- (e) RBI

Ans. c

Sol. S&P Global Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.1% for FY27

S&P Global Ratings has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 by 40 basis points to 7.1%, indicating a positive economic outlook.

It has also revised the growth estimate for FY 2025–26 upward by 0.4 percentage points to 7.6%, reflecting stronger-than-expected economic performance.

GDP Projection List 2026

- S&P Global Ratings – 7.6% (FY26); 7.1% (FY27)
- Fitch Rating – 7.5% (FY26); 6.7% (FY27)
- CRISIL – 7.1% (FY27)
- Moody's Rating – 6.45 (FY27)
- Goldman Sachs - 6.9% (FY26)
- IMF - 7.3% (FY26)

304. Bangladesh has been placed in which category by the World Bank due to high food inflation recently?

हाल ही में ज़्यादा फूड इन्फ्लेशन की वजह से वर्ल्ड बैंक ने बांग्लादेश को किस कैटेगरी में रखा है?

- (a) Green Category
- (b) Yellow Category

(c) White Category

(d) Blue Category

(e) Red Category

Ans. e

Sol. World Bank Flags Bangladesh in 'Red Category' Amid Prolonged Food Inflation Crisis

The World Bank has placed Bangladesh in the 'red category' due to consistently high food inflation over the past 10 months, signalling serious food security concerns.

The red category indicates a high risk of food insecurity, meaning people may struggle to afford or access sufficient food.

Along with Bangladesh, 13 other countries, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Russia, have remained in this category for the same duration.

Other countries on the World Bank list of high food inflation have moved between red, purple, yellow, and green categories over the past year.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital**- Dhaka
- **Currency** – Taka
- **President** – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- **Prime Minister** - Tarique Rahman

305. Which Indian Premier League (IPL) team has been acquired by a consortium led by US-based entrepreneur Kal Somani in a deal worth \$1.63 billion (₹15,286 crore)?

अमेरिका-आधारित उद्यमी काल सोमानी के नेतृत्व वाले समूह द्वारा \$1.63 बिलियन (₹15,286 करोड़) के सौदे में किस इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग (IPL) टीम का अधिग्रहण किया गया है?

(a) Mumbai Indians

(b) Chennai Super Kings

(c) Kolkata Knight Riders

(d) Rajasthan Royals

(e) Delhi Capitals

Ans. d

Sol. Kal Somani-Led Consortium Acquires Rajasthan Royals for \$1.63 Billion in Landmark IPL Deal

Rajasthan Royals has been acquired with 100% ownership by a consortium led by Kal Somani at a valuation of \$1.63 billion (₹15,286 crore), signaling a major boost in IPL franchise value ahead of 2026.

The deal was facilitated by Raine Group, with Somani—earlier a minority investor—now taking full control of the franchise.

The consortium includes key investors like Rob Walton and the Hamp family (owners of the Detroit Lions), making it one of the largest private equity investments in Indian sports history.

306. The 'Pink Stand' at the upcoming cricket stadium in Dwarka will be named after which player?

द्वारका में बनने वाले क्रिकेट स्टेडियम का 'पिंक स्टैंड' किस खिलाड़ी के नाम पर रखा जाएगा?

- (a) Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Mithali Raj
- (c) Jhulan Goswami
- (d) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (e) Shafali Verma

Ans. d

Sol. Omaxe to Name 'Pink Stand' After Harmanpreet Kaur at Dwarka Cricket Stadium
Omaxe Limited will name a stand at its upcoming cricket stadium in Dwarka after Harmanpreet Kaur, honouring her contribution to Indian women's cricket.

The stand, located in the North Pavilion Lower Bowl of the 30,000-seater stadium, will feature over 1,500 seats and be India's first dedicated "Pink Stand" designed for women and families.

307. When is the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members observed?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बंदी और लापता स्टाफ सदस्यों के साथ एकजुटता दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 23 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 25 March
- (d) 26 March
- (e) 27 March

Ans. c

Sol. 25 March - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March to honour staff members who have been detained, kidnapped, or gone missing while serving globally.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1993 and also marks the anniversary of the abduction of journalist Alec Collett.

308. Purple Day of Epilepsy is observed every year on 26 March to raise awareness about Epilepsy and support people living with the condition. What is the theme of Purple Day of Epilepsy 2026?

एपिलेप्सी के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इस बीमारी से जूझ रहे लोगों की मदद करने के लिए हर साल 26 मार्च को पर्पल डे ऑफ़ एपिलेप्सी मनाया जाता है। पर्पल डे ऑफ़ एपिलेप्सी 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) End Epilepsy
- (b) Brain Health First
- (c) Live Without Fear
- (d) Epilepsy Awareness
- (e) EpilepsyPledge

Ans. e

Sol. March 26 - Purple Day of Epilepsy

Purple Day of Epilepsy is observed every year on 26 March to raise awareness about Epilepsy and support people living with the condition.

Theme 2026 - EpilepsyPledge

The day was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a young girl from Canada, to encourage open discussion and reduce stigma.

People worldwide wear purple color and organize campaigns to spread awareness, promote understanding, and support epilepsy patients.

309. Who has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom?

भारत के अगले यूनाइटेड किंगडम में उच्चायुक्त के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vikram Doraiswami
- (b) Periasamy Kumaran
- (c) Shraddha Joshi
- (d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- (e) Ajay Bisaria

Ans. b

Sol. Periasamy Kumaran Appointed as India's Next High Commissioner to the UK Periasamy Kumaran, currently serving as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, replacing Vikram Doraiswami.

A 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, he is expected to take charge soon, while Vikram Doraiswami has been appointed as India's Ambassador to China.

310. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit France to attend the G7 Summit, which will be held from June 15 to 17. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the G7?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी 15 से 17 जून तक होने वाले G7 समिट में शामिल होने के लिए फ्रांस जाने वाले हैं। इनमें से कौन सा देश G7 का सदस्य नहीं है?

- (a) UK
- (b) Japan
- (c) Germany
- (d) Brazil
- (e) France

Ans. d

Sol. PM Narendra Modi to Visit France for G7 Summit from June 15–17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit France to attend the G7 Summit, which will be held from June 15 to 17.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting during his two-day visit to France.

About G7

- *The G7 (Group of Seven) is an intergovernmental group of seven advanced economies: USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan.*
- *It was established in 1975 (initially as G6) to discuss global economic issues, later expanded to include Canada in 1976.*
- *The G7 focuses on key global issues such as economic stability, climate change, international security, and development cooperation.*
- *It does not have a permanent secretariat; the presidency rotates annually among member countries, which host the summit.*

311. Where was the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held?

वर्ल्ड ट्रेड ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन (WTO) का 14वां मिनिस्टीरियल कॉन्फ्रेंस (MC-14) कहाँ हुआ था?

- (a) Geneva
- (b) Nairobi
- (c) Yaoundé
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Paris

Ans. c

Sol. WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference Begins in Cameroon Amid Global Trade Challenges

The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from March 26 to 29, 2026, with participation from 166 member countries under the chairmanship of Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana. Key issues under discussion include WTO reforms, agriculture, e-commerce, and investment facilitation, which are crucial for shaping the future of global trade.

About World Trade Organization (WTO)

- *Founded - 1 January 1995*
- *Headquarters - Geneva Switzerland*
- *1st Director General - Peter Sutherland*
- *Director General - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria)*
- *Member Countries – 166 (166th Timor-Leste)*

312. What is the revised GDP growth forecast for India for FY 2026–27 by OECD?

OECD के अनुसार FY 2026–27 के लिए भारत की संशोधित GDP वृद्धि दर क्या है?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.1%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 7.0%
- (e) 7.6%

Ans. b

Sol. OECD Cuts India's FY 2026–27 Growth Forecast to 6.1%, FY 2025–26 Seen at 7.6%

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 downward by 10 basis points to 6.1% in its Economic Outlook Interim Report.

However, India's GDP growth for FY 2025–26 is estimated to remain strong at 7.6%, reflecting robust economic performance.

GDP Projection List 2025

- *S&P Global Ratings – 7.6% (FY26); 7.1% (FY27)*
- *Fitch Rating – 7.5% (FY26); 6.7% (FY27)*
- *CRISIL – 7.1% (FY27)*
- *Moody's Rating – 6.45% (FY27)*

313. Japan has committed an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of approximately how much to India for infrastructure and development projects?

जापान ने अवसंरचना और विकास परियोजनाओं के लिए भारत को लगभग कितनी राशि का ODA ऋण देने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) ₹10,000 crore

- (b) ₹12,000 crore
- (c) ₹14,500 crore
- (d) ₹16,420 crore
- (e) ₹18,750 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Japan Commits ₹16,420 Crore ODA Loan to India for Metro, Healthcare and Agriculture Projects

The Government of Japan has committed an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of JPY 275.858 billion (\approx ₹16,420 crore) to India for four major projects in urban transport, healthcare, and agriculture.

Key projects include Bengaluru Metro Phase 3, Mumbai Metro Line 11, healthcare and medical education strengthening in Maharashtra, and sustainable horticulture development in Punjab.

Metro projects in Bengaluru and Mumbai aim to reduce traffic congestion, improve urban mobility, and mitigate pollution and climate change impacts.

Healthcare and agriculture projects will enhance medical infrastructure, promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and boost farmers' income through sustainable horticulture practices.

314. The National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched the Gruh Sugam Portal to simplify and digitise access to _____ for defence personnel, paramilitary forces, and government employees.

नेशनल हाउसिंग बैंक (NHB) ने रक्षा कर्मियों, अर्धसैनिक बलों और सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए _____ तक पहुँच को सरल और डिजिटल बनाने के लिए 'गृह सुगम पोर्टल' लॉन्च किया है।

- (a) Personal loans
- (b) Education loans
- (c) Home loans
- (d) Business investment loans
- (e) Agricultural credit

Ans. c

Sol. NHB Launches Gruh Sugam Portal to Digitise Home Loans for Defence and Government Employees

The National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched the Gruh Sugam Portal to simplify and digitise access to home loans for defence personnel, paramilitary forces, and government employees.

The portal aims to promote affordable housing, financial inclusion, and digital lending adoption, especially for individuals posted in remote and inaccessible areas.

It provides a seamless and transparent digital platform, reducing the need for physical bank visits and improving accessibility and convenience in the housing finance system.

315. The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have signed an MoU under the initiative "BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan – A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program."

BHASHINI is an AI-powered initiative under which ministry?

डिजिटल इंडिया भाषिनी डिवीज़न (DIBD) और पेंशन फंड रेगुलेटरी एंड डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी (PFRDA) ने "सेवा / संचालन के लिए भाषिनी – एक भाषिनी सहयोगी प्रोग्राम" पहल के तहत एक MoU साइन किया है। भाषिनी किस मंत्रालय के तहत एक AI-पावर्ड पहल है?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Communication

Ans. c

Sol. MeitY's BHASHINI Division and PFRDA Sign MoU to Boost Multilingual Digital Pension Services

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under MeitY and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have signed an MoU under the initiative "BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan – A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program."

The collaboration aims to enhance multilingual digital services in the pension sector by integrating the BHASHINI platform, India's National Language Digital Public Infrastructure, with PFRDA systems.

It will use AI-based translation APIs and voice-enabled technologies to improve language accessibility across all 22 scheduled languages, ensuring greater inclusivity for pension subscribers and stakeholders.

About BHASHINI

- BHASHINI (BHASHa Interface for India) is an AI-powered language technology initiative under MeitY, designed to enable multilingual digital communication across India.
- It supports advanced AI capabilities including 36+ text-based languages, 23 voices, and 35 international languages, helping bridge language and literacy gaps.
- Launched under the National Language Translation Mission

316. Who was honoured with the "Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award" at the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit 2026?

BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit 2026 में "Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award" से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi
- (b) Kalpana Soren
- (c) Smriti Irani
- (d) Rekha Gupta
- (e) Mamata Banerjee

Ans. b

Sol. Kalpana Soren Honoured with BRICS CCI Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award 2026

Jharkhand MLA Kalpana Soren was honoured with the "Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award" at the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit and Felicitation 2026 held in the capital.

The award was presented by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) women empowerment vertical for her contribution to women empowerment. She highlighted the need to amplify voices of marginalised women and promote their access to opportunities, noting that women in Jharkhand are increasingly becoming entrepreneurs and agents of change.

Recent Awards

- **Women Empowerment Award at UK House of Commons** - Rituparna Sengupta
- **National Award for Outstanding SHG Bank Linkage Performance 2024-25** - Karnataka Grameena Bank
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026** - Kaveh Madani (for Outstanding Contributions to Water Science)
- **Honorary Knighthood by United Kingdom** - N. Chandrasekaran
- **META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** - Veteran Actor-Filmmaker Amol Palekar

317. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed an agreement with _____ to support startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs across India.

कॉमर्स और इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्ट्री के तहत डिपार्टमेंट फॉर प्रमोशन ऑफ़ इंडस्ट्री एंड इंटरनल ट्रेड (DPIIT) ने पूरे भारत में स्टार्टअप्स, इनोवेटर्स और एंटरप्रेन्योर्स को सपोर्ट करने के लिए _____ के साथ एक एग्रीमेंट साइन किया।

- (a) Google India
- (b) Microsoft India
- (c) Meta India
- (d) Amazon India

(e) KRAFTON India Pvt. Ltd.**Ans. e**

Sol. DPIIT Partners with KRAFTON India to Boost Startups in Gaming, AI, and Digital Entertainment

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed an agreement with KRAFTON India Pvt. Ltd. to support startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs across India.

The collaboration aims to boost product startups in sectors like digital entertainment, online gaming, esports, interactive media, and AI-driven technologies.

Startups will receive mentorship, industry insights, knowledge-sharing platforms, and engagement opportunities, strengthening India's digital and creative economy under the Startup India ecosystem

Recent MoUs

- *Rashtriya Raksha University Signs MoU with Sashastra Seema Bal to Boost National Security Training and Accreditation*
- *Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Signs MoU with GATI Foundation to Boost Global Skill Mobility*
- *NITI Aayog Partners with Tata Electronics Private Limited to Boost Electronics and Semiconductor Manufacturing in India*
- *UIDAI Partners with Google to Display Authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps Nationwide*

318. The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the IVFRT Scheme for five years (2026–2031) to strengthen India's immigration system. What does IVFRT stand for?

यूनियन कैबिनेट ने भारत के इमिग्रेशन सिस्टम को मज़बूत करने के लिए IVFRT स्कीम को पाँच साल (2026–2031) तक जारी रखने की मंजूरी दे दी है। IVFRT का मतलब क्या है?

- Indian Visa and Foreign Registration Technology**
- Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking**
- International Visa and Foreign Relations Tracking**
- Integrated Visa Framework and Registration Technology**
- Immigration Verification and Foreign Travel**

Ans. b

Sol. Cabinet Approves Extension of IVFRT Scheme till 2031 to Strengthen Digital Immigration System

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme for five years (2026–2031) to strengthen India's immigration system.

The scheme provides a centralised, technology-driven platform for visa issuance, immigration, and foreigner registration, improving efficiency and security. The renewed phase focuses on digital modernisation, including mobile services and self-service kiosks, to ensure faster, seamless, and secure immigration processes.

319. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched the PRISM-SG Portal in New Delhi to improve efficiency, coordination, and transparency in the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and railway bridges. What does PRISM-SG stand for?

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय ने रोड ओवर ब्रिज (ROB) और रेलवे पुलों के निर्माण में दक्षता, समन्वय और पारदर्शिता को बेहतर बनाने के लिए नई दिल्ली में PRISM-SG पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है। PRISM-SG का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) Portal for Railway Inspection and Safety Management - Steel Girders
- (b) Portal for Road Infrastructure and Safety Monitoring - Steel Girders
- (c) Portal for Rail-Road Inspection and Stages Management – Steel Girders
- (d) Project for Railway and Infrastructure System Management - Steel Girders
- (e) Platform for Road and Infrastructure Structural Monitoring - Steel Girders

Ans. c

Sol. Government Launches PRISM-SG Portal to Streamline Bridge Construction and Inspections

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched the PRISM-SG Portal in New Delhi to improve efficiency, coordination, and transparency in the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and railway bridges.

PRISM-SG (Portal for Rail-Road Inspection and Stages Management – Steel Girders) is a technology-driven platform that digitises and integrates processes, bringing all stakeholders onto a single system.

The portal enables end-to-end online management, including document submission, inspection scheduling, real-time tracking, and maintaining a complete audit trail for better monitoring and faster approvals.

320. World Theatre Day is observed on 27 March every year to promote the importance of theatre arts and their role in society. What is the theme of World Theatre Day 2026?

थिएटर आर्ट्स के महत्व और समाज में उनकी भूमिका को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हर साल 27 मार्च को वर्ल्ड थिएटर डे मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड थिएटर डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Theatre for Development
- (b) Theatre and Innovation
- (c) Theatre and a Culture of Peace
- (d) Theatre and Youth

(e) Theatre and Technology**Ans. c****Sol.** 27 March - World Theatre Day

World Theatre Day is observed on 27 March every year to promote the importance of theatre arts and their role in society.

Theme 2026 - Theatre and a Culture of Peace

The day was initiated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1961 to celebrate theatre and encourage cultural exchange worldwide.

321. Which state government has launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0', a digital platform to simplify and enhance the investor experience, along with new schemes?

किस राज्य सरकार ने 'निवेश मित्र 3.0' डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है, जो निवेशकों के अनुभव को सरल और बेहतर बनाता है?

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

Ans. c**Sol.** UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0', a digital platform to simplify and enhance the investor experience, along with new schemes like the UP Private Business Park Development Scheme-2025 and Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme.

The platform includes features like an AI-based chatbot, real-time SMS alerts, and a Dynamic Combined Application Form (CAF) to enable single-window clearances and reduce the need for multiple approvals.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

322. Which company successfully test-fired the 3D-printed rocket booster engine 'Agnite'?

किस कंपनी ने 3D-प्रिंटेड रॉकेट बूस्टर इंजन 'Agnite' का सफल परीक्षण किया?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) Skyroot Aerospace
- (c) Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd.
- (d) DRDO

(e) HAL

Ans. c

Sol. Agnikul Successfully Test-Fires World's First 3D-Printed Rocket Booster Engine 'Agnite'

Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, an Indian private space startup, successfully test-fired its 3D-printed rocket booster engine 'Agnite'.

The test was conducted at the Agnikul Launchpad (ALP-01) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, marking a key milestone in India's private space sector.

The 'Agnite' engine is the world's first fully 3D-printed booster engine, about one metre long, showcasing advanced manufacturing technology.

The test aimed to validate performance, structural integrity, and propulsion efficiency of the engine.

323. E.A. Rajendran passed away recently at the age of 71. E.A. Rajendran was associated with which industry?

ई.ए. राजेंद्रन का हाल ही में 71 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया। ई.ए. राजेंद्रन किस इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े थे?

(a) Bollywood

(b) Tollywood

(c) Sandalwood

(d) Kollywood

(e) Malayalam film industry

Ans. e

Sol. Veteran Malayalam Actor E.A. Rajendran Passes Away at 71

Veteran Malayalam actor and director E.A. Rajendran passed away at the age of 71 at his residence in Kollam due to age-related ailments.

He was known for his versatile performances in films, television, and theatre, contributing significantly to the Malayalam entertainment industry.

324. Who has taken charge as Director (Personnel) at NMDC Limited?

NMDC लिमिटेड में निदेशक (कार्मिक) के रूप में किसने पदभार ग्रहण किया है?

(a) Sanjay Mishra

(b) Krishna Kumar Thakur

(c) Himanta Biswa Sharma

(d) R.K. Singh

(e) Alok Verma

Ans. b

Sol. Krishna Kumar Thakur Assumes Charge as Director (Personnel) at NMDC Limited

Krishna Kumar Thakur, a 1998 batch IRPS officer, has taken charge as Director (Personnel) at NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer. He brings over 25 years of experience in HR management, having worked across Indian Railways, CPSUs, and organizations like Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and RITES.

Recent Appointments

- **CEO of NITI Aayog** - Nidhi Chhibber (replac B. V. R. Subrahmanyam);
Additional Charge
- **UN Independent AI Scientific Panel** - IIT Madras Professor B. Ravindran
- **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

325. Meghalaya became which number state to sign the Reform-Linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?

मेघालय जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के तहत सुधार-आधारित MoU पर हस्ताक्षर करने वाला कौन सा राज्य बना?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Meghalaya Becomes 12th State to Sign Reform-Linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign a Reform-Linked MoU with the Union Government under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, emphasising outcome-based rural water supply.

Key reforms include setting up District Water Sanitation Missions (DWSMs) to prepare village-level plans, ensure panchayat certifications, and strengthen implementation monitoring at the district level.

The Union Government approved an additional ₹1.51 lakh crore outlay for JJM 2.0, with about ₹67,300 crore allocated in the Union Budget 2025–26 to accelerate rural water supply coverage.

About Meghalaya

- **Capital** – Shillong

- **Chief Minister** - Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- **Governor** - C. H. Vijayashankar

326. Who has assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग (NCBC) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?

- (a) Shradha Joshi Raj
- (b) Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) Kiran Umesh Mahalle
- (e) Meenakshi Lekhi

Ans. b

Sol. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti Appointed NCBC Chairperson

Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti became Chairperson, and Kiran Umesh Mahalle became a Member of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Jyoti, a former MP, has previously served as Union Minister of State in key ministries and worked extensively for the upliftment of weaker and marginalised sections.

Mahalle, former Mayor of Amravati, brings strong experience in women's empowerment, grassroots governance, and social work, strengthening NCBC's role in backward class welfare.

About National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- *The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is a constitutional body established in 1993 and granted constitutional status in 2018 through the 102nd Amendment.*
- *It functions under Article 338B of the Indian Constitution and works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.*
- *The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three Members, all appointed by the President of India.*
- *Its key role is to safeguard the interests of OBCs, including examining inclusion/exclusion in the OBC list, addressing complaints, and advising the government on their welfare.*

327. Which country organized the first BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026 as part of its BRICS Chairship?

BRICS की अध्यक्षता के तहत पहली BRICS यूथ कोऑर्डिनेशन मीटिंग 2026 का आयोजन किस देश ने किया?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) India

(d) Brazil**(e) South Africa****Ans. c**

Sol. India Hosts First BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026 Under Its Chairship
 India organised the first BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026 under the Department of Youth Affairs, marking the start of youth engagements during its BRICS Chairship.

The meeting was held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", with participation from all BRICS member countries. India outlined the BRICS Youth Track 2026, including initiatives like Working Group Meetings, Youth Summit, Youth Council Meeting, Volunteering Activities, and the Youth Ministerial Meeting.

328. Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, became Nepal's youngest Prime Minister at 35, after a landslide victory in the recent elections. Balendra Shah belongs to which political party?

बालेंद्र शाह, जिन्हें बालेन के नाम से जाना जाता है, हाल के चुनावों में भारी जीत के बाद 35 साल की उम्र में नेपाल के सबसे युवा प्रधानमंत्री बने। बालेंद्र शाह किस राजनीतिक पार्टी से हैं?

(a) Nepali Congress**(b) CPN-UML****(c) Janata Samajbadi Part****(d) Maoist Centre****(e) Rastriya Swatantra Party****Ans. e**

Sol. Balen Shah Becomes Nepal's Youngest PM at 35 After Landslide Victory
 Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, became Nepal's youngest Prime Minister at 35, after a landslide victory in the recent elections.

He is the first Madhesi leader in decades to head Nepal, marking a significant political shift after anti-corruption protests toppled the previous government. Shah leads the Rastriya Swatantra Party, which secured 182 out of 275 seats, while Nepali Congress finished a distant second with 38 seats.

About Nepal

- **Capital-** Kathmandu
- **Currency-** Nepalese rupee
- **President-** Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime minister-** Balendra "Balen" Shah

329. Which state government has recently launched the Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026 to boost industrial growth and investment?

हाल ही में किस राज्य सरकार ने औद्योगिक विकास और निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क प्रमोशन पॉलिसी-2026 लॉन्च की है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Rajasthan Launches Industrial Park Promotion Policy 2026 to Boost Investment and Jobs

The Rajasthan government has launched the Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026 under CM Bhajanlal Sharma to boost industrial growth, attract investments, and create employment opportunities.

The policy aligns with national initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming for balanced regional development and strengthening the state's industrial ecosystem.

It introduces four development models (including PPP and private parks), mandating a minimum 50-acre area and 10 units for private parks to ensure large-scale, efficient industrial clusters.

About Rajasthan

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

330. National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), a Navratna CPSE, became the first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year (2025–26). NMDC operates under which ministry of the Government of India?

नेशनल मिनरल डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन (NMDC), एक नवरत्न CPSE, एक ही फाइनेंशियल ईयर (2025–26) में 50 मिलियन टन (MT) आयरन ओर बनाने वाली भारत की पहली माइनिंग कंपनी बन गई। NMDC भारत सरकार के किस मिनिस्ट्री के अंडर काम करती है?

- (a) Ministry of Mines
- (b) Ministry of Steel
- (c) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- (d) Ministry of Commerce
- (e) Ministry of Power

Ans. b

Sol. NMDC Becomes First Indian Mining Company to Produce 50 Million Tonnes of Iron Ore in a Year

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Steel, became the first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year (2025–26).

Established in 1958, NMDC has shown massive growth, increasing production from about 10 MT in 1978 to 50 MT, becoming a key pillar of India's iron ore supply chain. The milestone supports India's goal of achieving 300 MT steel production capacity by 2030, ensuring a stable and reliable domestic iron ore supply.

331. Who became the first Indian athlete to cross the 8-meter mark in indoor long jump?

इनडोर लॉन्ग जंप में 8 मीटर का आंकड़ा पार करने वाले पहले भारतीय एथलीट कौन बने?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi
- (b) Neeraj Chopra
- (c) Lokesh Satyanathan
- (d) Jeswin Aldrin
- (e) Ankit Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. Lokesh Satyanathan Becomes First Indian to Cross 8m in Indoor Long Jump

Lokesh Satyanathan became the first Indian to cross the 8-meter mark in indoor long jump, recording 8.01 m at the Tyson Invitational 2026 in the USA.

Competing for Tarleton State, he finished 8th among 16 athletes, while Cordell Tinch won the event with 8.29 m.

He set a new benchmark by breaking the indoor national record twice in 2026, later improving his jump to 8.21 m.

332. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027 in India?

भारत में जनगणना 2027 के लिए ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Anupam Kher
- (c) Ram V. Sutar
- (d) Sudarshan Pattnaik
- (e) Saina Nehwal

Ans. d

Sol. Sudarshan Pattnaik Appointed Brand Ambassador for Census 2027

Sudarshan Pattnaik has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to promote awareness and participation.

He will use his internationally acclaimed sand art to educate citizens about the importance of the census and encourage wider public involvement across India. The Government has approved the 16th National Census (Census 2027) with a sanctioned budget of ₹11,718.24 crore.

About Census 2027

- *The Census 2027 will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and will be the country's first fully digital census.*
- *It will be the 16th Census of India and the 8th after Independence, marking a major milestone in India's data collection system.*
- *The official mascots are "Pragati" (female) and "Vikas" (male), and the census will be overseen by Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan.*

333. Operation Energy Security has been launched by India amid rising tensions in West Asia to safeguard energy supply routes. Which strategically important maritime route is being actively monitored and secured under this operation?

वेस्ट एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के बीच एनर्जी सप्लाई रूट्स की सुरक्षा के लिए भारत ने ऑपरेशन एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी शुरू किया है। इस ऑपरेशन के तहत किस स्ट्रेटेजिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री रूट पर एक्टिव रूप से नज़र रखी जा रही है और उसे सुरक्षित किया जा रहा है?

- Suez Canal
- Panama Canal
- Strait of Hormuz
- Strait of Gibraltar
- Bering Strait

Ans. c

Sol. India Launches Operation Energy Security to Protect Oil Supply Routes in West Asia

Operation Energy Security has been launched by India amid rising tensions in West Asia to safeguard energy supply routes near the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

The Indian Navy has deployed more than five frontline warships (destroyers and frigates) to protect India-bound ships carrying critical energy cargo like crude oil, LNG, and LPG.

The mission ensured safe movement of multiple vessels, including the tanker 'Shenlong Suezmax' carrying over 135,000 metric tons of crude oil, highlighting efforts to secure India's energy security during regional conflict escalation.

334. What is Vayu Baan developed by the Indian Air Force?

भारतीय वायु सेना द्वारा विकसित वायु बाण क्या है?

- (a) Surface-to-air missile system
- (b) Helicopter-launched autonomous drone system
- (c) Fighter aircraft upgrade program
- (d) Naval surveillance system
- (e) Satellite communication system

Ans. b

Sol. IAF Develops Vayu Baan: India's First Helicopter-Launched Drone System for Precision Strikes

Vayu Baan is India's first helicopter-launched autonomous drone system, developed by the Indian Air Force to enhance modern aerial warfare capability.

It is released mid-flight from a helicopter, after which it unfolds, activates propulsion, and operates as an ISR (surveillance) or precision-guided kamikaze drone for target engagement.

Developed as part of an indigenous Air-Launched Effects (ALE) programme led by the IAF's Directorate of Aerospace Design, it provides stand-off strike capability beyond 50 km, helping protect helicopters from MANPADS threats.

335. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh and laid the foundation stone for 40 acres of MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facilities. Under which development model is the Noida International Airport being constructed?

PM नरेंद्र मोदी ने उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर में नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के पहले फेज़ का उद्घाटन किया और 40 एकड़ में MRO (मैटेनेंस, रिपेयर और ओवरहॉल) सुविधाओं का शिलान्यास किया। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट किस डेवलपमेंट मॉडल के तहत बनाया जा रहा है?

- (a) Fully Government Model
- (b) Public-Private Partnership Model
- (c) Foreign Aid Model
- (d) Cooperative Model
- (e) NGO Model

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates First Phase of Noida International Airport at Jewar
PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh and laid the foundation stone for 40 acres of MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facilities.

The Prime Minister stated that the airport marks a new chapter for "Viksit Uttar Pradesh – Viksit Bharat", boosting connectivity and benefiting districts like Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and others.

The airport, developed under a PPP model with an investment of around ₹11,200 crore, will initially handle 12 million passengers annually, scalable up to 70 million passengers per year.

336. Which cricketer became the first to score 4000 runs in run chases in IPL history?

IPL इतिहास में रन चेज में 4000 रन बनाने वाले पहले क्रिकेटर कौन बने?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) MS Dhoni
- (c) Rohit Sharma
- (d) David Warner
- (e) AB de Villiers

Ans. a

Sol. Virat Kohli Becomes First IPL Batter to Cross 4000 Runs in Run Chases

Virat Kohli became the first player in Indian Premier League history to score 4000+ runs in run chases, achieving the milestone during IPL 2026.

He reached this landmark in the match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

Kohli also surpassed Shoaib Malik to become the 6th-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket, marking another major career achievement.

337. Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on 30 March to mark the formation of Rajasthan in _____.

राजस्थान दिवस हर साल 30 मार्च को राजस्थान के गठन के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है, जो _____ में हुआ था।

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1949
- (d) 1950
- (e) 1956

Ans. c

Sol. 30 March - Rajasthan Day

Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on 30 March to mark the formation of Rajasthan in 1949.

The day commemorates the integration of princely states into a single state after India's independence.

It is also known as Rajasthan Foundation Day, highlighting the state's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and history.

338. Which country has introduced the world's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen?

किस देश ने दुनिया की पहली केवल माल परिवहन (फ्रेट) शिंकांसेन शुरू की है?

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) Germany
- (d) France
- (e) South Korea

Ans. b

Sol. Japan Launches World's First Freight-Only Shinkansen for High-Speed Cargo Transport

Japan has launched the world's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen, converting its bullet train into a high-speed cargo carrier to improve logistics efficiency and sustainability.

The project repurposes the E3 series train by removing seats and redesigning interiors for cargo, enabling it to carry around 1,000 boxes (17.4 tonnes) at speeds up to 275 km/h.

The service runs on the Tohoku Shinkansen route between Morioka and Tokyo, covering the distance in just over 3 hours while optimising existing rail infrastructure without affecting passenger services.

339. Consider the following statements regarding the Revamped UDAN scheme:

संशोधित UDAN योजना के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. UDAN Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
2. The scheme duration is from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.
3. The total financial outlay is ₹28,840 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3
- (e) None

Ans. d

Sol. Cabinet Approves Revamped UDAN Scheme to Boost Regional Connectivity with ₹28,840 Crore

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved the revamped UDAN scheme to strengthen regional air connectivity across India.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik), launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, aims to make air travel affordable and accessible for common citizens.

The revamped scheme will focus on improving connectivity to small, remote, and underserved regions, boosting regional development and tourism.

The scheme will be implemented for 10 years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36) with a total budget allocation of ₹28,840 crore.

Key Components

- **Aerodrome Development (CAPEX):** Around 100 new airports will be developed with an outlay of ₹12,159 crore to expand regional aviation infrastructure.
- **O&M Support:** Financial support will be provided for ~441 aerodromes for 3 years, up to ₹3.06 crore/year for airports and ₹0.90 crore/year for heliports, with a total allocation of ₹2,577 crore.
- **Helipad Development:** About 200 modern helipads will be constructed, focusing on hilly, remote, and island regions, with an outlay of ₹3,661 crore.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** ₹10,043 crore allocated to provide financial support to airlines for operating routes in underserved regions.
- **Aircraft Acquisition:** Under Atmanirbhar Bharat, procurement of HAL Dhruv helicopters for Pawan Hans and HAL Dornier aircraft for Alliance Air will be undertaken.

340. Which two ministries jointly issued the advisory for implementing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in schools?

किस दो मंत्रालयों ने स्कूलों में नशा मुक्त भारत अभियान लागू करने के लिए संयुक्त सलाह जारी की?

- Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Education

Ans. a

Sol. Education & Home Ministries Launch Nationwide School Drive Under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to Create Drug-Free Zones

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued a joint advisory to implement the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in schools nationwide.

The advisory has been sent to Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs for mission-mode implementation over a 3-year period to ensure effective execution.

The initiative aims to create a drug-free India by preventing substance abuse among students, mandating schools to declare a 500-metre radius as drug-free zones and promote awareness.

341. Which ministry partnered with YouTube to promote India's folk and tribal music globally?

किस मंत्रालय ने भारत के लोक और जनजातीय संगीत को वैश्विक स्तर पर बढ़ावा देने के लिए YouTube के साथ साझेदारी की?

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Education

Ans. b

Sol. Culture Ministry Signs MoU with YouTube to Promote Indian Folk and Tribal Music Globally

The Ministry of Culture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with YouTube to promote India's folk and tribal music on a global platform.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Vivek Aggarwal (Culture Secretary), and Gunjan Soni (MD, YouTube India).

342. The National Commission for Women (NCW) partnered with which company to launch a digital safety initiative?

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) ने डिजिटल सुरक्षा पहल शुरू करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की?

- (a) Google
- (b) Meta
- (c) Truecaller
- (d) Microsoft
- (e) Amazon

Ans. c

Sol. NCW Partners with Truecaller to Launch 'TrueCyberSakhi' Digital Safety Initiative for Women

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has partnered with Truecaller to launch a digital safety initiative for women.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about online risks and enhance access to support systems, including the NCW 24x7 helpline.

A special toolkit named "TrueCyberSakhi: A Digital Safety Toolkit, Created for Her" has been launched to empower women with online safety knowledge.

343. Bengali novelist Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay has been selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman for 2025. Which novel has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2025?

बंगाली उपन्यासकार रामकुमार मुखोपाध्याय को 2025 के 35वें सरस्वती सम्मान के लिए चुना गया है। किस उपन्यास को सरस्वती सम्मान 2025 के लिए चुना गया है?

- (a) Gitanjali
- (b) Hara Parbati Katha
- (c) Pather Panchali
- (d) Anandamath
- (e) Devdas

Ans. b

Sol. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay's Hara Parbati Katha Selected for Saraswati Samman 2025

Bengali novel Hara Parbati Katha by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay has been selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman for 2025.

The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation and is awarded annually for outstanding literary works in any Indian language published in the last 10 years.

The award carries a cash prize of ₹15 lakh along with a citation and a plaque.

About Saraswati Samman

- *Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. The award is named after Saraswati, symbolising knowledge and learning.*
- *It is considered one of India's highest literary honours and is awarded for outstanding works published in the last 10 years in any of the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule.*
- *The award carries a cash prize of ₹15 lakh along with a citation and a plaque.*

344. Nandamuri Balakrishna was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Film Festival of Delhi 2026 for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema over five decades. Nandamuri Balakrishna belongs to which film industry?

नंदमुरी बालकृष्ण को पांच दशकों से ज़्यादा समय तक भारतीय सिनेमा में उनके शानदार योगदान के लिए दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल 2026 में लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड से सम्मानित किया गया। नंदमुरी बालकृष्ण किस फिल्म इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े हैं?

- (a) Bollywood
- (b) Tollywood
- (c) Kollywood
- (d) Mollywood

(e) Sandalwood

Ans. b

Sol. Nandamuri Balakrishna Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026

Nandamuri Balakrishna was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Film Festival of Delhi 2026 for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema over five decades.

The award ceremony was held at Bharat Mandapam, recognising his 50-year-long film career and significant impact on Telugu cinema.

His film Bhagavanth Kesari, directed by Anil Ravipudi, was screened at the festival and had earlier won the Best Telugu Film award at the 71st National Film Awards.

345. The 'Verified App Label' initiative has been introduced by which regulatory body to curb fraudulent mobile applications in the financial sector?

वित्तीय क्षेत्र में फर्जी मोबाइल ऐप्स को रोकने के लिए 'Verified App Label' पहल किस नियामक संस्था द्वारा शुरू की गई है?

(a) Reserve Bank of India

(b) Securities and Exchange Board of India

(c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

(d) National Payments Corporation of India

(e) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI Launches 'Verified App Label' Initiative to Protect Investors from Fraudulent Apps

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), launched the 'Verified App Label' initiative to enhance investor safety in digital platforms.

The initiative aims to protect investors from fraudulent mobile apps by promoting the principle "First verify, then invest" and ensuring safe digital investing.

Apps of SEBI-registered intermediaries, starting with stockbrokers, will display a verified badge on the Google Play Store, helping users easily identify genuine apps and prevent impersonation.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

• **Founded** - 12 April 1988

• **Statutory Status**- January 30, 1992

• **Headquarters** - Mumbai

• **Chairman** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)

• **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

344. Lakshya Asset Management Company, recently approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been granted permission to commence which of the following businesses in India?

लक्ष्य एसेट मैनेजमेंट कंपनी, जिसे हाल ही में SEBI द्वारा मंजूरी दी गई है, को भारत में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा व्यवसाय शुरू करने की अनुमति दी गई है?

- (a) Commercial banking services
- (b) Insurance underwriting business
- (c) Mutual fund operations and asset management services
- (d) Non-banking financial company (NBFC) activities
- (e) Stock exchange operations

Ans. c

Sol. Lakshya Asset Management Company Gets SEBI Approval to Launch Mutual Fund Business

Lakshya Asset Management Company has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India to launch its mutual fund business in India.

Sponsored by Wealth First Portfolio Managers (listed on NSE and BSE), it will become the first Asset Management Company headquartered in Ahmedabad.

345. Which institution has launched the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence?

किस संस्थान ने कृष्णमूर्ति टंडन स्कूल ऑफ आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस की शुरुआत की है?

- (a) IIM Bangalore
- (b) IIM Ahmedabad
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) IIT Bombay
- (e) IISc Bengaluru

Ans. b

Sol. IIM Ahmedabad Launches Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence
Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad launched the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence.

The initiative is backed by a 100 crore endowment. The funding is provided by Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon and Ranjan Tandon.

346. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd has operationalised India's first Port of Refuge to assist ships in distress, strengthening maritime safety infrastructure. Two ports identified are Dighi Port and Gopalpur Port. Gopalpur Port, designated as a Port of Refuge, is located on which coast?

अडानी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकोनॉमिक ज़ोन लिमिटेड ने मुश्किल में फंसे जहाजों की मदद करने और समुद्री सुरक्षा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत का पहला पोर्ट ऑफ़ रिफ्यूज चालू कर दिया है। दो पोर्ट पहचाने गए हैं, दिघी पोर्ट और गोपालपुर पोर्ट। गोपालपुर पोर्ट, जिसे पोर्ट ऑफ़ रिफ्यूज के तौर पर नामित किया गया है, किस तट पर है?

- (a) West Coast
- (b) East Coast
- (c) North Coast
- (d) South Coast
- (e) Island Coast

Ans. b

Sol. Adani Ports Operationalises India's First Port of Refuge to Assist Ships in Distress
 Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd has operationalised India's first Port of Refuge to assist ships in distress, strengthening maritime safety infrastructure. The initiative establishes a structured system to provide emergency support to vessels, addressing a major gap in India's maritime ecosystem. Two ports identified are Dighi Port (West Coast – Arabian Sea & Persian Gulf routes) and Gopalpur Port (East Coast – Bay of Bengal & Malacca Strait routes).

347. 'Vayu Baan', recently seen in the news, is India's first:

हाल ही में समाचार में देखे गए 'वायु बाण' भारत का पहला क्या है?

- (a) Satellite system
- (b) Ultra Missile defence system
- (c) Helicopter-launched drone project
- (d) Fighter jet project
- (e) Hidden Radar system

Ans. c

Sol. IAF Launches 'Vayu Baan': India's First Helicopter-Launched Drone System for Long-Range Stand-off Strikes

The Indian Air Force launched 'Vayu Baan' in March 2026, marking India's first helicopter-launched drone project, strengthening indigenous defence innovation. With this development, India joins elite nations like the USA and China in advanced aerial drone-launch capabilities.

The system allows drones to be released mid-air from helicopters and conduct stand-off strikes beyond 50 km, enhancing operational safety against enemy air defence systems.

348. Which company delivered the first batch of 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) to the Indian Army?

भारतीय सेना को 'प्रहार' लाइट मशीन गन (LMG) की पहली खेप किस कंपनी ने दी?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) HAL
- (c) Adani Defence and Aerospace
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (e) OFB

Ans. c

Sol. Adani Defence Delivers First Batch of 2,000 'Prahar' LMGs to Indian Army under Make in India Initiative

Adani Defence and Aerospace has delivered the first batch of 2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) to the Indian Army, strengthening indigenous defence procurement.

The weapons are 7.62 mm calibre LMGs, developed under the 'Make in India' initiative, boosting domestic defence manufacturing capability.

These LMGs have been produced at the Small Arms Complex in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, highlighting India's growing small arms production ecosystem.

349. The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹445 crore contract for Tunguska Air Defence Missile Systems with which company?

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने टुंगुस्का एयर डिफेंस मिसाइल सिस्टम के लिए ₹445 करोड़ का अनुबंध किस कंपनी के साथ किया?

- (a) Boeing India Defense Pvt Ltd
- (b) JSC Rosoboronexport
- (c) Lockheed Martin
- (d) Airbus Defence
- (e) HAL

Ans. b

Sol. Defence Ministry Signs ₹858 Crore Deals for Air Defence Systems and P-8I Aircraft Maintenance

The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹858 crore for procurement of the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System and maintenance of P-8I aircraft, boosting India's defence capabilities.

A ₹445 crore deal with JSC Rosoboronexport will supply Tunguska systems to the Indian Army, strengthening multi-layered air defence against aircraft, drones, and cruise missiles while enhancing India-Russia defence ties.

Another ₹413 crore contract with Boeing India Defense Private Ltd covers depot-level maintenance of P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft for the Indian Navy under the Buy Indian category, supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat and in-country MRO facilities.

350. Eiffel Tower Day is observed on which date?

एफिल टॉवर दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 29
- (b) March 30
- (c) March 31
- (d) April 1
- (e) April 2

Ans. c

Sol. 31 March - Eiffel Tower Day

31 March is observed as Eiffel Tower Day, marking the inauguration of the iconic Eiffel Tower in 1889.

The tower was designed by Gustave Eiffel for the Exposition Universelle 1889 held in Paris.

It is one of the most famous landmarks in the world and a symbol of Paris and French cultural heritage.

351. Indian player Gurjant Singh recently announced his retirement from which sport?

भारतीय खिलाड़ी गुरजंत सिंह ने हाल ही में किस खेल से संन्यास लिया है?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Football
- (c) Hockey
- (d) Badminton
- (e) Wrestling

Ans. c

Sol. Gurjant Singh Announces Retirement from International Hockey After Decorated Career

Gurjant Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey at the Hockey India Awards, ending a distinguished career of nearly a decade with 130 caps and 33 goals.

He played a key role in India's success, including the 2016 Junior World Cup victory, and was part of the Olympic bronze medal-winning teams at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

Gurjant also contributed to major wins like the 2022 Asian Games (gold) and 2017 Asia Cup (gold), and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2021 for his achievements.

Recently Retired Players

- Sarfaraz Ahmed (Pakistan) - International Cricket
- Saina Nehwal (India) - Badminton
- Alyssa Healy (Australia)- All forms of international cricket

- *Jinson Johnson (Kerala, India) - Middle-distance Runner*
- *Usman Khawaja (Australia) - International cricket*

352. Carolina Marín, recently in news, belongs to which sport?

हाल ही में समाचार में रही कैरोलिना मारिन किस खेल से संबंधित है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Carolina Marín Announces Retirement from Badminton After Historic Career
Carolina Marín announced her retirement from professional badminton at the age of 32 due to a serious knee injury. She was an Spanish Olympic and World Champion, and one of the greatest badminton players.

She won the Olympic gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics, becoming the first non-Asian woman to win women's singles badminton.

She won the World Championships three times in 2014, 2015, and 2018, becoming the first woman to achieve this record.

353. When is the International Day of Zero Waste observed?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शून्य अपशिष्ट दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 28
- (b) March 29
- (c) March 30
- (d) March 31
- (e) March 25

Ans. c

Sol. 30 March - International Day of Zero Waste

The International Day of Zero Waste is observed globally on March 30 to raise awareness about reducing waste and promoting sustainable living practices.

Theme 2026 - Tackling Food Waste Through Circular Economy Practices

This year's focus is on reducing food waste and encouraging sustainable consumption habits.

Nearly 1 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year worldwide, accounting for about one-fifth of all food available to consumers.