1. In 2026, Mission SAKSHAM (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman), launched by the Reserve Bank of India, is primarily aimed at strengthening which sector?

A.Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

B.Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)

C.Small Finance Banks (SFBs)

D.Payment Banks

E.Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Mission SAKSHAM** (**Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman**), a nationwide **capacity-building programme** for strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** sector.

The mission aims to enhance **managerial and operational capabilities**, improve **compliance culture**, and strengthen **institutional resilience** across **UCBs**.

Mission SAKSHAM seeks to create a **continuous learning ecosystem**, contributing to **systemic stability** and **sustainable growth** of the cooperative banking sector.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Mission SAKSHAM** (**Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman**), a nationwide **capacity-building programme** for strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** sector.

The mission aims to enhance **managerial and operational capabilities**, improve **compliance culture**, and strengthen **institutional resilience** across **UCBs**.

Mission SAKSHAM seeks to create a **continuous learning ecosystem**, contributing to **systemic stability** and **sustainable growth** of the cooperative banking sector.

The programme follows a **collaborative approach**, developed in consultation with the **Umbrella Organisation of UCBs** and various **national and state cooperative federations**.

Under this initiative, **large-scale training programmes** (both in-person and e-learning) will be conducted, targeting around **1.40 lakh participants** across the country.

The training will cover **key stakeholders** including **Board Members**, **Senior Management**, **Heads of Risk, Compliance and Audit functions**, **IT personnel**, and other critical staff of **UCBs**.

2. In FY 2025–26, how many candidates were selected and issued offer letters across Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as part of workforce expansion measures?

A.45,210

B.48,975

C.50,552

D.52,300

E.55,100

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India is implementing sustained and targeted measures to strengthen **human resource capacity** in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** through calibrated **workforce expansion**, improved **operational efficiency**, and **governance-oriented reforms**.

As per PSB data, in **FY 2025–26**, a total of **50,552 candidates** have been selected and issued **offer letters** across PSBs, reflecting a **major augmentation of manpower** to meet rising banking sector demands.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India is implementing sustained and targeted measures to strengthen **human resource capacity** in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** through calibrated **workforce expansion**, improved **operational efficiency**, and **governance-oriented reforms**.

A **well-calibrated recruitment scale** is a key pillar of human resource management, ensuring **optimal staffing** and sustained **operational efficiency** in the banking sector.

These initiatives are aligned with the Government's broader objective of building a **resilient, customer-centric, and future-ready banking system**.

Recruitment in PSBs is carried out through the **Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)** based on the specific manpower requirements of participating banks.

This **centralised and standardised recruitment framework** ensures **transparency, consistency, and efficiency** in the selection process.

As per PSB data, in **FY 2025–26**, a total of **50,552 candidates** have been selected and issued **offer letters** across PSBs, reflecting a **major augmentation of manpower** to meet rising banking sector demands.

3. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced which new framework to replace the incurred loss model for asset classification and provisioning, effective from April 1, 2027?

A.Value at Risk (VaR) Framework

B.Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework

C.Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) Framework

D.Capital Adequacy Framework

E.Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Framework

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **Master Direction** on asset classification, income recognition, and provisioning, introducing a shift to the **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework, effective from **April 1, 2027**.

The new **ECL-based approach** will replace the existing norms based on the **incurred loss model**, marking a major reform in **banking risk management** and **provisioning standards**.

Under the transition, banks will move from recognising losses only after default occurs to a **forward-looking ECL model**, improving **early risk identification** and **financial stability**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **Master Direction** on asset classification, income recognition, and provisioning, introducing a shift to the **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework, effective from **April 1, 2027**.

The new **ECL-based approach** will replace the existing norms based on the **incurred loss model**, marking a major reform in **banking risk management** and **provisioning standards**.

Under the transition, banks will move from recognising losses only after default occurs to a **forward-looking ECL model**, improving **early risk identification** and **financial stability**.

The **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework requires banks to **estimate probable future losses** using **forward-looking risk parameters**, rather than waiting for actual defaults.

The **90-day rule** for **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** remains unchanged, where loans are classified as NPAs if repayments are overdue for more than **90 days**.

RBI has also introduced a **phased reporting framework** for **over-the-counter (OTC) foreign exchange (FX) derivative contracts**, effective from **July 1, 2027**.

Under the new reporting norms, banks must report all **OTC FX derivative contracts** involving the **Indian rupee**, including those executed by **offshore and related entities** globally.

4. In 2026, Flipkart partnered with Axis Bank and PayU to introduce which authentication method for card payments, replacing OTP-based verification?

A.Biometric authentication

B.Tokenisation system

C.PIN-based authentication

D.QR code verification

E.Two-factor email authentication

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, in partnership with **Axis Bank Limited** and **PayU Payments Private Limited**, has launched **biometric authentication** for card payments, replacing traditional One-Time Passwords (OTPs)**-based verification**.

The system enables users to approve transactions using **fingerprint or Face ID**, marking a major shift towards **faster, seamless, and secure** digital payment systems.

Detailed Explanation:

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, in partnership with **Axis Bank Limited** and **PayU Payments Private Limited**, has launched **biometric authentication** for card payments, replacing traditional One-Time Passwords (OTPs)**-based verification**.

The system enables users to approve transactions using **fingerprint or Face ID**,

marking a major shift towards **faster, seamless, and secure** digital payment systems.

The ecosystem involves **Flipkart** (checkout platform), **PayU** (merchant infrastructure), **Axis Bank** (card issuer), and **Wibmo** (issuer-side authentication) for **end-to-end biometric payment processing**.

The technology works on both **Android and iOS** devices, using **device-bound authentication**, **one-touch approval**, and advanced **fraud detection mechanisms**.

The system eliminates **One-Time Password (OTP)** dependency, reducing **transaction delays and failures**, thereby improving **payment success rates** and user experience.

5. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Cheque Truncation System (CTS):

1. **Under CTS, physical movement of cheques between banks is eliminated after capturing their electronic image.**
2. **Continuous Clearing allows simultaneous presentation and return sessions for faster processing.**
3. **Non-CTS cheques are accepted in clearing along with CTS-2010 cheques.**
4. **A cheque is treated as deemed approved if the drawee bank fails to act within the Item Expiry Time.**

Which of the above statements are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.1, 2 and 4 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 3 and 4 only

E.All of the above

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Cheque Truncation System (CTS) is a mechanism where the **physical cheque is stopped (truncated)** during clearing after its **electronic image** is captured and transmitted, eliminating the need for **physical movement** of cheques between banks.

Under **CTS**, the **presenting bank** captures cheque data and images, which are sent electronically to the **clearing house** and **drawee (paying) bank**, enabling faster, **cost-effective** and **automated clearing**.

Continuous Clearing is an advanced system where **presentation and return (confirmation) sessions** run simultaneously in a **continuous flow**, improving speed, efficiency, and **real-time processing** of cheques compared to traditional batch clearing.

Non-CTS cheques are **no longer accepted** in clearing (since **December 31, 2018**), though they remain valid as **negotiable instruments**.

Detailed Explanation:

Cheque Truncation System (CTS) is a mechanism where the **physical cheque is stopped (truncated)** during clearing after its **electronic image** is captured and transmitted, eliminating the need for **physical movement** of cheques between banks.

Under **CTS**, the **presenting bank** captures cheque data and images, which are sent electronically to the **clearing house** and **drawee (paying) bank**, enabling faster, **cost-effective** and **automated clearing**.

Continuous Clearing is an advanced system where **presentation and return (confirmation) sessions** run simultaneously in a **continuous flow**, improving speed, efficiency, and **real-time processing** of cheques compared to traditional batch clearing.

In continuous clearing, a cheque is considered **settled** once confirmed within the **Item Expiry Time**, after which funds are released to the presenting bank within **one hour of settlement**.

Item Expiry Time is the **deadline** by which the **drawee bank** must confirm or reject a cheque, failing which it is treated as **deemed approved** for settlement.

Only **CTS-2010 standard cheques** are accepted in clearing, which include standardised formats and **security features** like **watermark**, **invisible ink logo**, and **void pantograph** to reduce fraud and ensure image clarity.

Non-CTS cheques are **no longer accepted** in clearing (since **December 31, 2018**), though they remain valid as **negotiable instruments**.

6. In 2026, EPFO launched which digital platform to help users trace and reactivate inoperative or unclaimed provident fund accounts using Aadhaar-based authentication?

A.E-SHRAM

B.UMANG

C.E-PRAAPTI

D.EPFO Connect

E.DigiPF

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch a new digital platform **E-PRAAPTI**, announced by **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya**, to enhance **digital governance, transparency, and user empowerment**.

E-PRAAPTI (Employees Provident Fund Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts) is designed to help users **trace and reactivate dormant or unclaimed provident fund accounts**, even **without Universal Account Number**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch a new digital platform **E-PRAAPTI**, announced by **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya**, to enhance **digital governance, transparency, and user empowerment**.

E-PRAAPTI (Employees Provident Fund Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts) is designed to help users **trace and reactivate dormant or**

unclaimed provident fund accounts, even **without Universal Account Number**.

The platform uses **Aadhaar-based authentication**, allowing users to **access accounts independently without employer intervention**.

Initially, the system will function through a **Member Identification Number-based access**, enabling easy retrieval of account details.

7. In 2026, the Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy aims to attract how much investment by 2031?

A.₹5,000 crore

B.₹7,500 crore

C.₹12,000 crore

D.₹10,000 crore

E.₹15,000 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** to position the state as a **leading Artificial Intelligence hub in India**.

The policy aims to attract over **₹10,000 crore investment** and generate around **1.5 lakh jobs by 2031**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** to position the state as a **leading Artificial Intelligence hub in India**.

The policy aims to attract over **₹10,000 crore investment** and generate around **1.5 lakh jobs by 2031**.

It focuses on building a **robust ecosystem** integrating **advanced infrastructure, skilled workforce, startup ecosystem, and responsible Artificial Intelligence governance**.

The initiative aligns with **India's Artificial Intelligence Mission** and aims to make Maharashtra a **model for national Artificial Intelligence development**.

The policy recognises that nearly **70 per cent of jobs may transform due to Artificial Intelligence**, highlighting its impact on **industries and employment patterns**.

Infrastructure development includes establishment of **5 Artificial Intelligence Innovation Cities**, creation of a **common computing backbone with 2,000 Graphics Processing Units**, and introduction of **Compute-as-a-Service for government departments**.

8. In 2026, Bengaluru Police became the first in India to introduce an AI-powered multilingual feature in which emergency helpline?

A.100

B.101

C.108

D.1091

E.112

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Bengaluru Police introduced an **Artificial Intelligence-powered multilingual feature** in the **Namma 112 emergency helpline**, becoming the **first police unit in India** to implement such technology.

The system enables communication in **more than 10 Indian and foreign languages**, improving **accessibility, emergency response, and public safety**.

Detailed Explanation:

Bengaluru Police introduced an **Artificial Intelligence-powered multilingual feature** in the **Namma 112 emergency helpline**, becoming the **first police unit in India** to implement such technology.

The system enables communication in **more than 10 Indian and foreign languages**, improving **accessibility, emergency response, and public safety**.

The feature is built on **Voice Artificial Intelligence for Nationwide Key Interventions** and developed in collaboration with **Monday Ventures and Aeos**.

Supported languages include **Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, Odia, Manipuri, Assamese, Kashmiri, Nepali, French, Spanish, and Arabic**, along with existing support in **Kannada, English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu**.

The initiative ensures callers can communicate in their **preferred language**, reducing **confusion and delays during emergencies**.

Bengaluru, being a global city, faces **language barriers** due to diverse population and international visitors.

9. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Ganga Expressway:

1. **It is a 594 km long six-lane greenfield corridor, expandable to eight lanes.**
2. **It connects Meerut to Prayagraj, passing through 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh.**
3. **The expressway reduces travel time from around 10–12 hours to about 6 hours.**
4. **It includes a 5 km emergency landing airstrip in Hardoi district.**

Which of the above statements are correct?

A.1, 2 and 3 only

B.1 and 4 only

C.2, 3 and 4 only

D.1, 3 and 4 only

E.All of the above

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** in **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**.

The expressway is a **594 kilometre long six-lane greenfield corridor**, expandable to **eight lanes**, built at a cost of **₹36,230 crore**.

It connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**, passing through **12 districts** including **Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj**.
Travel time is reduced from **10–12 hours to around 6 hours**, improving **efficiency, fuel savings, and productivity**, especially for **commercial transport**.
A key feature is a **3.5 kilometre emergency landing airstrip in Shahjahanpur** for **fighter jets and emergency aircraft**, strengthening **national security preparedness**.
Detailed Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** in **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**.
The expressway is a **594 kilometre long six-lane greenfield corridor**, expandable to **eight lanes**, built at a cost of **₹36,230 crore**.
It connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**, passing through **12 districts** including **Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj**.
The project enhances **connectivity between western, central, and eastern Uttar Pradesh**, creating a **unified transport network**.
Travel time is reduced from **10–12 hours to around 6 hours**, improving **efficiency, fuel savings, and productivity**, especially for **commercial transport**.
A key feature is a **3.5 kilometre emergency landing airstrip in Shahjahanpur** for **fighter jets and emergency aircraft**, strengthening **national security preparedness**.
The expressway integrates with major routes such as **Agra–Lucknow Expressway, Jewar Link Expressway, Farrukhabad Link Expressway, and proposed Meerut–Haridwar extension**, ensuring **statewide connectivity and balanced regional development**.

10. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report:

1. **It was released by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24).**
2. **A total of 3,635 Gram Panchayats were classified as Front Runners (A Grade).**
3. **The report covers more than 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories.**
4. **The participation rate declined compared to Panchayat Advancement Index 1.0.**

Which of the above statement is incorrect?

A.1 only
B.4 only
C.3 and 4 only
D.1, 2 and 4 only
E.3 only

Answer: B

Short Explanation:
The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0**

Report on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**, highlighting progress in **rural development and grassroots governance**.

The report recorded a **97.30 per cent participation rate**, a significant increase from **80.79 per cent in Panchayat Advancement Index 1.0**, with **2,59,867 Gram Panchayats submitting validated data**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report** on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**, highlighting progress in **rural development and grassroots governance**.

A total of **3,635 Gram Panchayats** were classified as **Front Runners (A Grade)**, reflecting strong performance.

The report covers over **2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories**, making it one of the **largest data-driven governance assessments in India**.

Nearly **1,18,824 Panchayats (45.72 per cent)** fall under the **Performer (B Grade)** category, while others are classified as **Aspirant and Beginner**.

The report recorded a **97.30 per cent participation rate**, a significant increase from **80.79 per cent in Panchayat Advancement Index 1.0**, with **2,59,867 Gram Panchayats submitting validated data**.

11. In 2026, which state recorded the highest-ever voter turnout after Independence with an overall participation of 92.47% in its Assembly Elections?

A.Bihar

B.West Bengal

C.Tamil Nadu

D.Maharashtra

E.Karnataka

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

West Bengal recorded its **highest-ever voter turnout after Independence** with an overall participation of **92.47 per cent** in the **Assembly Elections conducted in two phases**.

Phase One turnout stood at **93.19 per cent**, while **Phase Two recorded 91.66 per cent**, surpassing the previous highest turnout of **84.72 per cent in 2011**.

The data reflects a **significant rise in electoral participation**, setting a **new benchmark in India's electoral history**.

Gender-wise participation showed inclusivity, with **Male voters at 91.07 per cent, Female voters at 92.28 per cent, and Third gender at 91.28 per cent** in Phase Two.

Detailed Explanation:

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The data reflects a **significant rise in electoral participation**, setting a **new benchmark in India's electoral history**.

Gender-wise participation showed inclusivity, with **Male voters at 91.07 per cent, Female voters at 92.28 per cent, and Third gender at 91.28 per cent** in Phase Two.

Higher participation of **female voters** indicates **growing gender empowerment in elections**.

The **Election Commission of India** used **advanced technology platforms such as Election Commission Integrated Network** for monitoring.

Measures included **100 per cent live webcasting of polling stations, real-time voter turnout updates, and minimal delay in data reporting**.

Under the leadership of **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar**, the process ensured **smooth and transparent polling**.

12. In 2026, UNESCO designated 12 new Global Geoparks, increasing the total number of UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide to_____

A.221

B.231

C.241

D.251

E.261

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has designated **12 new Global Geoparks**, increasing the total to **241 sites** across **51 countries**, covering more than **882,000 square kilometres (sq km)**.

The **newly added UNESCO Global Geoparks** are located in **China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia (first-ever), and Uruguay**.

The **UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme** was officially established in **2015** as a UNESCO label using a **"bottom-up approach"** involving local stakeholders.

Detailed Explanation:

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The **newly added UNESCO Global Geoparks** are located in **China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia (first-ever), and Uruguay**.

The **UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme** was officially established in **2015** as a UNESCO label using a **"bottom-up approach"** involving local stakeholders.

The **main objective** of Global Geoparks is to **protect geological heritage** while promoting **environmental education**, **sustainable development**, and **local community empowerment**.

The status of a UNESCO Global Geopark is granted for a **period of four years**, after which sites undergo a **revalidation process** to retain the designation.

The **newly added geoparks** include **Changshan** (China), **Mt. Siguniang** (China), **Terres d'Hérault** (France), **Nisyros** (Greece), **Joyce Country and Western Lakes** (Ireland), **Mine-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau** (Japan), **Lenggong** (Malaysia), **Sarawak Delta** (Malaysia), **Algarvensis** (Portugal), **Toratau** (Russia), **Dahar** (Tunisia), and **Manantiales Serranos** (Uruguay).

The inclusion of **Tunisia** as a **first-ever Global Geopark location** marks a **significant milestone** in the expansion of the **UNESCO Geoparks network**.

13. In 2026, which country announced its exit from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+ alliance, effective May 1?

A.Qatar

B.Kuwait

C.Venezuela

D.Iran

E.United Arab Emirates

A**nswer: E**

Short Explanation:

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its decision to **exit** the **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the wider **OPEC+ alliance**, effective from **May 1, 2026**.

The **UAE joined OPEC in 1967** and is currently the **third-largest oil producer** in the group after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, contributing around **12% of total output**.

A key reason for withdrawal is **production constraint** under **OPEC+ quotas**, which has limited the UAE's ability to fully utilise its **expanded capacity**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its decision to **exit** the **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the wider **OPEC+ alliance**, effective from **May 1, 2026**.

The **UAE joined OPEC in 1967** and is currently the **third-largest oil producer** in the group after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, contributing around **12% of total output**.

A key reason for withdrawal is **production constraint** under **OPEC+ quotas**, which has limited the UAE's ability to fully utilise its **expanded capacity**.

The UAE's state-owned oil company, **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**, has increased **production capacity** to around **5 million barrels per day**, but **quota restrictions** have restricted output.

The decision reflects the UAE's focus on **national energy strategy** and **production flexibility**, allowing alignment with **long-term economic priorities**.

The move aims to provide the UAE **greater control** over **oil production decisions** independent of **OPEC+ limits**.
The **exit** may impact **global oil market stability**, potentially reducing **coordination** among OPEC members.

14. In 2026, who was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)?

A.Sundar Pichai
B.Satya Nadella
C.Parminder Singh
D.Arvind Krishna
E.Shantanu Narayen

Answer: C

Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), a **joint venture (JV)** between **Reliance Intelligence Limited** and **Meta (Facebook Overseas Inc.)**, appointed **Parminder Singh** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** with immediate effect.
Parminder Singh is a **global technology leader** with over **30 years of experience** across major firms including **Google, Apple, Twitter, and IBM**, specialising in **digital business scaling**, **enterprise strategy**, and **AI-driven transformation**.

15. In 2026, BHEL signed a Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) with DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) for which system used in naval vessels?

A.Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)
B.Radar Surveillance System
C.Sonar Detection System
D.Missile Launch Control System
E.Electronic Warfare Suite

Answer: A

Short Explanation:
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed a **Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT)** with **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, marking a **key step** in **indigenous defence technology development**.
The agreement relates to the **Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)** used in **naval vessels**, aimed at enhancing **stealth and survivability** of warships.

Detailed Explanation:
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed a **Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT)** with **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, marking a **key step** in **indigenous defence technology development**.
The agreement relates to the **Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)** used in **naval vessels**, aimed at enhancing **stealth and survivability** of warships.

The **GT-IRSS technology**, developed by **NSTL** for **LM2500 gas turbines**, reduces the **infrared signature** of ships by **cooling exhaust gases** and **shielding heat emissions**, improving **naval stealth capability**.

Under the agreement, **BHEL** will handle **fabrication, installation, commissioning, and technology absorption** of the **GT-IRSS system**, strengthening its **defence manufacturing capabilities**.

The collaboration supports India's **self-reliance in defence production**, reducing **dependence on foreign naval technologies**.

It aligns with the government initiatives of **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, promoting **indigenous defence innovation**.

The agreement enables **BHEL's entry** into the **high-value defence technology segment**, supporting its **diversification strategy** beyond conventional power equipment manufacturing.

16. In 2026, the Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub project in Visakhapatnam is correctly described by which of the following?

A.Valued at USD 10 billion with a capacity of 500 MW

B.Valued at USD 15 billion with a capacity of 1 GW

C.Valued at USD 20 billion with a capacity of 750 MW

D.Valued at USD 5 billion with a capacity of 1.5 GW

E.Valued at USD 25 billion with a capacity of 2 GW

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY)) along with **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub** in **Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

The project is valued at **USD 15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** and is recognised as the **largest single Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** project in India.

The initiative aims to transform **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)** into a **global AI and Cloud Capital**.

The facility will have a **capacity of 1 Gigawatt (GW)**, making it one of the **largest AI-focused data centres** in India.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY)) along with **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub** in **Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

The project is valued at **USD 15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** and is recognised as the **largest single Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** project in India.

The initiative aims to transform **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)** into a **global AI and Cloud Capital**.
The project includes **hyperscale data centres** designed for **AI workloads**, along with **high-capacity fibre networks**.
It also features an **international subsea cable landing station** to strengthen **global digital connectivity**.
The project is managed by **Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech India Private Limited**, in strategic collaboration with **AdaniConneX** (a Joint Venture between **Adani Enterprises** and **EdgeConneX**) and **Nxtra by Airtel**.
The **implementation timeline is five years**, involving development of **subsea cables**, **high-speed fibre connectivity**, and extensive use of **electricity and water** for cooling systems.
The facility will have a **capacity of 1 Gigawatt (GW)**, making it one of the **largest AI-focused data centres** in India.
It will support **enterprises, startups, and government platforms** by providing advanced **high-performance computing (HPC)** infrastructure.

17. In 2026, the launch of Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) satellite marked which mission number of China's Long March rocket series?

A.620th
B.630th
C.640th
D.650th
E.660th

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** successfully launched **Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) **satellite** aboard a **Long March-6 rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**, placing it into its designated orbit.
The launch marks the **640th mission** of China's **Long March rocket series**, highlighting China's advancement in **space launch capabilities**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** successfully launched **Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) **satellite** aboard a **Long March-6 rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**, placing it into its designated orbit.
The launch marks the **640th mission** of China's **Long March rocket series**, highlighting China's advancement in **space launch capabilities**.
PRSC-EO3 (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3**) is an **Electro-Optical (EO)** Earth Observation satellite developed **indigenously by SUPARCO** as part of Pakistan's **Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation**.

The satellite is equipped with **advanced sensors**, including **visible, near-infrared, and ultraviolet imaging systems**, enabling **high-resolution Earth observation**.
It uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based onboard data processing** and **multi-geometry imaging techniques** for accurate **3D terrain analysis**.

18. In 2026, Gurbax Singh Grewal, who passed away at the age of 84, was associated with which sport?

A.Cricket
B.Athletics
C.Football
D.Badminton
E.Hockey
Answer: E

Renowned Indian hockey player **Gurbax Singh Grewal** passed away at the age of **84** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
He was born on **April 1, 1942** in **Lyallpur** (now Faisalabad, Pakistan).
He was a member of the **Indian men's hockey team** that won the **bronze medal** at the **1968 Mexico City Olympics** (Mexico).

19. In 2026, what is the theme of International Labour Day (May 1) as highlighted by the International Labour Organization (ILO)?

A.Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment
B.Social Justice and Fair Wages
C.Decent Work for All
D.Workers' Rights and Economic Growth
E.Safe Workplace for Every Worker
Answer: A

International Labour Day, also known as **May Day**, is observed every year on **May 1** to commemorate the **struggles and achievements of workers**.
The **2026 theme**, as highlighted by the **International Labour Organization**, is **"Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment"**.
In **India**, the first celebration of **International Labour Day** was held in **Chennai in 1923**.

20. In 2026, who served as the Chief Election Commissioner under whose leadership the Assembly Elections ensured smooth and transparent polling?

A.Rajiv Kumar
B.Sushil Chandra
C.Sunil Arora
D.Gyanesh Kumar
E.Om Prakash Rawat
Answer: D

Short Explanation:
The **Election Commission of India** used **advanced technology platforms such as Election Commission Integrated Network** for monitoring.
Under the leadership of **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar**, the process ensured **smooth and transparent polling**.
Detailed Explanation:

The **Election Commission of India** used **advanced technology platforms such as Election Commission Integrated Network** for monitoring.

Measures included **100 per cent live webcasting of polling stations, real-time voter turnout updates, and minimal delay in data reporting**.

Under the leadership of **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar**, the process ensured **smooth and transparent polling**.

Voter-friendly initiatives included **colour photographs of candidates on Electronic Voting Machines, Mobile Deposit Facility, redesigned Voter Information Slips, and** a cap of 1,200 voters per polling station.

21. In 2026, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched the Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account with which key feature to promote financial inclusion?

A.High minimum balance requirement

B.Zero balance and zero charges account

C.Interest-free savings account

D.Corporate-only banking access

E.Limited offline services only

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a **100% Government of India-owned** entity under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote **financial inclusion** and **women empowerment** in rural India.

The service is supported by a large network of **Postmen** and **Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS)**, ensuring **last-mile connectivity** in rural areas.

The **IPPB SHG Savings Account** is a **zero balance, zero charges account**, ensuring **affordability and accessibility** for SHGs.

Detailed Explanation:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a **100% Government of India-owned** entity under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote **financial inclusion** and **women empowerment** in rural India.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) play a crucial role in **rural economic transformation** and are linked with schemes like the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** and initiatives supported by **NABARD** (**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**).

IPPB leverages the **extensive Postal Network** of the **Department of Posts (DoP)** along with **digital banking capabilities** to provide **doorstep banking services**.

The service is supported by a large network of **Postmen** and **Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS)**, ensuring **last-mile connectivity** in rural areas.

The **IPPB SHG Savings Account** is a **zero balance, zero charges account**, ensuring **affordability and accessibility** for SHGs.
The account offers **digital onboarding**, making the process **simple, paperless, and convenient**.

22. As of March 2026, how many borrower entities have been acquired by the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)?
A.25
B.28
C.30
D.33
E.36
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** has emerged as a key institution in India's **stressed asset resolution framework**, supporting the banking **sector balance sheet strengthening**.
NARCL plays a crucial role in **aggregating large stressed exposures** and enabling their resolution through **transparent and market-based mechanisms**.
This has helped improve **recovery outcomes** and **unlock value** for lenders and financial institutions.
As of **March 2026**, **NARCL** has acquired **33 borrower entities** with an aggregate **debt exposure of ₹1,65,862 crore**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** has emerged as a key institution in India's **stressed asset resolution framework**, supporting the banking **sector balance sheet strengthening**.
NARCL plays a crucial role in **aggregating large stressed exposures** and enabling their resolution through **transparent and market-based mechanisms**.
This has helped improve **recovery outcomes** and **unlock value** for lenders and financial institutions.
As of **March 2026**, **NARCL** has acquired **33 borrower entities** with an aggregate **debt exposure of ₹1,65,862 crore**.
It has also participated in **resolution processes** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, strengthening the overall **resolution ecosystem** in India.
In **FY 2025–26**, **NARCL** recorded significant **acceleration in recoveries**, with **₹4,364 crore recovered**, accounting for around **70% of cumulative recoveries**.
Overall recoveries have been achieved in **23 accounts**, totaling **₹6,345 crore**, which represents more than **48% of acquisition cost**.

23. In 2026, which global financial institution downgraded Indian equities from "overweight" to "neutral"?
A.Goldman Sachs
B.Morgan Stanley
C.JPMorgan

D.HSBC

E.Citigroup

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

JPMorgan Chase & Co. has **downgraded Indian equities** from **"overweight" to "neutral"**, citing **elevated valuations** compared to **emerging market peers**.

The **downgrade** reflects concerns over **stretched market valuations** in India, despite ongoing **structural growth trends** in the economy.

JPMorgan noted that India is making progress in areas such as **AI startups**, large investments in **data centres**, and **chip design centres** for global firms, indicating **long-term technological development potential**.

Detailed Explanation:

JPMorgan Chase & Co. has **downgraded Indian equities** from **"overweight" to "neutral"**, citing **elevated valuations** compared to **emerging market peers**.

The **downgrade** reflects concerns over **stretched market valuations** in India, despite ongoing **structural growth trends** in the economy.

JPMorgan noted that India is making progress in areas such as **AI startups**, large investments in **data centres**, and **chip design centres** for global firms, indicating **long-term technological development potential**.

However, it highlighted that **India's presence** in these **high-growth sectors** remains limited, particularly within the **large-cap stock index representation**.

The report stated that **India's valuation gap** with the **MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) index** has narrowed significantly, with the **premium easing** from **109% to 65%**, indicating a **partial market re-rating**.

24. In 2026, which state introduced India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers?

A.Maharashtra

B.Tamil Nadu

C.Kerala

D.Telangana

E.Karnataka

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Karnataka introduced **India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**, aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and worker protection**.

The system allows **platform-based workers** to register complaints related to **wages, incentives, working conditions, and disputes with digital platforms**.

The initiative is developed by the **Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Board** in collaboration with the **Department of Electronic Governance Karnataka**.

Detailed Explanation:

Karnataka introduced **India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**,

aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and worker protection**.

The system allows **platform-based workers** to register complaints related to **wages, incentives, working conditions, and disputes with digital platforms**.

The initiative is developed by the **Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Board** in collaboration with the **Department of Electronic Governance Karnataka**.

Complaints can be filed through the **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System portal**, enabling **registration, tracking, and time-bound resolution**.

Key features include **real-time complaint tracking, addressing unfair practices, and ensuring timely grievance redressal**.

The system creates an **institutional mechanism linking gig workers, platform companies, and government authorities**, improving **regulatory oversight**.

It addresses the lack of formal communication channels in the gig economy and provides recognition to gig workers.

25. In 2026, India deployed the Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure in which country under the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework?

A.Cuba

B.Jamaica

C.Barbados

D.Trinidad and Tobago

E.Dominican Republic

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure** in **Jamaica** under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework**, strengthening **India–Caribbean relations**.

The initiative focuses on rapid medical response, humanitarian support, and technology-driven healthcare solutions.

Detailed Explanation:

India deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure** in **Jamaica** under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework**, strengthening **India–Caribbean relations**.

The initiative focuses on rapid medical response, humanitarian support, and technology-driven healthcare solutions.

Aarogya Maitri is a **portable and modular healthcare system** designed for **quick deployment in disaster-affected areas**.

It provides **scalable medical facilities**, enabling **technology-enabled diagnosis and treatment during emergencies**.

The deployment enhances cooperation between **India and the Caribbean Community**, promoting healthcare collaboration, disaster resilience, and capacity building.

The initiative is coordinated by the **National Security Council Secretariat** and the **Ministry of External Affairs**, ensuring **effective global outreach and humanitarian response**.

26. In 2026, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will be conducted through which two passes?

A.Rohtang Pass and Zoji La Pass

B.Khardung La Pass and Chang La Pass

C.Shipki La Pass and Banihal Pass

D.Lipulekh Pass and Nathu La Pass

E.Nathula Pass and Jelep La Pass

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** will be conducted from **June to August**, marking progress in **restoration of cross-border pilgrimage**.

The yatra is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in coordination with **China**.

It will be conducted through two routes: **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** and **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** will be conducted from **June to August**, marking progress in **restoration of cross-border pilgrimage**.

The yatra is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in coordination with **China**.

It will be conducted through two routes: **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** and **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim**.

The **Lipulekh Pass route** is **traditional and physically demanding**, involving trekking through **Himalayan terrain**.

The **Nathu La Pass route** is **comparatively easier**, with most travel done by **vehicles**, suitable for **elderly pilgrims**.

The yatra will be conducted in **20 batches**, each comprising **50 pilgrims**, with **10 batches through each route**, allowing participation of around **1,000 pilgrims**.

Applications can be submitted through the **official portal**, and selection will be done through a **computer-generated random process**, ensuring **fairness and gender balance**.

27. In 2026, Indian scientist Parveen Shaikh received the Whitley Award for conservation of which species?

A.Great Indian Bustard

B.Snow Leopard

C.Indian Skimmer

D.Ganges River Dolphin

E.Olive Ridley Turtle

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Indian scientist Parveen Shaikh received the **2026 Whitley Award** from the **Whitley Fund for Nature** for her work in protecting the **endangered Indian Skimmer**.

The award was presented at the **Royal Geographical Society** by **Princess Anne**, recognising **global impact of community-led conservation**.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian scientist Parveen Shaikh received the **2026 Whitley Award** from the **Whitley Fund**

for Nature for her work in protecting the **endangered Indian Skimmer**.

The award was presented at the **Royal Geographical Society** by **Princess Anne**, recognising **global impact of community-led conservation**.

The **Indian Skimmer** is a **rare river bird**, identified by its **bright orange bill and unique skimming feeding technique**.

India hosts over 90 per cent of the global population, estimated at around **3,000 birds**, nesting on **sandbars and mid-river islands**.

The species faces threats from **habitat loss, river flow changes, pollution, and human disturbance**, leading to decline across **South and Southeast Asia**.

28. In 2026, Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), a Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) warship, was built by which shipyard?

A.Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

B.Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

C.Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

D.Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)

E.Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the **sixth ship** of **Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)** and the **fourth ship** built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** in **Mumbai**.

The delivery marks a **major milestone** in achieving **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)** in **warship design and construction**.

Project 17A frigates are **multi-mission stealth warships** designed to address current and emerging **maritime challenges**.

Detailed Explanation:

Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the **sixth ship** of **Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)** and the **fourth ship** built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** in **Mumbai**.

The delivery marks a **major milestone** in achieving **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)** in **warship design and construction**.

Project 17A frigates are **multi-mission stealth warships** designed to address current and emerging **maritime challenges**.

These frigates represent a **quantum leap** in **naval design, stealth, firepower, automation, and survivability**.

The ships are designed by the **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and overseen by the **Warship Overseeing Team (Mumbai)**.

The project follows the concept of **Integrated Construction**, ensuring **timely delivery** and **efficient shipbuilding processes**.

P17A ships are equipped with more **advanced weapon and sensor systems** compared to the earlier **P17 (Shivalik-class) frigates**.

29. In 2026, who has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India?

A.Rajesh Kumar Singh

B.Bharat Khera

C.Sanjay Malhotra

D.Ajay Seth

E.Vivek Joshi

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Shri Bharat Khera has assumed charge as **Secretary**, **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, Government of India.

He is a **1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Himachal Pradesh cadre** with over **three decades** of administrative experience in both **Central and State Governments**.

Prior to this role, he served as **Additional Secretary**, **Department of Consumer Affairs**.

Detailed Explanation:

Shri Bharat Khera has assumed charge as **Secretary**, **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, Government of India.

He is a **1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Himachal Pradesh cadre** with over **three decades** of administrative experience in both **Central and State Governments**.

Prior to this role, he served as **Additional Secretary**, **Department of Consumer Affairs**.

He worked as **Joint Secretary** in the **Ministry of Defence** (November 2014 – February 2020), handling matters related to the **Indian Air Force** as **Joint Secretary (Air)**.

He was responsible for coordinating **national ceremonial events**, including **Republic Day celebrations** (2017–2020) for **four consecutive years**.

He also oversaw work related to the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** and **international defence cooperation**.

30. In 2026, who was appointed as the Festival Director for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

A.Shekhar Kapur

B.Anurag Kashyap

C.Karan Johar

D.Rajkumar Hirani

E.Ashutosh Gowariker

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)** has appointed noted filmmaker **Ashutosh Gowariker** as the **Festival Director** for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** to be held in **Goa**.

Ashutosh Gowariker is an acclaimed **Indian filmmaker** known for his significant contribution to **Indian cinema** and has maintained a long association with **IFFI** spanning several decades.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)** has appointed noted filmmaker **Ashutosh Gowariker** as the **Festival Director** for the **57th**

International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in **Goa**.

Ashutosh Gowariker is an acclaimed **Indian filmmaker** known for his significant contribution to **Indian cinema** and has maintained a long association with **IFFI** spanning several decades.

The **57th edition of IFFI** is scheduled to be held in **November 2026** in **Goa**.

The **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was established in **1952** and is regarded as **Asia's oldest and premier** film festival.

IFFI serves as a major platform for **showcasing global cinema**, promoting **cultural exchange**, and encouraging **artistic collaboration**.

The festival is **jointly organised** by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** along with the **Entertainment Society of Goa**, Government of Goa.

31. In 2026, who assumed charge as Secretary (Defence Finance), Ministry of Defence?

A.Rajesh Kumar Singh

B.Ajay Seth

C.Vishvajit Sahay

D.Sanjay Malhotra

E.T. V. Somanathan

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Shri Vishvajit Sahay, a **1990-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, assumed charge as **Secretary (Defence Finance)**, **Ministry of Defence** on **1 May 2026**.

Prior to this appointment, he served as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, playing a key role in **financial oversight and governance** in defence establishments.

Detailed Explanation:

Shri Vishvajit Sahay, a **1990-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, assumed charge as **Secretary (Defence Finance)**, **Ministry of Defence** on **1 May 2026**.

Prior to this appointment, he served as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, playing a key role in **financial oversight and governance** in defence establishments.

During his career, he has held several important positions including **Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser** in the **Department of Science and Technology**.

He also served as **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Heavy Industries** and **Finance Manager (Acquisition Wing)** in the **Ministry of Defence**.

He worked as **Director** in the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, gaining **multi-sector administrative experience**.

32. In 2026, the Vikram-1 mission by Skyroot Aerospace is a demonstration flight carrying which type of payloads?

A.CubeSats

B.GeoSatellites

C.NanoSatellites

D.Communication Satellites

E.Weather Satellites

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, flagged off the **flight hardware** of **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**.

The hardware was flagged off from the **Max-Q campus** in **Hyderabad, Telangana** to the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**, **Sriharikota** (Andhra Pradesh) for integration.

The mission is a **demonstration flight** carrying **CubeSats** to validate the rocket's **orbital capabilities**.

Detailed Explanation:

A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, flagged off the **flight hardware** of **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**.

The hardware was flagged off from the **Max-Q campus** in **Hyderabad, Telangana** to the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**, **Sriharikota** (Andhra Pradesh) for integration.

Vikram-1 is India's **maiden privately developed orbital launch vehicle**, marking a major milestone in the country's **private space sector** development.

The mission is a **demonstration flight** carrying **CubeSats** to validate the rocket's **orbital capabilities**.

The rocket is a **multi-stage launch vehicle** designed to carry payloads of up to **350 kg** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, located between 160 km and 2,000 km above Earth.

The mission is tentatively scheduled for **June 2026**, subject to approval from **IN-SPACe** (**Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center**) under the **Department of Space (DoS)**, with technical oversight from **ISRO**.

33. In 2026, the state-level celebrations of Gujarat Foundation Day (Gujarat Gaurav Diwas) on May 1, were held in which city?

A.Ahmedabad

B.Surat

C.Gandhinagar

D.Vadodara

E.Rajkot

Answer: B

Gujarat Foundation Day, also known as **Gujarat Gaurav Diwas**, is celebrated every year on **May 1** to mark the **formation of Gujarat in 1960 after separation from Bombay State**.

In **2026**, the state-level celebrations are held in **Surat**, featuring **cultural programmes and police motorcycle stunts**, reflecting a blend of **tradition and modern progress**.

34. In 2026, World Tuna Day is observed annually on which date?

A.May 1

B.May 3

C.June 5

D.April 22

E.May 2

Answer: E

World Tuna Day is observed every year on **May 2** to raise awareness about the **importance of tuna conservation**.

The day was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** and has been observed annually since **2017**.

Tuna is an **economically important fish species**, widely consumed and significant for **global food security and livelihoods**.

35. In 2026, who is the Cabinet Minister of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)?

A.Piyush Goyal

B.Narayan Rane

C.Jitan Ram Manjhi

D.Dharmendra Pradhan

E.Ashwini Vaishnaw

Answer: C

About Ministry of Micro,Small & Medium Enterprises :

Cabinet Minister : Jitan Ram Manjhi

Minister of State : Shobha Karandlaje

36. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India's 46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (Oct 2025–Mar 2026) reported which of the following as India's total forex reserves at end-March 2026?

A.USD 700.09 billion

B.USD 691.11 billion

C.USD 680.05 billion

D.USD 880.52 billion

E.USD 197.67 billion

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves** for the period **October 2025 to March 2026**.

During this period, **India's foreign exchange reserves** declined from **USD 700.09 billion** to **USD 691.11 billion**.

The **RBI** publishes these reports **twice a year**, based on positions as of **end-March and end-September**.

India's **foreign exchange reserves** are held in **multiple currencies**, including the **US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen**, but are reported in **US Dollar terms**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves** for the period **October 2025 to March 2026**.

During this period, **India's foreign exchange reserves** declined from **USD 700.09 billion** to **USD 691.11 billion**.

The **RBI** publishes these reports **twice a year**, based on positions as of **end-March and end-September**.

India's **foreign exchange reserves** are held in **multiple currencies**, including the **US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen**, but are reported in **US Dollar terms**.

The **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)** form a **major component** of reserves and are maintained as a **multi-currency portfolio** comprising global currencies and valued in **USD terms**.

As of **end-March 2026**, **RBI** held **880.52 metric tonnes of gold**, including **680.05 tonnes domestically stored**.

Additionally, **197.67 tonnes of gold** were kept in custody with the **Bank of England** and the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, while **2.80 tonnes** were held as **gold deposits**.

37. In 2026, the RBI mandated phased reporting of OTC INR derivative contracts to Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL). What is the minimum reporting coverage required for related parties from 01 January 2028?

A.60%

B.70%

C.80%

D.90%

E.100%

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to report all **Over-the-Counter (OTC) foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.

The directive aims to **enhance transparency** in the **foreign exchange market**.

It applies to **global transactions** undertaken by **related parties**, including **offshore entities** of **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.

From **01 January 2028**, the **reporting requirement** increases to **80% coverage**.

From **01 July 2028**, banks must achieve **100% reporting** of all such transactions by **related parties**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to report all **Over-the-Counter (OTC) foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.

The directive aims to **enhance transparency** in the **foreign exchange market**.

It applies to **global transactions** undertaken by **related parties**, including **offshore entities** of **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.

Both **deliverable and non-deliverable INR derivative contracts** must be reported.

From **01 July 2027**, banks must report all **foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving **INR** undertaken by their **parent entities**, including **branches of the parent**.

From the same date, banks must report at least **70% of transactions** of other **related parties**.

From **01 January 2028**, the **reporting requirement** increases to **80% coverage**.

From **01 July 2028**, banks must achieve **100% reporting** of all such transactions by **related parties**.

38. In 2026, under the RBI's Amendment Directions for NBFCs, which category is assigned to NBFCs not availing public funds, having no customer interface, and with asset size below ₹1,000 crore?

A.Unregistered Type I NBFCs

B.Type II NBFCs

C.Systemically Important NBFCs

D.Core Investment Companies

E.Deposit-taking NBFCs

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final guidelines titled **RBI (NBFC – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026** for certain **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.

The new regulations will come into effect from **01 July 2026**.

The framework applies to **NBFCs** not availing **public funds** and not having **customer interface**, with an **asset size below ₹1,000 crore**.

Such entities will be classified as **'Unregistered Type I NBFCs'**, while all other NBFCs will be categorised as **'Type II NBFCs'**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final guidelines titled **RBI (NBFC – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026** for certain **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.

The new regulations will come into effect from **01 July 2026**.

The framework applies to **NBFCs** not availing **public funds** and not having **customer interface**, with an **asset size below ₹1,000 crore**.

Such entities will be classified as **'Unregistered Type I NBFCs'**, while all other NBFCs will be categorised as **'Type II NBFCs'**.

These eligible NBFCs will be **exempted from RBI registration** and **reserve fund requirements**.

RBI has introduced a **one-time deregistration window** for eligible NBFCs, valid until **31 December 2026**, providing a **structured exit mechanism** from regulatory oversight.

This marks the **first-ever introduction** of a **formal exit route** under the NBFC regulatory framework.

The **RBI** has also allowed **suo motu loan resolution** for borrowers affected by **natural calamities** based on recommendations of the **State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC)**.

39. In 2026, under the RBI's updated Credit Card Directions, after how many days from the due date will a credit card account be marked as "past due"?

A.1 day

B.2 days

C.5 days

D.3 days

E.7 days

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **3-day grace period** for **credit card payments** under its updated regulatory framework.

A **credit card account** will be marked as **"past due"** only after **3 days from the due date**, instead of being classified immediately.

Banks can impose **late payment charges** and report to **credit bureaus** only after the **3-day grace period**.

The **new rule** will come into effect from **01 April 2027**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **3-day grace period** for **credit card payments** under its updated regulatory framework.

A **credit card account** will be marked as **"past due"** only after **3 days from the due date**, instead of being classified immediately.

Banks can impose **late payment charges** and report to **credit bureaus** only after the **3-day grace period**.

The **new rule** will come into effect from **01 April 2027**.

Under the **revised norms**, **late fees and penalties** will be levied only on the **outstanding amount**, not on the total billed amount.

However, the **"days past due"** will still be counted from the **original due date**, even during the grace period.

The changes are part of the **RBI (Credit Cards and Debit Cards: Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2026)**.

The regulation aims to **standardise reporting and penalty practices** across credit card issuers.

It provides a **limited relief window of 3 days**, ensuring **no immediate penalty or credit reporting impact** if payment is made within this period.

40. In 2026, under SEBI's PaRRVA framework, which entity has been recognised as the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) for validating performance data?

A.CRISIL Limited

B.ICRA Limited

C.CARE Ratings Limited

D.NSE Clearing Limited

E.BSE Limited

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.

The **PaRRVA framework** aims to strengthen **investor protection** and **market transparency** in India's financial ecosystem.
Under the framework, **CARE Ratings Limited** has been recognised as the **PaRRVA agency** responsible for **validation of performance data**.
The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** will function as the **PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC)** as per SEBI's regulatory framework issued on **04 April 2025**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.
The **PaRRVA framework** aims to strengthen **investor protection** and **market transparency** in India's financial ecosystem.
Under the framework, **CARE Ratings Limited** has been recognised as the **PaRRVA agency** responsible for **validation of performance data**.
The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** will function as the **PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC)** as per SEBI's regulatory framework issued on **04 April 2025**.
The **pilot phase** of PaRRVA was launched on **08 December 2025** and tested its operational structure.
After successful completion of the pilot phase, **PaRRVA** will begin **full-scale operations** from **04 May 2026**.
PaRRVA is India's **first system** to **independently validate** risk and return performance claims of **regulated intermediaries** and **unregistered finfluencers**.
The framework enables **investment advisers**, **research analysts**, and **algorithmic trading service providers** to showcase **verified performance data**.

41. In 2026, the Ganga Expressway inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh connects which two cities?
A.Lucknow to Varanasi
B.Meerut to Prayagraj
C.Kanpur to Gorakhpur
D.Agra to Ayodhya
E.Noida to Jhansi
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Uttar Pradesh** covering **Varanasi and Hardoi**, focusing on **women empowerment and infrastructure development**.
He attended a **Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi** with large participation of women and offered prayers at the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**.
Development projects worth around **₹6,350 crore** were inaugurated and foundation stones laid during the visit.

This includes **over 48 completed projects worth more than ₹1,050 crore** and **112 projects worth over ₹5,300 crore**.
It connects **12 districts from Meerut to Prayagraj**, integrating **western, central, and eastern Uttar Pradesh** and enhancing **logistics and connectivity**.
Detailed Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Uttar Pradesh** covering **Varanasi and Hardoi**, focusing on **women empowerment and infrastructure development**.
He attended a **Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi** with large participation of women and offered prayers at the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**.
Development projects worth around **₹6,350 crore** were inaugurated and foundation stones laid during the visit.
This includes **over 48 completed projects worth more than ₹1,050 crore** and **112 projects worth over ₹5,300 crore**.
The initiatives cover sectors such as **healthcare, tourism, railways, infrastructure, and connectivity**.
The **Ganga Expressway** was inaugurated in **Hardoi**, marking a major step in **world-class infrastructure development**.
The expressway is a **594 kilometre long six-lane (expandable to eight lanes) greenfield access-controlled corridor** built at a cost of **₹36,230 crore**.
It connects **12 districts from Meerut to Prayagraj**, integrating **western, central, and eastern Uttar Pradesh** and enhancing **logistics and connectivity**.

42. In 2026, during the 75th anniversary of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), what was launched to make it India's first fully digitised sports body?
A.NRAI Talent Hunt Portal
B.My NRAI Athlete Application
C.Khelo India Shooting App
D.National Sports Digital Platform
E.India Shooting Performance Tracker
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya attended the **75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India** (NRAI) held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range Finals Hall, New Delhi**.
A **commemorative logo** was unveiled to mark **75 years of Indian shooting**, symbolising **excellence, discipline, and achievements in the sport**.
The **My National Rifle Association of India Athlete Application** was launched as a **digital platform**, making the federation **India's first fully digitised sports body**.
Detailed Explanation:
Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya attended the **75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India** (NRAI) held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range Finals Hall, New Delhi**.

A **commemorative logo** was unveiled to mark **75 years of Indian shooting**, symbolising **excellence, discipline, and achievements in the sport**.

The **My National Rifle Association of India Athlete Application** was launched as a **digital platform**, making the federation **India's first fully digitised sports body**.

The association announced a **grassroots initiative** to introduce **7.5 lakh school and college students to shooting** before the **2028 Olympic Games**.

The programme will provide a **hands-on "10-shot experience"**, promoting **sports participation and talent identification at the grassroots level**.

43. In 2026, under the Citizenship Amendment Rules, which of the following has been made mandatory for all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration and renunciation applications?

A.Submission through district magistrate offices

B.Physical submission of documents in duplicate

C.Mandatory in-person interview

D.Verification by state police authorities only

E.Online submission of applications

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India**, through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, notified the **Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026**, modifying the **Citizenship Rules 2009** to make processes **more streamlined, digital, and efficient**.

All applications related to **Overseas Citizen of India registration and renunciation** will now be **submitted online**, eliminating **manual paperwork**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India**, through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, notified the **Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026**, modifying the **Citizenship Rules 2009** to make processes **more streamlined, digital, and efficient**.

A key clarification states that a minor child cannot hold both an Indian passport and a foreign passport simultaneously, reinforcing citizenship norms.

All applications related to **Overseas Citizen of India registration and renunciation** will now be **submitted online**, eliminating **manual paperwork**.

The rules introduce **electronic Overseas Citizen of India registration**, allowing issuance of either a **physical card or digital registration**.

The requirement of submitting **documents in duplicate has been removed**, simplifying the application process.

44. In 2026, who chaired the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting held in New Delhi?

A.Vinay Kwatra

B.S. Jaishankar

C.Dr Neena Malhotra

D.P. Kumaran

E.Dammu Ravi

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Dr Neena Malhotra, Secretary South, **Ministry of External Affairs**, chaired the **Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting** in **New Delhi** under **India's chairship**.

Detailed Explanation:

Dr Neena Malhotra, Secretary South, **Ministry of External Affairs**, chaired the **Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting** in **New Delhi** under **India's chairship**.

The meeting witnessed participation from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, focusing on **regional stability, humanitarian crises, and the West Asia conflict**.

Members expressed concern over the **situation in Palestine and Gaza**, including **humanitarian assistance and the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**.

The group reiterated **zero tolerance for terrorism**, welcomed the **Lebanon ceasefire**, and condemned attacks on the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**.

45. In May 2026, who was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), succeeding T. Rabi Sankar?

A.Rohit Jain

B.Michael Debabrata Patra

C.M. Rajeshwar Rao

D.T. Rabi Sankar

E.Shaktikanta Das

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has appointed **Rohit Jain** as the **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** through a notification dated **02 May 2026**.

He will succeed **T. Rabi Sankar**, the former Deputy Governor of RBI, who retired recently.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** has appointed **Rohit Jain** as the **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** through a notification dated **02 May 2026**.

The appointment has been made under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 8)**.

Rohit Jain is currently serving as an **Executive Director** at the **Reserve Bank of India**.

His appointment as **Deputy Governor of RBI** will be effective from **03 May 2026** for a **tenure of three years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

He will succeed **T. Rabi Sankar**, the former Deputy Governor of RBI, who retired recently.

The **portfolio allocation** for Rohit Jain as Deputy Governor is **yet to be announced**.

46. In 2026, who has assumed charge as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) from 1 May?

A.Anil Kumar Jha

B.Anugraha Narayana Das

C.S. Krishnan

D.Rajesh Kumar Singh

E.Ajay Bhushan Pandey

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Shri Anugraha Narayana Das, a **1991-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, has assumed charge as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** with effect from **1 May 2026**.

He brings over **three decades of experience** in **defence, financial management** and **public service**.

Detailed Explanation:

Shri Anugraha Narayana Das, a **1991-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, has assumed charge as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** with effect from **1 May 2026**.

He brings over **three decades of experience** in **defence, financial management** and **public service**.

During his career, he has led key initiatives in **procurement policy**, **audit and oversight mechanisms**, **budgeting**, and **expenditure monitoring**.

He has undergone **advanced training** from premier global institutions including **IIM Bengaluru** and **Duke University**.

He has served in important roles across the **Ministry of Defence**, **Service Headquarters**, and **field formations**.

47. In 2026, who was appointed as the President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)?

A.Bachu Venkat Balaram Das

B.Justice R. Subhash Reddy

C.Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud

D.Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal

E.Uday Umesh Lalit

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal, former judge of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court (HC)**, has been appointed as the **President** of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.

He succeeded **Bachu Venkat Balaram Das**, who was serving as the **acting President** of NCLT.

Detailed Explanation:

Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal, former judge of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court (HC)**, has been appointed as the **President** of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.

The appointment has been approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**

(ACC) for a **term of five years** or until the **age of 67 years**, whichever is earlier.

He succeeded **Bachu Venkat Balaram Das**, who was serving as the **acting President** of NCLT.

This is the **first time** a former **senior High Court judge** has been appointed as the President of NCLT, a post traditionally held by a former **Chief Justice** of a High Court.

Justice Grewal has over **30 years** of **legal and judicial experience**, beginning his legal practice at the Punjab and Haryana High Court in **1992**.

He was appointed as an **Additional Judge** of Punjab and Haryana HC on **25 September 2014**.

48. In 2026, the India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II is being conducted under which framework?

A.NATO Defence Protocol

B.SAARC Security Charter

C.QUAD Security Framework

D.ASEAN Defence Agreement

E.Chapter VII of the UN Mandate

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for the **2nd edition** of **India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026**, a joint **India–Cambodia Army Exercise**.

The exercise will be conducted from **04 to 17 May 2026** at the **Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil)**, **Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**.

The exercise is part of India's ongoing **Defence Cooperation** with **friendly foreign countries** amid evolving global security challenges.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for the **2nd edition** of **India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026**, a joint **India–Cambodia Army Exercise**.

The exercise will be conducted from **04 to 17 May 2026** at the **Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil)**, **Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**.

The exercise is part of India's ongoing **Defence Cooperation** with **friendly foreign countries** amid evolving global security challenges.

CINBAX-II 2026 is conducted under the framework of **Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Mandate**, focusing on **company-level joint training** in a **sub-conventional operational environment**.

The **Indian Army contingent** consists of **120 personnel**, mainly from a battalion of the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**.

The **Cambodian Army contingent** comprises **160 personnel** from the **Royal Cambodian Army**.

49. In 2026, DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted the maiden salvo launch of which missile system from a naval helicopter?

A.NASM-SR

B.Astra Mk-1

C.BrahMos Block III

D.Nirbhay Cruise Missile

E.Akash-NG

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted the **maiden salvo launch** of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR)**.

The test was carried out from a **naval helicopter platform** off the coast of the **Bay of Bengal** in **Odisha**.

During the trial, **two missiles** were launched in **quick succession** from the same helicopter, marking the **first-ever salvo launch** of an advanced **air-launched anti-ship missile system**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted the **maiden salvo launch** of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR)**.

The test was carried out from a **naval helicopter platform** off the coast of the **Bay of Bengal** in **Odisha**.

During the trial, **two missiles** were launched in **quick succession** from the same helicopter, marking the **first-ever salvo launch** of an advanced **air-launched anti-ship missile system**.

The missiles successfully demonstrated **waterline hit capability**, enhancing their effectiveness against **enemy ships**.

All **test objectives** were successfully achieved, with tracking carried out using **radar**, **electro-optical systems**, and **telemetry** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur**.

The test was witnessed by senior **DRDO scientists**, representatives from the **Indian Navy** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, and **Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPP)**.

50. In 2026, the Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) was established by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) at which location?

A.IIT Madras, Chennai

B.IIT Kharagpur

C.IISc, Bengaluru

D.NIOT, Chennai

E.Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, has established a **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-**

ART) at **Andhra University (AU)**, **Visakhapatnam**.

Andhra University has provided land on its campus for an **open-field meteorological observatory** to enable continuous atmospheric observations and research collaboration.

The **Open-Field Observatory of C-ART** was inaugurated on **1 May 2026** by **Dr. M. Ravichandran**, Secretary, MoES, in the presence of **Prof. G. P. Raja Sekhar** (Vice Chancellor, AU) and **Dr. Suryachandra Rao** (Director, IITM).

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, has established a **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART)** at **Andhra University (AU)**, **Visakhapatnam**.

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The **Open-Field Observatory of C-ART** was inaugurated on **1 May 2026** by **Dr. M. Ravichandran**, Secretary, MoES, in the presence of **Prof. G. P. Raja Sekhar** (Vice Chancellor, AU) and **Dr. Suryachandra Rao** (Director, IITM).

The initiative is part of the **Mission Mausam programme** of MoES, aimed at **strengthening weather observation networks** and improving **model prediction systems**.

A **brochure** on the **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed** was released highlighting **research objectives**, implementation strategy, institutional collaboration, **advanced meteorological instruments**, and regional impact.

A **short film** on the **C-ART project** in Visakhapatnam was also released during the event.

51. In 2026, which of the following indigenously developed solutions was launched by MeitY to support the design of Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs) in India?

A.Universal PPIC Test Engine

B.Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK)

C.Bharat Chip Design Platform

D.National Semiconductor Toolkit

E.Opto-Electronic Fabrication Suite

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched two **indigenously developed Silicon Photonics technology solutions** at the **Centre of Excellence for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CoE-CPPICS)**, **IIT Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The two solutions are the **Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK)** and the **Universal Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit (PPIC) Test Engine**.

The **Silicon Photonics PDK** provides **50+ verified components** for designing **Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs)** within India.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched two **indigenously developed Silicon Photonics technology solutions** at the **Centre of Excellence for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CoE-CPPICS)**, **IIT Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The two solutions are the **Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK)** and the **Universal Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit (PPIC) Test Engine**.

The **Silicon Photonics PDK** provides **50+ verified components** for designing **Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs)** within India.

It reduces **dependence on foreign design libraries** and supports **indigenous chip development** across **startups, industry, defence, academia**, and India's **semiconductor ecosystem**.

The **Universal PPIC Test Engine** is an **automated platform** for **testing, characterisation, and validation** of **photonic and optoelectronic modules**.

It eliminates **reliance on overseas testing facilities** and helps in **faster chip development**, **cost reduction**, and **reduced project delays**.

52. In 2026, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) approved the formation of a Joint Venture for integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading with which of the following subsidiaries?

A.Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) and ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL)

B.Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

C.Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

D.Oil India Limited (OIL) and Engineers India Limited (EIL)

E.Petronet LNG Limited and ONGC Videsh Limited

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, has approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** for **integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading**.

The **JV** will be formed with **ONGC's subsidiaries Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)** and **ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL)**.

The proposal is subject to approval from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, has approved the

formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** for **integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading**.
The **JV** will be formed with **ONGC's subsidiaries Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)** and **ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL)**.
The proposal is subject to approval from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.
The **shareholding structure** of the JV includes **ONGC (50% – ₹25 crore)**, **MRPL (25% – ₹12.5 crore)**, and **OPaL (25% – to be confirmed)**.
The **JV aims** to create a **unified group-level platform** for **petrochemical marketing operations** across ONGC group companies.
It will enable **operational integration**, improving **efficiency**, **supply chain optimisation**, and **cost reduction** through **economies of scale**.

53. In 2026, which former Indian golfer, a four-time Order of Merit champion, passed away at the age of 57 in Lucknow?
A.Jeev Milkha Singh
B.Arjun Atwal
C.Anirban Lahiri
D.Shiv Kapur
E.Vijay Kumar
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Former Indian golfer **Vijay Kumar** passed away at the age of **57** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
He was born in **1968** in **Martinpurwa, Lucknow**, and rose from **humble beginnings** in the sport.
Detailed Explanation:
Former Indian golfer **Vijay Kumar** passed away at the age of **57** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
He was born in **1968** in **Martinpurwa, Lucknow**, and rose from **humble beginnings** in the sport.
He began his career as a **caddie** and initially played using **makeshift clubs** made from tree branches, before **turning professional in 1988**.
Vijay Kumar achieved **domestic dominance**, becoming a **four-time Order of Merit champion** (1995–96, 1997–2000).
He was a **leading figure** in **Indian golf** from the mid-1990s to early 2000s, winning **nearly 100 titles**.

54. In 2026, what is the theme of World Laughter Day, it falls on the first Sunday of May every year?
A.Laugh for Health
B.Joy for All
C.World Peace Through Laughter
D.Happiness for Humanity
E.Smile for Wellness
Answer: C

World Laughter Day 2026 is observed on **May 3, 2026**, as it falls on the **first Sunday of May** every year.

The day was established in **1998** by **Dr Madan Kataria**, founder of the **Laughter Yoga Movement**.

The **theme for 2026** is **"World Peace Through Laughter"**, focusing on the role of laughter in **reducing stress, improving immunity, and promoting peace**.

The **first celebration** of World Laughter Day was held on **May 10, 1998**.

55. In 2026, what is the theme of World Press Freedom Day on May 3?

A.Media for Democracy

B.Freedom and Responsibility

C.Journalism for Justice

D.Shaping a Future of Peace

E.Voice of the People

Answer: D

World Press Freedom Day is observed every year on **May 3** to promote the importance of **press freedom and independent media**.

The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **December 1993**, following a recommendation by the **United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference**.

The **theme for 2026** is **"Shaping a Future of Peace"**.

56. In 2026, the Government of India allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under which route?

A.Government route only

B.Automatic route

C.Approval route via SEBI

D.Hybrid route (Automatic + Government)

E.RBI special permission route

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** has notified **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route**.

The reform aims to **liberalise and modernise** India's insurance sector framework to attract **global investment**.

Key laws being amended include the **Insurance Act, 1938**, the **LIC Act, 1956**, and the **IRDAI Act, 1999**.

The implementation of **100% FDI** will be subject to approval and regulation by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** has notified **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route**.

The reform aims to **liberalise and modernise** India's insurance sector framework to attract **global investment**.

Key laws being amended include the **Insurance Act, 1938**, the **LIC Act, 1956**, and the **IRDAI Act, 1999**.

The implementation of **100% FDI** will be subject to approval and regulation by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** will remain under a separate framework with a **foreign investment cap of 20%** under the automatic route.

The reform aligns with the **"Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025"**, which increased the **FDI limit from 74% to 100%**.

Insurance companies with foreign investment must ensure at least one **resident Indian citizen** holds **key leadership positions** such as **Chairperson, MD, or CEO**.

The **100% FDI limit** also applies to **insurance intermediaries**, including **brokers, reinsurance brokers, corporate agents, third-party administrators, surveyors, loss assessors, managing general agents, and insurance repositories**.

57. As of 2026, what is the minimum loan amount above which cases are handled by Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) in India?

A.₹10 lakh

B.₹20 lakh

C.₹50 lakh

D.₹1 crore

E.₹5 crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** organised a colloquium of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** and **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** to improve tribunal functioning.

DRTs handle cases involving **disputed bank loans above ₹20 lakh**.

The **SARFAESI Act, 2002** (**Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act**) enables banks and financial institutions to **recover secured debts** without court intervention at the first stage.

As of early 2026, there are **39 DRTs and 5 DRATs** functioning across India.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** organised a colloquium of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** and **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** to improve tribunal functioning.

The main objective was to **reduce pendency of cases** and **accelerate disposal** of **debt recovery matters** across tribunals.

Tribunals were encouraged to adopt **best practices** from high-performing DRTs to improve **efficiency and output**.

Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) are **specialised judicial bodies** established under the **Recovery of**

Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act).

DRTs handle cases involving **disputed bank loans above ₹20 lakh**.

The **SARFAESI Act, 2002** (**Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act**) enables banks and financial institutions to **recover secured debts** without court intervention at the first stage.

As of early 2026, there are **39 DRTs and 5 DRATs** functioning across India.

58. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding RBI credit trends:

1. **Gold/jewellery loans recorded the highest growth at 123% year-on-year.**
2. **Credit to consumer durables increased by more than 5%.**
3. **Export credit witnessed a contraction during the period.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.3 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **bank loans against jewellery** surged nearly **5 times** to **₹4.6 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, up from ₹93,301 crore two years earlier.

On a **year-on-year basis**, **gold/jewellery loans** grew **123%**, marking the **fastest growth** among all lending sectors.

Personal loans registered a growth of **16.2% year-on-year**, reflecting sustained **consumer demand**.

Credit to consumer durables declined by **5.3%**, reflecting a **slowdown** in **retail durable demand**.

Export credit contracted by **8.4%**, indicating **weakness** in **external trade financing**.

Detailed Explanation:

According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **bank loans against jewellery** surged nearly **5 times** to **₹4.6 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, up from ₹93,301 crore two years earlier.

On a **year-on-year basis**, **gold/jewellery loans** grew **123%**, marking the **fastest growth** among all lending sectors.

Priority sector housing loans rose sharply by **39.8%** to **₹10.44 lakh crore**, while **overall housing credit** increased by **11.5%** to **₹33.56 lakh crore**.

Personal loans registered a growth of **16.2% year-on-year**, reflecting sustained **consumer demand**.

Agriculture and allied credit grew by **15.7%**, compared to 10.4% earlier, showing improved **rural credit flow**.

Industry credit expanded by **15%**, indicating **recovery** in the **manufacturing and industrial sector**.

Services sector credit surged by **19% year-on-year**, driven by lending to **NBFCs, trade, and commercial real estate**.

Credit to consumer durables declined by **5.3%**, reflecting a **slowdown** in **retail durable demand**.

Export credit contracted by **8.4%**, indicating **weakness** in **external trade financing**.

59. In 2026, under the amended FEMA (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, what is the maximum permissible Chinese shareholding in an overseas entity to invest in India under the automatic route?

A.10%

B.5%

C.15%

D.20%

E.26%

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has tweaked rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to allow certain **overseas investments** under the **automatic route**.

The new provision permits **overseas entities** with up to **10% Chinese shareholding** to invest in India **without prior government approval**.

This decision follows the **Cabinet approval** in **March 2026**, which revised the **regulatory framework** for foreign investments.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** has tweaked rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to allow certain **overseas investments** under the **automatic route**.

The new provision permits **overseas entities** with up to **10% Chinese shareholding** to invest in India **without prior government approval**.

This decision follows the **Cabinet approval** in **March 2026**, which revised the **regulatory framework** for foreign investments.

The amendment is implemented through the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, which have come into **immediate effect**.

The relaxation enables **global firms** with limited **Chinese or Hong Kong ownership** to invest more easily in India.

However, the rule **does not apply** to entities registered in **China, Hong Kong**, or other **land-border countries**.

This restriction ensures continued focus on **national security safeguards** in **foreign investment policy**.

60. In 2026, NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) partnered with which company to

launch a unified switch and SDK for the Banking Connect platform?

A.Razorpay

B.PayU

C.Juspay

D.PhonePe

E.Cashfree Payments

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Juspay Technologies Private Limited** with an aim to launch a **unified switch** and **Software Development Kit (SDK)** for the **Banking Connect platform**.

The initiative is designed to enhance the **net banking experience** across India.

Banking Connect is an **interoperable platform** that **standardises net banking workflows** across banks and payment aggregators.

Detailed Explanation:

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Juspay Technologies Private Limited** with an aim to launch a **unified switch** and **Software Development Kit (SDK)** for the **Banking Connect platform**.

The initiative is designed to enhance the **net banking experience** across India.

Banking Connect is an **interoperable platform** that **standardises net banking workflows** across banks and payment aggregators.

It helps move beyond **fragmented legacy integrations** and improves **digital payment infrastructure**.

The platform provides a **single unified integration layer** with **central routing** and **structured data delivery**.

It enhances **security**, **customer experience**, and **operational efficiency** in net banking systems.

61. In 2026, 'Shubh Health Criti', an Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) launched in India, is offered by which company?

A.LIC of India

B.HDFC Life Insurance

C.ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

D.Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited

E.SBI Life Insurance

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** named **'Shubh Health Criti'** in India.

The plan is designed to build a **market-linked health fund** to meet **long-term medical and critical illness expenses**.

It provides coverage for **over 60 critical illnesses** and is available for individuals aged **18 to 65 years**.

The product includes a **30-year premium guarantee**, integrating **investment growth** with **healthcare financial planning**.

Detailed Explanation:

Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** named **'Shubh Health Criti'** in India.

The plan is designed to build a **market-linked health fund** to meet **long-term medical and critical illness expenses**.

It provides coverage for **over 60 critical illnesses** and is available for individuals aged **18 to 65 years**.

The product includes a **30-year premium guarantee**, integrating **investment growth** with **healthcare financial planning**.

The plan combines **insurance protection**, **investment growth**, and **structured health preparedness**.

It integrates **Tata AIA Health SIP (Systematic Investment Plan)**, **Health Buddy**, and **Comprehensive Protection Rider**.

These components provide **insurance cover**, **wellness support**, and **protection benefits** while building a **market-linked health corpus**.

Key benefits include **premium waiver on death or disability**, and **accidental death and disability cover**.

62. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the report "Women and Men in India 2025":

1. **It is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**
2. **The report includes metadata for 50 key indicators.**
3. **The sex ratio at birth declined to 904 in 2021–23.**
4. **Gender parity has been achieved across all levels of school education from Primary to Higher Secondary.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1, 2 and 4 only

B.1 and 3 only

C.2, 3 and 4 only

D.1, 2, 3 and 4

E.1 and 4 only

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **27th edition** of its publication titled **"Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data"** at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data for Development** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

It also includes **metadata for 50 key indicators** to improve clarity and understanding of statistical concepts and methodologies.

Sex ratio at birth improved from **904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**

Infant mortality rate declined consistently for both **male and female infants (2008–2023)**

Gender parity achieved across all levels of **school education from Primary to Higher Secondary**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **27th edition** of its publication titled **"Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data"** at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data for Development** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

It also includes **metadata for 50 key indicators** to improve clarity and understanding of statistical concepts and methodologies.

Presents **comprehensive gender-based indicators** across **rural–urban, State and Union Territory levels, and time series data**

Aims to support **evidence-based policymaking** for **inclusive and sustainable development**

Sex ratio at birth improved from **904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**

Infant mortality rate declined consistently for both **male and female infants (2008–2023)**

Gender parity achieved across all levels of **school education from Primary to Higher Secondary**

Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education increased to **30.2 for females and 28.9 for males (2022–23)**

Labour Force Participation Rate increased for both genders, with **rural females rising from 37.5 per cent to 45.9 per cent (2022–2025)**

Women in managerial positions increased by 102.54 per cent, compared to **73.80 per cent increase for men (2017–2025)**

63. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding marine fish production in India (2025):

1. **Tamil Nadu emerged as the top marine fish producing state, overtaking Gujarat.**
2. **Gujarat's decline in fish landings was partly due to cyclonic disturbances.**
3. **India's total marine fish production declined by 3% in 2025.**
4. **Kerala retained the third position in marine fish production.**

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

A.1, 2 and 4 only

B.1 and 3 only

C.3 only

D.1 and 4 only

E.1 only

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Gujarat recorded around 15 per cent decline in marine fish landings, losing its top position

Decline caused by **reduced fishing days due to adverse weather, Operation Sindoor-related ban, and extended fishing ban (60 to 75 days)**

Impact of **cyclonic disturbances including Cyclone Shakti** affected Gujarat and **Daman and Diu**

Tamil Nadu emerged as the **leading marine fish producing state** in 2025

Kerala retained **third position** with **0.62 million tonnes**, showing marginal growth

Despite this, India's total **marine fish production increased by about 3 per cent year-on-year to 3.57 million tonnes in 2025**.

Detailed Explanation:

According to the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**, **Tamil Nadu** has emerged as the **top marine fish producing state in India in 2025**, overtaking **Gujarat**.

The shift is attributed to a **significant decline in Gujarat's fish landings** due to adverse weather conditions, extended fishing bans, and cyclonic disturbances.

Despite this, India's total **marine fish production increased by about 3 per cent year-on-year to 3.57 million tonnes in 2025**.

Gujarat recorded around 15 per cent decline in marine fish landings, losing its top position

Decline caused by **reduced fishing days due to adverse weather, Operation Sindoor-related ban, and extended fishing ban (60 to 75 days)**

Impact of **cyclonic disturbances including Cyclone Shakti** affected Gujarat and **Daman and Diu**

Tamil Nadu emerged as the **leading marine fish producing state** in 2025

Kerala retained **third position** with **0.62 million tonnes**, showing marginal growth

Karnataka recorded over **43 per cent increase**, while **Maharashtra** saw over **16 per cent growth**

Cephalopods and threadfin breams recorded strong growth, reaching **decadal-high levels**

Pelagic fish contributed **54 per cent** of total marine catch

Marine fish landings generated around **₹69,254 crore at landing level** and **₹97,702 crore at retail level**

Marketing efficiency improved to 70.88 per cent, with **Kerala recording the highest efficiency (72.83 per cent)**

64. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding India's Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system:

1. **It was launched on the Surat–Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat.**
2. **The system requires vehicles to stop at toll plazas for toll payment.**
3. **It uses ANPR(Automatic Number Plate Recognition), AI analytics, and RFID(Radio Frequency Identification)-based ETC for seamless tolling.**
4. **Non-payment within 72 hours may attract penalties.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

A.1 only
B.2 only
C.2 and 4 only
D.1 and 3 only
E.3 and 4 only
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, announced the launch of India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow barrier-less tolling system** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the **Surat–Bharuch section of National Highway-48 in Gujarat**.
The system enables **non-stop toll collection** through advanced digital technologies, marking a key advancement in smart highway infrastructure development.
Combines **Automatic Number Plate Recognition with Artificial Intelligence analytics** and **Radio Frequency Identification-based Electronic Toll Collection system**
Payment of notices to be completed within 72 hours, failing which penalties including double toll charges may apply
Detailed Explanation:
Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, announced the launch of India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow barrier-less tolling system** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the **Surat–Bharuch section of National Highway-48 in Gujarat**.
The system enables **non-stop toll collection** through advanced digital technologies, marking a key advancement in smart highway infrastructure development.
Introduced as a **state-of-the-art tolling mechanism** eliminating the need for physical toll booths
Combines **Automatic Number Plate Recognition with Artificial Intelligence analytics** and **Radio Frequency Identification-based Electronic Toll Collection system**
Ensures **real-time toll processing** without disrupting vehicle speed
Contributes to **streamlined traffic flow** on high-density highway corridors
Supports **logistics efficiency** by enabling faster freight movement
Aligns with global practices in **intelligent transport systems**
Strengthens **digital integration in road infrastructure management**
Helps in **reducing operational costs** associated with manual toll collection
Enhances **user convenience** through contactless and automated systems
Part of the broader vision to develop **modern, technology-enabled National Highways network in India**
Payment of notices to be completed within 72 hours, failing which penalties including double toll charges may apply

65. In 2026, continued concerns over intellectual property rights in the USTR(United States Trade Representative)

Special 301 Report may lead to action under which provision of U.S. law?

A.Section 201 of the Trade Act

B.Section 201 of the Trade Act

C.Section 401 of the Trade Facilitation Act

D.Section 102 of the Tariff Act

E.Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India has been included in the **Priority Watch List** of the **United States Trade Representative Special 301 Report 2026**, indicating concerns over the country's **intellectual property rights framework**.

Continued concerns can escalate to action under **Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974**

Detailed Explanation:

India has been included in the **Priority Watch List** of the **United States Trade Representative Special 301 Report 2026**, indicating concerns over the country's **intellectual property rights framework**.

The report reviews how effectively trading partners protect patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets, and is used by the United States of America to push for stronger compliance.

The report is an **annual evaluation mechanism** for monitoring global **intellectual property protection practices**

Classification system includes **Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, and Watch List**

India's placement points to gaps in **legal enforcement and administrative efficiency**

Concerns relate to **limited protection environment for innovation-driven industries**

Leads to **increased bilateral engagement** for policy reforms and corrective measures

May shape **future trade policy discussions and negotiations**

Continued concerns can escalate to action under **Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974**

66. In 2026, where was the world's largest underwater national flag unfurled, creating a Guinness World Record?

A.Marina Beach, Chennai

B.Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep

C.Juhu Beach, Mumbai

D.Puri Beach, Odisha

E.Kovalam Beach, Kerala

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** achieved a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag** at **Radhanagar Beach** on **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**.

The **Indian National Flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**, was deployed underwater through a coordinated operation and received **official recognition from Guinness World Records**, marking a significant achievement for the country.

Record created for the **largest underwater national flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** achieved a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag** at **Radhanagar Beach** on **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**.

The **Indian National Flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**, was deployed underwater through a coordinated operation and received **official recognition from Guinness World Records**, marking a significant achievement for the country.

Record created for the **largest underwater national flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**

Event conducted at **Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**

Operation involved over **200 trained divers** ensuring precise underwater deployment

Participation of multiple agencies including **Andaman and Nicobar Police, Forest Department, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard**

Inclusion of **young divers (school students)** highlighting youth participation in national initiatives

67. In 2026, CJI Surya Kant announced that Sikkim has become the first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary. Which software is used to enhance judicial processes through translation under India's digital judiciary initiative?

A.e-Courts Service App

B.Nyaya Setu Portal

C.Vidhik Anuvaad Software

D.न्याय Mitra AI System

E.e-Filing Portal

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, announced that **Sikkim** has become the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**.

The announcement was made at the **National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** in **Gangtok**.

Use of **Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency** and **Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software** for enhancing judicial processes

Detailed Explanation:

Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, announced that **Sikkim** has become the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**.

The announcement was made at the **National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** in **Gangtok**.

The development marks a significant step towards **digital justice delivery**, with court processes being carried out entirely through **electronic systems**, eliminating the need for physical paperwork and improving overall efficiency.

Sikkim sets a national example by implementing a **fully digital judicial system**

Entire court procedure conducted through **electronic filing, digital documentation, and online services**

Initiative implemented with support from the **High Court of Sikkim**

Linked with the **electronic Courts Mission Mode Project** for judicial digitization

Use of **Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency** and **Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software** for enhancing judicial processes

68. In 2026, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches National Framework for Childhood Diabetes for the 0–18 years age group. Which symptom-based awareness strategy has been adopted for early identification of childhood diabetes in India?

A.3Cs Strategy

B.4Ts Strategy

C.5As Strategy

D.6Ps Strategy

E.7Ds Strategy

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has introduced a national framework for managing childhood diabetes for the **0–18 years** age group.

The initiative emphasizes **early identification, standardized treatment, and long-term disease management** to reduce **complications and mortality**.

It is supported by the release of the **Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children**, establishing a **uniform national protocol**.

Adoption of **symptom-based awareness strategy (4Ts: Toilet, Thirsty, Tired, Thinner)** for early recognition

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has introduced a national framework for managing childhood diabetes for the **0–18 years** age group.

The initiative emphasizes **early identification, standardized treatment, and long-term disease management** to reduce **complications and mortality**.

It is supported by the release of the **Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children**, establishing a **uniform national protocol**.

The framework strengthens the healthcare system by creating **linkages from grassroots screening to tertiary-level treatment**, and highlights the government's focus on **Non-Communicable Diseases** in children.

Introduction of a **standardized national protocol** for childhood diabetes management

Implementation of **population-wide screening** through community and school networks

Adoption of **symptom-based awareness strategy (4Ts: Toilet, Thirsty, Tired, Thinner)** for early recognition

Provision of a **completely free treatment package** including insulin, diagnostic tools, and regular monitoring

Focus on **continuous care and follow-up** to prevent long-term health risks

69. In 2026, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)?

A.Om Birla

B.Baijayant Panda

C.Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal

D.K. C. Venugopal

E.Piyush Goyal

Answer: D

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has reconstituted **four Parliamentary Committees** for the year **2026–27**.

The **Committee on Estimates** has been chaired by **BJP MP Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal** and comprises **30 members from the Lok Sabha**.

The **Committee on Public Undertakings** will be headed by **BJP MP Baijayant Panda** and includes **15 Lok Sabha members** and **7 Rajya Sabha members**.

The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** has been chaired by **Congress MP K. C. Venugopal consists** of **15 Lok Sabha members** and **7 Rajya Sabha members**.

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70. In 2026, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)?

A.K. C. Venugopal

B.Baijayant Panda

C.Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal

D.Om Birla

E.Faggan Singh Kulaste

Answer: E

The **Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)** will be headed by **BJP MP Faggan Singh Kulaste**.

This committee comprises **20 members from Lok Sabha** and **10 members from Rajya Sabha**.

The **tenure** of all four Parliamentary Committees will be from **1st of this month** to **30th April next year**.

71. In 2026, who among the following was appointed as a full-time member of NITI Aayog and is known for expertise in Nyishi culture?

A.Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

B.Dr. Joram Aniya

C.Amitabh Kant

D.Rajiv Kumar

E.Bibek Debroy

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of **Dr. R. Balasubramaniam** and **Dr. Joram Aniya** as **full-time members** of **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).**

With these appointments, the **total number of full-time members** in NITI Aayog has increased to **seven**.

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of **Dr. R.**

Balasubramaniam and **Dr. Joram Aniya** as **full-time members** of **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).**

With these appointments, the **total number of full-time members** in NITI Aayog has increased to **seven**.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam is a former member of the **Capacity Building Commission** and author of the book **"Power Within"**.

Dr. Joram Aniya is an academician with expertise in **public policy** and **Nyishi culture**. Her appointment is **historic** as she is the **first woman from the Nyishi community** with a **PhD** and the **first Hindi doctorate** from **Arunachal Pradesh**.

72. In 2026, the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), visited by the President of India, is headquartered in which city?

A.New Delhi

B.Pune

C.Shimla

D.Dehradun

E.Chandigarh

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The Hon'ble **President of India** and **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, visited the **Headquarters of Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, **Shimla**. She was received by the Hon'ble **Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta** and **Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma**, **GOC-in-C, ARTRAC**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Hon'ble **President of India** and **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, visited the **Headquarters of Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, **Shimla**. She was received by the Hon'ble **Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta** and **Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma**, **GOC-in-C, ARTRAC**.

The President was briefed on the **evolution of ARTRAC** and its key role in providing **quality training** to **Indian Army personnel** to enhance **operational efficiency**.

The briefing highlighted important initiatives such as **Drone Training**, adoption of **niche technologies**, **Red Teaming concept**, **Digitisation**, and **Automation** in the Indian Army.

ARTRAC plays a crucial role in **designing concepts of warfare**, **resource development** for the Army, and engagement with **Friendly Foreign Countries** and **Sister Services**.

73. In 2026, what was the value of the deal through which Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) acquired a 51% stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC?

A.₹249.5 crore

B.₹199.5 crore

C.₹149.5 crore

D.₹299.5 crore

E.₹349.5 crore

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has acquired a **controlling 51% stake** in **Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC)**, marking its **first international acquisition**.

The deal, valued at **₹249.5 crore**, makes **Sri Lanka's largest shipyard** a subsidiary of MDL.

This acquisition strengthens **India's maritime presence** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has acquired a **controlling 51% stake** in **Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC)**, marking its **first international acquisition**.

The deal, valued at **₹249.5 crore**, makes **Sri Lanka's largest shipyard** a subsidiary of MDL.

This acquisition strengthens **India's maritime presence** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

The move is aligned with the government's long-term maritime strategy, **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

The **acquisition process** began in **January 2025** and was completed after over a year of **regulatory and procedural approvals**.

The **Board of Colombo Dockyard PLC** has been **reconstituted** with MDL nominees.

Capt Jagmohan (Retd), Chairman & Managing Director of MDL, has been appointed as **Non-Executive Chairman** of CDPLC with effect from **07 April 2026**.

74. In 2026, what is the maximum speed achieved by India's Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM) during testing?

A.Mach 3

B.Mach 5

C.Mach 7

D.Mach 10

E.Mach 12

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India has successfully conducted the **second flight test** of a **Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM)** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

The test was carried out off the **Odisha coast**, marking a major boost to **maritime defence capability**.

The missile has a **strike range of over 1,500 km** and can achieve speeds of up to **Mach 10**, making it one of the **fastest weapons** in India's arsenal.

It is based on a **Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)** system, maintaining an average speed of around **Mach 5** during the glide phase.

Detailed Explanation:

India has successfully conducted the **second flight test** of a **Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM)** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

The test was carried out off the **Odisha coast**, marking a major boost to **maritime defence capability**.

The missile has a **strike range of over 1,500 km** and can achieve speeds of up to **Mach 10**, making it one of the **fastest weapons** in India's arsenal.

It is based on a **Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)** system, maintaining an average speed of around **Mach 5** during the glide phase.

The missile uses a **two-stage solid rocket system**, enhancing both **speed and manoeuvrability**.

It is capable of **evading modern radar** and ship-based interception systems due to its **low-altitude** and **unpredictable flight trajectories**.

The missile can target both **stationary and moving naval assets**, including **aircraft carriers**, enhancing its **"carrier-killer"** capability.

It features **advanced indigenous sensors** for **high-precision targeting** in the terminal phase.

75. In 2026, Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD) signed a long-term agreement with Rolls-Royce worth approximately how much?

A.₹1,800 crore

B.₹2,500 crore

C.₹3,800 crore

D.₹4,200 crore

E.₹5,000 crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD), an Indian aerospace and defence company, has signed a **7-year long-term agreement** worth **₹3,800 crore (~300 million pounds)** with **Rolls-Royce (UK)**.

The agreement focuses on the **manufacturing and supply** of **high-precision, safety-critical aerospace components** for global aerospace programmes of Rolls-Royce.

Detailed Explanation:

Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD), an Indian aerospace and defence company, has signed a **7-year long-term agreement** worth **₹3,800 crore (~300 million pounds)** with **Rolls-Royce (UK)**.

The agreement focuses on the **manufacturing and supply** of **high-precision, safety-critical aerospace components** for global aerospace programmes of Rolls-Royce.

The scope includes **aerospace components, assemblies, engine parts, and aerostructure components**, ensuring high-quality and safety standards.

The collaboration operates through an **integrated India–UK manufacturing platform**, combining **cost efficiency** with **engineering excellence** and proximity.

The deal strengthens **India–UK industrial cooperation** in the **aerospace and defence sector**.

76. In 2026, which public health monitoring system tracks symptoms like fever, respiratory illness, and diarrhoea before laboratory confirmation for early outbreak detection?

A.Syndromic Surveillance
B.Laboratory Surveillance
C.Sentinel Surveillance
D.Integrated Surveillance
E.Event-based Surveillance
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed a **Priority Pathogen List** for **Syndromic Surveillance** in India.
The list was released by the **Division of Communicable Diseases** on **17 November 2025** for **infectious disease monitoring**, **diagnostic standardisation**, and **outbreak detection**.
Syndromic surveillance is a public health monitoring system that tracks **symptoms** such as fever, respiratory illness, diarrhoea, and encephalitis before **laboratory confirmation**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed a **Priority Pathogen List** for **Syndromic Surveillance** in India.
The list was released by the **Division of Communicable Diseases** on **17 November 2025** for **infectious disease monitoring**, **diagnostic standardisation**, and **outbreak detection**.
Syndromic surveillance is a public health monitoring system that tracks **symptoms** such as fever, respiratory illness, diarrhoea, and encephalitis before **laboratory confirmation**.
It helps in **detecting unusual disease clusters** in epidemic-prone settings and supports **early public health action**.
The **ICMR priority pathogen list** was prepared after **44 expert consultations** involving clinicians, laboratory specialists, and epidemiologists.
The pathogens are classified into **four tiers** based on **prevalence**, **outbreak potential**, **national elimination goals**, and **diagnostic availability**.
This classification supports **patient care**, **laboratory testing**, and **public health planning**.
The **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)** is a digital **disease surveillance system** under the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

77. In 2026, what is the name of the mobile application launched by the Mizoram Government for real-time disaster reporting and management?
A.Suraksha App
B.Raksha Setu
C.Aapda Sahayak
D.Disaster Mitra
E.Khuarel
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
The **Mizoram Government** has launched the **'Khuarel' mobile application**, a **real-time**

disaster incident reporting and management system.

The app was unveiled in **Aizawl, Mizoram** by **Lalnilawma**, Minister of **Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DM&R)**.

Mizoram has become one of the **first Northeastern states** to adopt a **digital disaster management solution**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Mizoram Government** has launched the **'Khuarel' mobile application**, a **real-time disaster incident reporting** and management system.

The app was unveiled in **Aizawl, Mizoram** by **Lalnilawma**, Minister of **Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DM&R)**.

Mizoram has become one of the **first Northeastern states** to adopt a **digital disaster management solution**.

The **Khuarel app** has been developed by the **Mizoram State e-Governance Society** for **disaster-prone regions**.

The app enables **real-time disaster response**, **coordination**, and **communication** across the state.

It allows **citizens** to quickly **report disaster incidents** to authorities for **faster response**

78. In 2026, 'Ru-Soam', documented by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Sikkim, refers to which of the following?

A.Traditional irrigation system

B.Indigenous cane bridges

C.Mountain farming technique

D.Tribal housing structure

E.Forest conservation practice

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document the indigenous engineering practice of **Ru-Soam cane bridges** developed by the **Lepcha community** in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.

Ru-Soam refers to traditional **cane bridges**, where 'Ru' means cane and 'Soam' means bridge

Detailed Explanation:

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document the indigenous engineering practice of **Ru-Soam cane bridges** developed by the **Lepcha community** in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.

The initiative aims to study the **design, durability, and environmental aspects** of these bridges and assess their relevance for climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilient infrastructure development.

Ru-Soam refers to traditional **cane bridges**, where 'Ru' means cane and 'Soam' means bridge

Built using **locally available materials** such as **bamboo, cane, and wood**

Structure includes **parallel cane supports (soamgyang)** tied to trees, **cane loops (ahool)**, and **bamboo decking (soamgur)**
Bridges can extend up to **100 metres** and allow **limited pedestrian movement**

79. In 2026, India was defeated by which country in the semifinals of the Thomas Cup, resulting in a bronze medal finish?
A.China
B.Indonesia
C.Denmark
D.France
E.Japan
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
India's campaign in the **Thomas Cup 2026** ended with a **0–3 defeat against France in the semifinals**, resulting in a **bronze medal finish** in Horsens Denmark.
The loss highlighted a challenging outing for India, as they failed to secure a single match in the semifinal tie.
The absence of **Lakshya Sen** due to injury further weakened the team,
while **France** created history by reaching their **first-ever final** in the tournament.
India lost **0–3 to France** in the semifinal, ending their campaign with a **bronze medal**
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while **France** created history by reaching their **first-ever final** in the tournament.
India lost **0–3 to France** in the semifinal, ending their campaign with a **bronze medal**
Ayush Shetty lost to **Christo Popov** (11–21, 9–21) in the opening singles match
Kidambi Srikanth was defeated by **Alex Lanier** (16–21, 18–21) in the second match
HS Prannoy lost to **Toma Junior Popov** (19–21, 16–21), sealing India's exit
India failed to win a single match in the semifinal tie
Lakshya Sen missed the match due to **injury (swollen elbow)**, impacting team performance

80. In 2026, Coal Miners Day is observed every year on which date?
A.May 1
B.May 2
C.May 3
D.May 5
E.May 4
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Coal Miners Day is observed every year on **May 4** to recognise the **contribution of coal miners** to the economy and energy sector.

Coal is a **major fossil fuel rich in carbon** and remains a **key source of energy** for power generation and industrial use.

In India, **coal mining began in 1774** at the **Raniganj Coalfield** located on the **Damodar River**.

Detailed Explanation:

Coal Miners Day is observed every year on **May 4** to recognise the **contribution of coal miners** to the economy and energy sector.

Coal is a **major fossil fuel rich in carbon** and remains a **key source of energy** for power generation and industrial use.

Coal mining refers to the **extraction of coal from the earth**, which plays a crucial role in **energy production and industrial development**.

In India, **coal mining began in 1774** at the **Raniganj Coalfield** located on the **Damodar River**.

The importance of coal increased significantly during the **Industrial Revolution between 1760 and 1840**, when it was widely used for **heating and industrial purposes**.

Major coal-producing states in India include **Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal**.

81. In 2026, SEBI proposed amendments to align its framework with RBI guidelines on securitisation of standard assets. These amendments are related to which of the following?

A.Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)

B.Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

C.Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)

D.Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI)

E.Credit Rating Agencies (CRA)

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI) Regulations** to align them with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** guidelines on **securitisation of standard assets (SSA)**.

The move aims to remove **regulatory inconsistencies** between SEBI and RBI frameworks, especially for transactions originated by **RBI-regulated entities**.

SEBI has proposed allowing **single-asset securitisation** for RBI-regulated entities by **exempting** them from the condition that no **single obligor** should account for more than **25% of the asset pool**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI) Regulations** to align them with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** guidelines on **securitisation of standard assets (SSA)**.

The move aims to remove **regulatory inconsistencies** between SEBI and RBI frameworks, especially for transactions originated by **RBI-regulated entities**.

SEBI has proposed allowing **single-asset securitisation** for RBI-regulated entities

by **exempting** them from the condition that no **single obligor** should account for more than **25% of the asset pool**.

The proposal also seeks to **relax restrictions** on transactions between **originators** and related **Special Purpose Distinct Entities (SPDEs)**, provided there is **no control** exercised over the SPDE or trustee.

SEBI defines the **originator** as the **original lender or seller** of financial assets, such as **banks or financial institutions**, which transfers receivables to an **SPDE**.

On **governance norms**, SEBI has proposed that **RBI-regulated originators** should have only **one representative** on the **SPDE board**, and such a representative should **not have veto powers**.

SEBI has also proposed changes in **winding-up provisions** of securitisation schemes, allowing **appointment of a new trustee** instead of **liquidation** in case of suspension or cancellation of **trustee registration**.

82. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding non-food credit growth in FY 2025–26:

1. **Non-food credit growth stood at 15.9%, higher than the previous year.**
2. **The services sector recorded the highest growth among all major sectors.**
3. **Micro and Small industries registered a growth of over 30%.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.1 only

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Financial Year 2025–26** ended with strong **year-on-year (y-o-y) non-food credit growth of 15.9%**, an increase of **497 basis points (bps)** from 10.9% in FY 2024–25.

Micro and Small industries recorded a sharp **33.1% growth** (3.7 times higher).

Overall **credit growth** in FY 2025–26 was **broad-based**, led by the **services sector**, followed by **personal loans**, **agriculture**, and **industry**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Financial Year 2025–26** ended with strong **year-on-year (y-o-y) non-food credit growth of 15.9%**, an increase of **497 basis points (bps)** from 10.9% in FY 2024–25.

The **aggregate credit outstanding** in **March 2026** reached **₹212.9 lakh crore**, which is **₹29.2 lakh crore higher** than the previous year.

The growth in credit was supported by a **low-interest rate environment**, **government-led capex cycle**, **structural reforms**, and **private sector investment crowding-in**, boosting **domestic credit demand**.

Overall **credit growth** in FY 2025–26 was **broad-based**, led by the **services sector**, followed by **personal loans**, **agriculture**, and **industry**.

Sector-wise Credit Performance:

Agriculture and Allied Activities: Credit growth accelerated to **15.7%**, up by **528 bps** from 10.4% last year, driven by **strong rural demand** and **formalisation of rural credit**.

Industrial Sector: Credit expanded at **15.0%**, nearly **double** the previous year's 8.2% growth. **Micro and Small industries** recorded a sharp **33.1% growth** (3.7 times higher). **Medium industries** grew by **21.7%**.

Key drivers included **infrastructure, metals, chemicals, petroleum, coal products, and nuclear fuels**.

Services Sector: Credit grew by **19.0%**, compared to 12.0% last year, driven by **NBFCs, trade, and commercial real estate**, with services contributing **28% of total credit**.

Personal Loans: Grew by **16.2%**, higher than 11.7% last year, supported by **housing loans, vehicle loans, and gold jewellery loans**, and accounting for **33% of total credit share**.

83. In 2026, under the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) USD 70 billion initiative, what is the outlay allocated for the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway?

A.USD 10 billion

B.USD 15 billion

C.USD 30 billion

D.USD 20 billion

E.USD 50 billion

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Asian Development Bank** launched a **USD 70 billion initiative** to expand **energy and digital infrastructure** across **Asia-Pacific by 2035**.

The initiative was announced during the **59th Annual Meeting** held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.

The programme focuses on enhancing **connectivity**, **cross-border power trade**, **broadband access**, and **regional resilience**.

The initiative includes **two major components**:

USD 50 billion Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative

USD 20 billion Asia-Pacific Digital Highway

Detailed Explanation:

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The initiative includes **two major components**:

USD 50 billion Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative

USD 20 billion Asia-Pacific Digital Highway

Under the **Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative**, **ADB** aims to connect national and subregional power systems to enable **cross-border renewable energy flow**.

By **2035**, the power grid initiative targets: integration of **20 GW renewable energy**, **22,000 circuit-km transmission lines**, **energy access for 200 million people**, **840,000 jobs creation**, and **15% reduction in power sector emissions**.

The initiative supports **transmission infrastructure**, **substations**, **grid digitalisation**, **storage systems**, and **renewable energy export projects**.

It promotes a shift from bilateral energy links to a **regional power trade approach**, building on programmes like **ASEAN Power Grid** and **CAREC Energy Strategy 2030**.

84. In 2026, how much gold was held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) as of March 2026?

A.197.67 MT

B.168.06 MT

C.104.23 MT

D.680 MT

E.880.52 MT

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India** moved **104.23 metric tonnes (MT)** of its **gold reserves domestically** in the six months ended **March 2026**, reflecting a continued shift toward **domestic gold custody**.

The **RBI's total gold holdings** increased marginally to **880.52 MT** in March 2026, from 880.18 MT in September 2025, as per the **half-yearly foreign exchange reserves report**.

In **FY 2025–26**, the RBI brought a total of **168.06 MT of gold to India**, compared to 107.21 MT in 2023–24 and 103.68 MT in 2024–25, showing a **rising trend** in **domestic gold storage**.

As of March 2026, **197.67 MT** of gold was held in **safe custody** with the **Bank of England** and **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, while **2.80 MT** was kept as **gold deposits**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India** moved **104.23 metric tonnes (MT)** of its **gold reserves domestically** in the six months ended **March 2026**, reflecting a continued shift toward **domestic gold custody**.

The **RBI's total gold holdings** increased marginally to **880.52 MT** in March 2026, from 880.18 MT in September 2025, as per the **half-yearly foreign exchange reserves report**.

In **FY 2025–26**, the RBI brought a total of **168.06 MT of gold to India**, compared to 107.21 MT in 2023–24 and 103.68 MT in 2024–25, showing a **rising trend** in **domestic gold storage**.

Around **77%** of RBI's total gold holdings (**680 MT**) is now **stored within India**, strengthening **domestic custody** of reserves.

As of March 2026, **197.67 MT** of gold was held in **safe custody** with the **Bank of**

England and **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, while **2.80 MT** was kept as **gold deposits**.

The report highlights a **global trend** of **diversification of gold storage**, with countries increasingly shifting toward **domestic vaulting** and reduced dependence on foreign storage institutions.

The **rise in gold prices** increased the share of gold in India's **foreign exchange reserves** to **16.7%** in March 2026, up from 13.92% earlier.

The RBI's **foreign currency assets (FCA)** and **reserve management structure** continue to support **financial stability**, with investments spread across **securities, central banks, BIS, and commercial bank deposits**.

85. In April 2026, India recorded its highest-ever monthly GST collection. What was the total gross GST revenue collected during the month?

A.₹2.03 lakh crore

B.₹2.23 lakh crore

C.₹2.43 lakh crore

D.₹2.63 lakh crore

E.₹2.83 lakh crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

According to government data, India's **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** reached a record **₹2.43 lakh crore** in **April**, marking an **8.7% year-on-year growth** over ₹2.23 lakh crore collected in April last year.

The growth was primarily driven by **import-based GST collections**, while **domestic sales growth** remained relatively slower.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in **2017** through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, as a comprehensive **indirect tax** for the entire country.

Detailed Explanation:

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The growth was primarily driven by **import-based GST collections**, while **domestic sales growth** remained relatively slower.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in **2017** through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, as a comprehensive **indirect tax** for the entire country.

GST has **three components**:

CGST (Central GST) collected by the **Centre**

SGST/UTGST collected by **States/Union Territories**

IGST (Integrated GST) for **inter-state supplies**, with revenue settlement to the **destination state**

The **GST structure** includes **multiple tax slabs** (**5%, 12%, 18%**, and higher rates

for **luxury/sin goods**) to balance affordability and revenue generation.

The **GST Council (Article 279A)** is a **constitutional federal body** chaired by the **Union Finance Minister**, and decisions are generally taken through **consensus-based mechanisms**.

86. As of 2026, which state has launched India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)?

A.Tamil Nadu

B.Maharashtra

C.Gujarat

D.Telangana

E.Karnataka

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Government of Karnataka** has launched India's first **state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

The initiative aims to **bridge the gap between research and commercialisation** in the space sector and strengthen **innovation, startup ecosystem, and industry collaboration**.

Established by **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** in collaboration with **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of Karnataka** has launched India's first **state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

The initiative aims to **bridge the gap between research and commercialisation** in the space sector and strengthen **innovation, startup ecosystem, and industry collaboration**.

Established by **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** in collaboration with **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)**

Signed **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Helogen Corporation, Dassault Systèmes, and Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE)**

Aims to strengthen **research collaboration, space biotechnology, and workforce development**

Promotes **public-private partnership in the space sector**

Provides **infrastructure support to startups** and reduces **innovation and development costs**

87. As of 2026, the indigenous technology launched by the Government of India to enable near real-time, geo-targeted emergency alerts to mobile users is known as_____

A.Public Warning Network (PWN)

B.National Alert Messaging System (NAMS)

C.Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

D.Emergency Communication Grid (ECG)

E.Disaster Alert Transmission System (DATS)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications, launched the **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** in **New Delhi** to enhance India's **emergency communication and disaster management framework**.

The system is an **indigenous technology** developed by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

Cell Broadcast System (CBS) enables **near real-time, geo-targeted emergency alerts** to mobile users

Detailed Explanation:

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Cell Broadcast System (CBS) enables **near real-time, geo-targeted emergency alerts** to mobile users

Nationwide **test conducted**, sending **siren-based alert notifications** to mobile devices

Allows **location-specific messaging** at the level of **cell towers or clusters**

Overcomes limitations of **Short Message Service (SMS)-based alert systems**

Supports **multilingual alerts** for wider accessibility across regions

Provides **instant delivery without network congestion or queuing delays**

Alerts appear as **priority pop-up messages with loud tones** and audio reading on supported devices

88. In 2026, 'Padma Doree' is a cross-regional textile initiative that combines which of the following?

A.Muga silk and Banarasi weaving

B.Eri (Ahimsa) silk and Chanderi weaving

C.Tussar silk and Kanchipuram silk

D.Pashmina wool and Ikat weaving

E.Mulberry silk and Paithani weaving

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Northeastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)** under the **Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER)** launched **'Padma Doree'**, a cross-regional textile initiative combining **Eri (Ahimsa) silk of Northeast India** with **Chanderi weaving of Madhya Pradesh**.

The initiative was unveiled by **Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, MDoNER**, in line with the vision

of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
Padma Doree integrates **Eri silk (Ahimsa silk)** with **Chanderi handloom craftsmanship**
Detailed Explanation:
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The initiative was unveiled by **Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, MDoNER**, in line with the vision of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
Padma Doree integrates **Eri silk (Ahimsa silk)** with **Chanderi handloom craftsmanship**
Promotes **sustainable and ethical textile production** with innovative design fusion
Led by **NEHHDC** with support from **MDoNER** to strengthen artisan collaboration
Reflects the vision of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** for cultural integration
Leadership of **Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister**, acknowledged in implementation
Launch featured a **fashion showcase and three-day interactive exhibition**
Included **live demonstrations by artisans** showcasing fibre-to-fabric process
Focus on building an **artisan-centric and sustainable textile ecosystem**
Participation of cultural figures including **Muzaffar Ali** enhanced visibility
Aims to promote **indigenous crafts in contemporary and global markets**

89. As of 2026, Fire Safety Week in India is observed during which of the following dates?
A.1–7 May
B.2–8 May
C.3–9 May
D.4–10 May
E.5–11 May
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **Fire Safety Week 2026** from **4–10 May 2026**, beginning with a nationwide pledge led by **Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary**.
The initiative aims to strengthen **fire safety standards in healthcare facilities** and introduces the **National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities**.
Theme: **"Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention"**
Detailed Explanation:
The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **Fire Safety Week 2026** from **4–10 May 2026**, beginning with a nationwide pledge led by **Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary**.

The initiative aims to strengthen **fire safety standards in healthcare facilities** and introduces the **National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities**.

Theme: **"Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention"**

Nationwide participation involving **central ministries, state governments, Union Territories, and healthcare institutions**

Launch of **National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities** providing a **comprehensive safety framework**

Covers **governance, compliance, risk assessment, infrastructure planning, emergency response, and staff training**

Special focus on **high-risk hospital zones** such as **Intensive Care Units (ICUs), Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs), and Operation Theatres (OTs)**

90. In 2026, which district is set to become India's first pearl farming cluster?

A.Ranchi

B.Dhanbad

C.Hazaribag

D.Bokaro

E.Deoghar

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Hazaribag district in Jharkhand is set to become **India's first pearl farming cluster**, led by the **Fisheries Department** with government support.

The initiative focuses on promoting **scientific aquaculture, employment generation, and sustainable rural development**, with a special emphasis on **women participation**.

Hazaribag identified as the **first dedicated pearl farming cluster** in India due to favourable water resources

Detailed Explanation:

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The initiative focuses on promoting **scientific aquaculture, employment generation, and sustainable rural development**, with a special emphasis on **women participation**.

Hazaribag identified as the **first dedicated pearl farming cluster** in India due to favourable water resources

Initiative aims to develop a **model hub for pearl cultivation** with structured expansion plans

Promotion of **modern pearl farming techniques** and **capacity building of farmers**

Creation of **market linkages** to ensure better price realisation and income generation

Strong focus on **women self-help groups**, with training and participation in pearl farming activities

Proposal for formation of an **all-women Farmer Producer Organization** to boost financial inclusion

Integration with **cage fish culture at Tilaiya Reservoir** for diversified income sources

91. In 2026, Indian journalists R. K. Anand and Suparna Sharma won the Pulitzer Prize in which category?

A.Investigative Reporting

B.Breaking News Reporting

C.Feature Writing

D.Illustrated Reporting and Commentary

E.International Reporting

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Indian journalists **R. K. Anand** and **Suparna Sharma** have won the **Pulitzer Prize 2026** in the **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary** category for their reporting on **cyber fraud and digital surveillance**.

They shared the award with **Natalie Obiko Pearson** for their collaborative work published in **Bloomberg**.

The award-winning project is titled **"trAPPed"**

The report narrates the story of an Indian **neurologist** who became a victim of a **digital arrest scam**

Detailed Explanation:

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They shared the award with **Natalie Obiko Pearson** for their collaborative work published in **Bloomberg**.

The award-winning project is titled **"trAPPed"**

The report narrates the story of an Indian **neurologist** who became a victim of a **digital arrest scam**

Combines **visual storytelling, data-driven analysis, and investigative reporting**

Exposes how **cybercriminals misuse digital platforms and remote manipulation techniques**

Draws attention to the growing threat of **cyber fraud, online scams, and digital surveillance**

Highlights the need for stronger **cybersecurity awareness and digital safety measures**

The **Pulitzer Prize** is administered by **Columbia University** in the **United States of America**

92. As of 2026, who has been appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster?

A.Anurag Thakur

B.Prasoon Joshi

C.Shekhar Kapur

D.Amitabh Kant

E.Shashi Shekhar

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has appointed noted lyricist, writer, and communications expert **Shri Prasoon Joshi** as the **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**, India's public service broadcaster.

Prasoon Joshi is a renowned creative professional known for his contributions in **films,**

advertising, literature, and public communication.

Prior to this appointment, he served as **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** in Mumbai since August 2017, contributing to strengthening **film certification processes**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has appointed noted lyricist, writer, and communications expert **Shri Prasoon Joshi** as the **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**, India's public service broadcaster.

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Prior to this appointment, he served as **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** in Mumbai since August 2017, contributing to strengthening **film certification processes**.

He also held key roles such as **CEO of McCann World Group India** and **Chairman of McCann World Group Asia Pacific**, and has been a **Trustee** of the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** since 2016.

Prasar Bharati is a **statutory autonomous public service broadcaster** established under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990** and operational since 1997.

It consists of **two major divisions**:

All India Radio (AIR) – one of the **largest radio networks globally**, broadcasting in multiple languages across India.

Doordarshan (DD) – India's **national television broadcaster** offering news, education, entertainment, and cultural content.

93. In 2026, who has been appointed as the 22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?

A.Dr. D.K. Sunil

B.R. Madhavan

C.Rajnath Singh

D.S. Somanath

E.Ravi K.

Answer: E

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has appointed **Shri Ravi K.** as its **22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**.

He succeeds **Dr. D.K. Sunil**, who retired on **30 April 2026** after attaining superannuation.

The appointment was made with **Government of India approval** and due compliance with **stock exchange disclosure requirements**.

94. As of 2026, who has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of City Union Bank?

A.R. Vijay Anandh

B.N. Kamakodi

C.Uday Kotak

D.Sandeep Bakhshi

E.Shyam Srinivasan

Answer: A

City Union Bank (CUB) announced a leadership transition, as **N. Kamakodi** completed his maximum tenure of **15 years as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**.

The bank appointed **R. Vijay Anandh** as the new **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

His appointment will be effective from **May 1, 2026**, for a term of **three years**.

R. Vijay Anandh previously served as **Executive Director** at City Union Bank, having joined as Executive President in 2023 and elevated to ED in 2024.

95. In 2026, which of the following defence systems unveiled by IG Defence is described as India's first long-range one-way attack drone?

A.JWALA

B.KAL

C.AKASH

D.NAG

E.PINAKA

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

IG Defence unveiled two **indigenous defence systems—KAL** and **JWALA**—at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**.

The launch highlights the growing role of the **private defence industry** in India and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**.

The **KAL drone** is India's first **long-range one-way attack drone**, designed for **deep-penetration missions** with a strike range of up to **1,000 km**.

The **JWALA missile system** is a **short-range, rapid-response weapon platform** with **surface-to-air** and **surface-to-surface capability**.

Detailed Explanation:

IG Defence unveiled two **indigenous defence systems—KAL** and **JWALA**—at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**.

The launch highlights the growing role of the **private defence industry** in India and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**.

The **KAL drone** is India's first **long-range one-way attack drone**, designed for **deep-penetration missions** with a strike range of up to **1,000 km**.

It features an **endurance of 3–8 hours**, a **maximum take-off weight of 200 kg**, and uses **autonomous navigation** with **optical targeting systems**.

The **JWALA missile system** is a **short-range, rapid-response weapon platform** with **surface-to-air** and **surface-to-surface capability**.

JWALA incorporates **inertial navigation**, **terminal guidance systems**, and **modular launch capability** for flexible battlefield deployment.

Both systems were **displayed publicly for the first time** and represent **next-generation**

indigenous warfare technologies developed by the **private sector**.

96. In 2026, Federal Bank announced the acquisition of a credit card portfolio from which bank in India?

A.HDFC Bank

B.ICICI Bank

C.Axis Bank

D.Standard Chartered Bank India

E.Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Federal Bank is set to acquire a select **credit card portfolio** from **Standard Chartered Bank India** comprising around **4.5 lakh credit cards**.

The portfolio has an estimated **outstanding value of ₹1,500 crore** and is valued at **1.5–1.6 times implied equity**.

The acquisition will increase **Federal Bank's non-co-branded credit card receivables** by nearly **90%**, strengthening its existing base of **8 lakh non-co-branded cards** and **13 lakh co-branded cards**.

Detailed Explanation:

Federal Bank is set to acquire a select **credit card portfolio** from **Standard Chartered Bank India** comprising around **4.5 lakh credit cards**.

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The acquisition will increase **Federal Bank's non-co-branded credit card receivables** by nearly **90%**, strengthening its existing base of **8 lakh non-co-branded cards** and **13 lakh co-branded cards**.

The deal will significantly expand **Federal Bank's credit card footprint** in India's **top urban markets**, with around **75% of the portfolio** concentrated in the **top 8 cities**.

This acquisition will enhance **Federal Bank's presence in Tier-1 cities** and provide access to a **high-quality, seasoned customer base**.

The **final portfolio size** will depend on **customer consent** and **timing of transfer completion**.

The transaction is expected to be **completed within calendar year 2026** and **does not require regulatory approvals**.

97. In 2026, a consortium led by Lakshmi N. Mittal's family and Adar Poonawalla agreed to acquire which IPL franchise at a valuation of about $1.65 billion?

A.Mumbai Indians

B.Chennai Super Kings

C.Rajasthan Royals

D.Kolkata Knight Riders

E.Sunrisers Hyderabad

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

A consortium led by steel magnate **Lakshmi N. Mittal's family**, along with **Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla**, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals** at a valuation of about **$1.65 billion**.

After completion, the **Mittal family** will hold around **75% stake**, while **Adar Poonawalla** will hold about **18%** in the franchise.

Detailed Explanation:

A consortium led by steel magnate **Lakshmi N. Mittal's family**, along with **Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla**, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals** at a valuation of about **$1.65 billion**.

After completion, the **Mittal family** will hold around **75% stake**, while **Adar Poonawalla** will hold about **18%** in the franchise.

The remaining **7% stake** will remain with existing investors, including **Manoj Badale**, who will continue his association with the team.

The acquisition also includes **overseas franchises** such as **Paarl Royals (South Africa)** and **Barbados Royals (Caribbean league)**.

The deal follows the **collapse** of an earlier proposed **$1.63 billion sale agreement** involving a **US-based consortium**.

98. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the World Press Freedom Index:

1. **India was ranked 157th out of 180 countries.**
2. **Norway secured the 1st position in the index.**
3. **Eritrea ranked last (180th) in the index.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.All are correct

E.2 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India has been ranked **157th out of 180 countries** in the **World Press Freedom Index 2026** released by **Reporters Without Borders**.

The report indicates that **global press freedom has reached its lowest level in 25 years**, with more than **50 per cent of countries falling under 'difficult' or 'very serious' categories**.

The **World Press Freedom Index** is an **annual assessment** based on **political environment, legal framework, economic conditions, social context, and safety of journalists**

India's rank (157) reflects **declining press freedom conditions** over the years

Rankings (World Press Freedom Index 2026):

Country	Rank
Norway	1
Netherlands	2
Estonia	3
Worst Performing Countries:	
China	178
North Korea	179
Eritrea	180

99. In 2026, the Ministry of Jal Shakti signed reform-linked MoUs under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 with which of the following states?

A.Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura

B.Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra

C.Assam, Bihar, and Odisha

D.Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh

E.Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed **reform-linked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the states of **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura** under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**, following approval by the **Union Cabinet**.

The MoUs establish a **Gram Panchayat-led, service-based and community-centric model** for rural water governance to ensure **sustainable and regular drinking water supply**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed **reform-linked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the states of **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura** under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**, following approval by the **Union Cabinet**.

The MoUs establish a **Gram Panchayat-led, service-based and community-centric model** for rural water governance to ensure **sustainable and regular drinking water supply**.

Objective to provide **adequate quantity and prescribed quality of drinking water** to every rural household on a regular basis

Focus on **community participation (Jan Bhagidari)** and strengthening local institutions

Emphasis on **sustainable Operation and Maintenance (O&M)** of rural water supply systems

100. As of 2026, World Asthma Day is observed on which of the following dates?

A.1 May 2026

B.3 May 2026

C.4 May 2026

D.5 May 2026

E.7 May 2026

Answer: D

World Asthma Day is observed every year on the **first Tuesday of May** to raise awareness about **asthma**, a chronic respiratory disease affecting the lungs. In **2026**, it is observed on **5 May 2026**.

The day is organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** to promote better understanding, prevention, and management of asthma.

Theme for **2026**: **"Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need"**

101. In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0). Which of the following statements is correct regarding the scheme?

A.It provides 100% guarantee coverage only for airlines and 50% for MSMEs

B.It is implemented through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with a guarantee fee of 1%

C.It provides NIL guarantee fee and is implemented through NCGTC

D.It offers credit support only to MSMEs with a maximum cap of ₹50 crore

E.It provides 90% guarantee coverage for MSMEs and 100% for non-MSMEs

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the Emergency **Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)** to address **short-term liquidity challenges** arising due to the **West Asia crisis**.

The scheme is implemented through **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited** (NCGTC), providing **credit guarantee coverage** to **lending institutions (MLIs)**.

It offers **100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs** and **90% coverage for non-MSMEs** and the **airline sector** on defaulted credit amounts.

The **guarantee fee is NIL**, making the scheme highly supportive for businesses facing **liquidity stress**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the Emergency **Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)** to address **short-term liquidity challenges** arising due to the **West Asia crisis**.

The scheme is implemented through **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited** (NCGTC), providing **credit guarantee coverage** to **lending institutions (MLIs)**.

It offers **100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs** and **90% coverage for non-MSMEs** and the **airline sector** on defaulted credit amounts.

Eligible borrowers include **MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airlines** having **standard loan accounts** as of **March 31, 2026**.

The scheme provides **additional credit** up to **20% of peak working capital** (Q4 FY26) for **MSMEs/non-MSMEs**, capped at **₹100 crore**, and up to **100% (₹1,500 crore cap)** for **airlines**.

The **guarantee fee is NIL**, making the scheme highly supportive for businesses facing **liquidity stress**.

Loan tenor is **5 years** for **MSMEs/non-MSMEs** (including **1-year moratorium**) and **7 years** for **airlines** (including **2-year moratorium**).

The **guarantee cover** remains **co-terminus** with the loan tenure, ensuring **full risk protection** for lenders.

The scheme is applicable for **loans sanctioned** between the date of guidelines issuance and **31 March 2027**.

102. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding Viability Plan 2.0 for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):

1. **The plan will be implemented for FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28.**
2. **It includes 30 performance parameters based on four key pillars.**
3. **It covers only 28 Regional Rural Banks across India.**
4. **It focuses only on credit growth and does not include asset quality or profitability metrics.**

Which of the following is NOT included in Viability Plan 2.0?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.3 and 4 only

D.4 only

E.1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The revised **Viability Plan 2.0** will be implemented for **three years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28)** to ensure **continued oversight** and **long-term competitiveness**.

The framework includes **30 performance parameters** based on **four key pillars**: **operational excellence, asset quality, profitability, and growth**.

Key metrics under the plan include **CRAR**, **credit-deposit ratio**, **digital adoption**, **NPA levels**, **recovery performance**, **profitability ratios**, and implementation of **Government schemes**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services** has approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to strengthen **financial stability**, **governance reforms**, and **operational efficiency**.

The plan builds on the earlier **Viability Plan (FY 2021–22 to FY 2024–25)**, which focused on **performance monitoring** and **governance improvements** in RRBs.

The revised **Viability Plan 2.0** will be implemented for **three years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28)** to ensure **continued oversight** and **long-term competitiveness**.

The framework includes **30 performance parameters** based on **four key pillars**: **operational excellence, asset quality, profitability, and growth**.

Key metrics under the plan include **CRAR**, **credit-deposit ratio**, **digital adoption**, **NPA levels**, **recovery performance**, **profitability ratios**, and implementation of **Government schemes**.

The initiative provides a **comprehensive framework** for assessing and monitoring the **financial health** of RRBs across India.

It covers all **28 Regional Rural Banks**, aiming to improve **financial sustainability** and **efficiency**.

103. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) launched by NSE:

1. **EGRs are dematerialised securities backed by physical gold stored in SEBI-approved vaults.**

2. **EGRs are traded electronically on stock exchanges to formalise gold investments.**
3. **Goods and Services Tax (GST) is applicable on EGR trading at every stage of transaction.**

Which of the statements given above is NOT correct?

A.1 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** segment with approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to create a **transparent and efficient gold trading ecosystem**.

Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) are **dematerialised securities** backed by **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-approved vaults**, and are **traded electronically** on stock exchanges.

EGRs help **formalise gold investments** by providing a **regulated and digital trading mechanism**.

A key benefit is that **no Goods and Services Tax (GST)** is applicable on **EGR trading** until the **conversion into physical gold**.

Detailed Explanation:

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** segment with approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to create a **transparent and efficient gold trading ecosystem**.

The initiative aims to enhance **price discovery**, broaden **market participation**, and strengthen **investor confidence** in gold trading.

Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) are **dematerialised securities** backed by **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-approved vaults**, and are **traded electronically** on stock exchanges.

EGRs help **formalise gold investments** by providing a **regulated and digital trading mechanism**.

A key benefit is that **no Goods and Services Tax (GST)** is applicable on **EGR trading** until the **conversion into physical gold**.

The platform caters to a wide range of participants including **jewellers, refiners, traders, institutional investors, and retail investors**.

It enables **small-ticket investments** in gold through **secure and digital modes**, improving **accessibility and financial inclusion**.

104. In 2026, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched the "Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility". The announcement was made during which of the following events?

A.58th Annual Meeting, Japan

B.59th Annual Meeting, Uzbekistan

C.60th Annual Meeting, Singapore

D.57th Annual Meeting, Vietnam

E.Special Economic Forum, UAE

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched a new financing facility titled **"Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility"** to strengthen **critical minerals supply chains** across **Asia and the Pacific region**.

The initiative was announced during the **ADB 59th Annual Meeting (AM)** of the Board of Governors held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched a new financing facility titled **"Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility"** to strengthen **critical minerals supply chains** across **Asia and the Pacific region**.

The initiative was announced during the **ADB 59th Annual Meeting (AM)** of the Board of Governors held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.

The facility aims to support **secure, sustainable, and resilient** critical minerals supply chains, essential for **manufacturing and clean energy transitions**.

The **financing structure** includes **two key windows**:

Grant Window: Provides funding for **feasibility studies**, **environmental and social assessments**, **technical assistance**, and **knowledge-sharing activities**.

Catalytic Finance Window: Focuses on **mobilising co-financing** and **risk-sharing** from partner institutions and investors.

105. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding SEBI's fast-track mechanism for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs):

1. **AIFs (excluding Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors) can launch schemes 30 days after filing PPM with SEBI.**
2. **AIFs are regulated under SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.**
3. **AIF Category III includes venture capital funds and angel funds.**

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.2 only

E.3 only

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a **fast-track mechanism** for processing **Private Placement Memoranda (PPM)** of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.

The new system enables **faster launch** of **AIF schemes**, while placing **greater responsibility** on **merchant bankers** and **AIF managers**.

Under the **revised framework**, AIFs (excluding **Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors**) can launch schemes and circulate **PPMs 30 days after filing documents** with SEBI.

Category III AIFs are **high-risk hedge funds** that use **leverage** and **advanced trading strategies** in both listed and unlisted derivatives to generate **short-term capital gains**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a **fast-track mechanism** for processing **Private Placement Memoranda (PPM)** of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.

The new system enables **faster launch** of **AIF schemes**, while placing **greater responsibility** on **merchant bankers** and **AIF managers**.

Under the **revised framework**, AIFs (excluding **Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors**) can launch schemes and circulate **PPMs 30 days after filing documents** with SEBI.

Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are **privately pooled investment vehicles** that serve as an **alternative** to mutual funds and stock markets.

AIFs are regulated by **Securities and Exchange Board of India** under the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**.

Classification of AIFs in India:

Category I AIFs invest in **socially and economically beneficial sectors** such as **infrastructure, startups, SMEs, and social ventures**.

Includes **Venture Capital Funds** and **Angel Funds**, which support **early-stage innovative startups** with high growth potential.

Category II AIFs include funds that **do not employ excessive leverage** and focus on **private equity, debt, real estate funds, and fund of funds**.

Category III AIFs are **high-risk hedge funds** that use **leverage** and **advanced trading strategies** in both listed and unlisted derivatives to generate **short-term capital gains**.

106. In 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) published new Indian Standards under the National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP). Which of the following standards relates to portable ramps for wheelchair access and mobility support?

A.IS 18558 Part 1: 2025

B.IS 5145: 2026

C.IS 19189: 2025

D.IS 19631: 2026

E.IS 19190: 2025

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the **Department of Consumer Affairs**

(DCA), **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has published **six new Indian Standards** for priority **medical assistive technologies** under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)** framework.

IS 19631: 2026 (Portable Ramps): Indigenous standard for **wheelchair access and mobility support in buildings and transport systems**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)**, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has published **six new Indian Standards** for priority **medical assistive technologies** under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)** framework.

The initiative aims to enhance accessibility, safety, and quality of assistive devices in India.

IS 18558 Part 1: 2025 (Elbow Crutches): Specifies **safety, ergonomics, and testing methods**, aligned with **International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11334-1**

IS 5145: 2026 (Walking Sticks): Indigenous standard covering **materials, dimensions, and performance** for single-point sticks

IS 18558 Part 4: 2025 (Multi-leg Walking Sticks): Defines requirements for **enhanced stability using three or more legs**

IS 19631: 2026 (Portable Ramps): Indigenous standard for **wheelchair access and mobility support in buildings and transport systems**

IS 19189: 2025 (Tactile Guide Maps): Guidelines for **accessible navigation for visually impaired persons**

IS 19190: 2025 (Braille on Signage): Establishes **uniform Braille standards** on equipment and public infrastructure

107. In 2026, the Union Government notified the creation of the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR). What is the headquarters of this new railway zone?

A.Vijayawada

B.Guntur

C.Secunderabad

D.Bhubaneswar

E.Visakhapatnam

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Union Government** has notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** under the **Railways Act, 1989**.

The new zone will become operational from **1 June 2026**, aiming to improve **railway administration, regional connectivity, and operational efficiency** through reorganisation of existing zones.

South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) created by reorganising **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** and **South-Central Railway (SCR)**

Includes **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions** (earlier under South Central Railway)

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Government** has notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** under the **Railways Act, 1989**.

The new zone will become operational from **1 June 2026**, aiming to improve **railway administration, regional connectivity, and operational efficiency** through reorganisation of existing zones.

South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) created by reorganising **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** and **South-Central Railway (SCR)**

Includes **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions** (earlier under South Central Railway)

Waltair division of East Coast Railway bifurcated:

Part becomes **Visakhapatnam division** under South Coast Railway

Remaining merged into **new Rayagada division** under East Coast Railway

East Coast Railway (Headquarters: Bhubaneswar) to include **Sambalpur, Khurda Road, and Rayagada divisions**

South Central Railway (Headquarters: Secunderabad) to retain **Hyderabad, Nanded, and reorganised Secunderabad divisions**

Jurisdiction adjustments in **Guntur, Guntakal, Vijayawada, and Secunderabad divisions** for better efficiency

108. In 2026, NCERT launched PRASHAST 2.0, a digital screening tool for early identification of disabilities in school children. This tool is designed to identify how many types of disabilities as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016?

A.18

B.20

C.21

D.22

E.25

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)**, an upgraded digital platform for **early identification of disabilities in school children**.

The tool enables teachers to detect learning and developmental challenges at an early stage, promoting inclusive education and ensuring that no child is left behind.

PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool) is a **digital screening platform** available in **mobile and web formats**

Designed to identify **21 types of disabilities** as defined under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)**, an upgraded digital

platform for **early identification of disabilities in school children**.

The tool enables teachers to detect learning and developmental challenges at an early stage, promoting inclusive education and ensuring that no child is left behind.

PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool) is a **digital screening platform** available in **mobile and web formats**

Designed to identify **21 types of disabilities** as defined under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

Supports **teachers, school heads, and special educators** in systematic screening of students

Follows a **two-level assessment process**:

Initial screening by teachers based on classroom observations

Detailed assessment by special educators or counsellors

Enables **early intervention, educational support, and access to government schemes**

Integrated with national platforms such as **Unified District Information System for Education Plus, Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry Identification, and Swavlamban Card Portal**

109. In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved an increase in the judge strength of the Supreme Court of India from 33 to how many judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)?

A.34

B.35

C.36

D.37

E.38

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved a proposal to increase the judge strength of the **Supreme Court of India** from **33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.

The proposal will be introduced through the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, with the aim of improving **judicial efficiency and speedy disposal of cases**.

Total sanctioned strength to increase from **34 to 38 judges (including Chief Justice of India)**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved a proposal to increase the judge strength of the **Supreme Court of India** from **33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.

The proposal will be introduced through the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, with the aim of improving **judicial efficiency and speedy disposal of cases**.

Total sanctioned strength to increase from **34 to 38 judges (including Chief Justice of India)**

Aims to address **rising pendency of cases and increasing workload on judges**

Will facilitate **faster constitution of benches, quicker hearings, and timely disposal of cases**

Strengthens capacity to handle **complex constitutional and legal matters**

Based on **Article 124 of the Constitution of India**, which empowers Parliament to determine the number of judges

Reflects continuous expansion of judiciary in line with **growing litigation and population**

110. In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in which state?

A.Gujarat

B.Tamil Nadu

C.Maharashtra

D.Karnataka

E.Odisha

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved the establishment of a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.

The project was cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** and will be implemented by **Deendayal Port Authority** in partnership with **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, aiming to strengthen India's **maritime infrastructure and ship repair capabilities**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved the establishment of a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.

The project was cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** and will be implemented by **Deendayal Port Authority** in partnership with **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, aiming to strengthen India's **maritime infrastructure and ship repair capabilities**.

Project to be developed as a **brownfield expansion** with modern ship repair infrastructure

Strategic location at **Vadinar** due to **deep draft availability and proximity to major ports like Mundra and Kandla**

Located along **major international shipping routes**, enabling easy access for large vessels

Infrastructure includes **650-metre jetty, floating dry docks, and advanced repair workshops**

Facility capable of handling **vessels up to 300 metres length**, addressing existing capacity gaps

Expected to generate around **290 direct and 1,100 indirect employment opportunities**

Promotes growth of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in marine and logistics sectors

111. In 2026, which company has been approved to establish a compound semiconductor fabrication facility in Dholera,

Gujarat under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)?

A.Tata Electronics

B.Vedanta Semiconductor

C.Crystal Matrix Limited

D.Micron Technology

E.Intel India

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved **two semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a **combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore**.

The projects will be set up in **Gujarat** and are expected to generate over **2,200 skilled jobs**, strengthening India's position in the **global semiconductor ecosystem**.

Approval for **two semiconductor units**:

Compound semiconductor fabrication facility with Mini/Micro Light Emitting Diode production

Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility

Crystal Matrix Limited to establish facility in **Dholera**, focusing on **Gallium Nitride technology-based fabrication**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved **two semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a **combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore**.

The projects will be set up in **Gujarat** and are expected to generate over **2,200 skilled jobs**, strengthening India's position in the **global semiconductor ecosystem**.

Approval for **two semiconductor units**:

Compound semiconductor fabrication facility with Mini/Micro Light Emitting Diode production

Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility

Crystal Matrix Limited to establish facility in **Dholera**, focusing on **Gallium Nitride technology-based fabrication**

Production capacity: **72,000 square metres of Mini/Micro Light Emitting Diode panels annually** and **24,000 Red-Green-Blue wafer sets**

Applications include televisions, smartphones, automotive displays, and Extended Reality devices

Suchi Semicon Private Limited to set up **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test unit in Surat**

112. In 2026, the United States of America launched a naval escort operation to secure commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions with Iran. What is the name of this operation?

A.Project Freedom

B.Maritime Freedom Guard

C.Operation Sea Shield

D.Gulf Sentinel Mission

E.Ocean Security Initiative

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **United States of America (USA)**, under **President Donald Trump**, launched **"Project Freedom"**, a **naval escort operation** to secure **commercial vessels** in the **Strait of Hormuz** amid rising **Iran–USA tensions**.

The operation aims to ensure the **safe passage** of **global shipping routes** and protect against **maritime disruptions**, **regional conflict risks**, and **oil supply instability**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **United States of America (USA)**, under **President Donald Trump**, launched **"Project Freedom"**, a **naval escort operation** to secure **commercial vessels** in the **Strait of Hormuz** amid rising **Iran–USA tensions**.

The operation aims to ensure the **safe passage** of **global shipping routes** and protect against **maritime disruptions**, **regional conflict risks**, and **oil supply instability**.

Project Freedom involves deployment by the **United States Navy** under **U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)** to **escort and secure** commercial vessels.

The operation includes **warships**, over **100 air- and sea-based aircraft**, **multi-domain unmanned platforms**, and around **15,000 personnel**.

Alongside **escort operations**, the USA continues an **economic blockade** restricting **maritime movement** to and from **Iranian ports**.

The **Strait of Hormuz** is a **strategic maritime chokepoint** connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**.

113. In 2026, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)?

A.Prasoon Joshi

B.Shekhar Kapur

C.Shashi Shekhar Vempati

D.Amit Khare

E.Rajinikanth

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India**, through a notification issued by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on **May 6, 2026**, appointed **Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati** as the **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**.

He will hold office for a **period of three years** from the date of joining, strengthening leadership in India's **film certification regulatory framework**.

He succeeds **Shri Prasoon Joshi**, who stepped down after being appointed as **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India**, through a notification issued by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on **May 6, 2026**, appointed **Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati** as

the **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**.

He will hold office for a **period of three years** from the date of joining, strengthening leadership in India's **film certification regulatory framework**.

He succeeds **Shri Prasoon Joshi**, who stepped down after being appointed as **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**.

The **Central Board of Film Certification** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** responsible for **regulating public exhibition of films** in India.

Films in India can be publicly exhibited only after **certification by CBFC** under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**.

CBFC functions with a **Chairperson** and **non-official members** appointed by the **Central Government**, and its **headquarters** is located in **Mumbai**.

It operates through **nine regional offices** across India, including **New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad**, and others

114. In 2026, the Royal Netherlands Navy ship HNLMS De Ruyter (F804) arrived at which Indian port as part of Indo-Pacific deployment?

A.Kochi

B.Visakhapatnam

C.Mumbai

D.Chennai

E.Goa

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Royal Netherlands Navy** ship **HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)**, a **De Zeven Provinciën-class frigate**, arrived at **Kochi**, marking an important step in **India–Netherlands maritime cooperation**.

The visit is part of a **five-month Indo-Pacific deployment**, during which the ship will participate in **maritime exercises** with partner nations to enhance **regional naval cooperation** and **interoperability**.

The ship was escorted by **Indian Navy Fast Interceptor Craft** and received a **ceremonial welcome**, reflecting strong **naval diplomacy** and goodwill.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Royal Netherlands Navy** ship **HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)**, a **De Zeven Provinciën-class frigate**, arrived at **Kochi**, marking an important step in **India–Netherlands maritime cooperation**.

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The ship was escorted by **Indian Navy Fast Interceptor Craft** and received a **ceremonial welcome**, reflecting strong **naval diplomacy** and goodwill.

The visit coincides with a **high-level delegation** from the Royal Netherlands Navy,

including **Major General Rob De Wit** and **Ambassador Marisa Gerards**.

The delegation met officials at **Southern Naval Command** and discussed enhanced **maritime cooperation**, **training exchange**, and **operational collaboration**.

The delegation paid tribute by laying wreaths at the **SNC War Memorial** on the occasion of the **National Remembrance Day of the Netherlands**.

They also visited **Cochin Shipyard Limited** to explore India's **shipbuilding capabilities** and potential **industrial cooperation**.

115. In 2026, the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna entered which harbour as part of India's maritime outreach and regional engagement?

A.Chittagong Harbour

B.Sittwe Harbour

C.Yangon Harbour

D.Colombo Harbour

E.Port Blair Harbour

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna** entered **Yangon Harbour** as part of India's **maritime outreach** and **regional engagement**.

The visit coincided with the presence of **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi**, highlighting strengthened **India–Myanmar naval cooperation**.

The **port call** began with a **ceremonial welcome** by the **Myanmar Navy**, reflecting strong **bilateral maritime relations**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna** entered **Yangon Harbour** as part of India's **maritime outreach** and **regional engagement**.

The visit coincided with the presence of **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi**, highlighting strengthened **India–Myanmar naval cooperation**.

The **port call** began with a **ceremonial welcome** by the **Myanmar Navy**, reflecting strong **bilateral maritime relations**.

During the visit, the crew engaged in **professional and cultural exchanges** with the Myanmar Navy to enhance **mutual understanding** and **cooperation**.

Planned activities included visits to **Myanmar Navy training establishments** and **friendly sports exchanges** between naval personnel.

The deployment aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR vision** (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across Regions**), focusing on **maritime security** and **regional cooperation** in the Indian Ocean Region.

116. In 2026, the Ministry of Defence signed a ₹1,476 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of which system for the Indian Army?

A.Air Defence Missile System

B.Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems
C.Battlefield Tank Support System
D.Naval Radar Integration System
E.Satellite Communication Network
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **₹1,476 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad** for procurement of five **Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems** for the **Indian Army**.
The contract is under the **Buy (Indian–Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)** category, promoting **domestic defence production** and **self-reliance**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **₹1,476 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad** for procurement of five **Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems** for the **Indian Army**.
The contract is under the **Buy (Indian–Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)** category, promoting **domestic defence production** and **self-reliance**.
The agreement includes a minimum of **72% indigenous content**, strengthening the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in the defence sector.
The contract was signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh** at **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi**.
The **mobile electronic systems** will enhance the **surveillance, communication, and networking capabilities** of the **Indian Army**.

117. In 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a unified digital health platform to address fragmented and siloed health data systems in India. What is the name of this portal?
A.Swasth Bharat Portal
B.e-Swasthya Bharat Mission
C.National Health Stack Portal
D.Digital Health India Portal
E.Ayushman Bharat Connect Portal
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
The **Swasth Bharat Portal** was launched during the **10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity** by the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**, marking a major step in India's **digital healthcare transformation**.
The portal aims to create a **unified, integrated, and scalable** digital public health ecosystem by addressing the issue of **fragmented and siloed health data systems**.
It functions as an **aggregator platform** using an **API-based federated architecture**, enabling **interoperability and convergence** across multiple health programmes.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Swasth Bharat Portal** was launched during the **10th National Summit on Innovation and**

Inclusivity by the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**, marking a major step in India's **digital healthcare transformation**.

The portal aims to create a **unified, integrated, and scalable** digital public health ecosystem by addressing the issue of **fragmented and siloed health data systems**.

It functions as an **aggregator platform** using an **API-based federated architecture**, enabling **interoperability and convergence** across multiple health programmes.

The portal integrates various **national health programme systems** into a **single interface**, eliminating the need for multiple logins and repeated data entry.

It supports **frontline health workers** (ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs, and Medical Officers) by providing a **single access platform** with **data visualisation tools** for monitoring and evidence-based planning.

The **Swasth Bharat Portal** is **ABDM-compliant** and integrates with **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** for secure and seamless exchange of health records.

118. In 2026, what is the defence allocation made in the Union Budget 2026–27?

A.₹5.81 lakh crore

B.₹6.21 lakh crore

C.₹6.51 lakh crore

D.₹6.81 lakh crore

E.₹7.01 lakh crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that India has entered a **decisive phase** in its **defence transformation**, driven by **technology**, **indigenous innovation**, and **private sector participation**.

The government has significantly increased **defence allocation**, with the **Budget 2026–27** earmarking **₹6.81 lakh crore**, an increase of **9.5%**.

The **North Tech Symposium 2026** is themed **"Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry and Soldiering Converge"**.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that India has entered a **decisive phase** in its **defence transformation**, driven by **technology**, **indigenous innovation**, and **private sector participation**.

He made these remarks at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**, highlighting India's evolving **defence ecosystem** and global positioning.

The Minister emphasized that **modern warfare** is increasingly **technology-driven**, relying on **real-time data systems**, **automation**, **AI**, and **advanced platforms**.

India has transitioned from a **major defence importer** to an **emerging defence exporter**, marking a major shift in **self-reliance**.

Defence production has reached **₹1.54 lakh crore**, registering a **174% increase** over the last decade.

Defence exports have risen to **₹23,622 crore**, showing a **34-fold increase** in ten years.

The **private sector** contributed around **₹15,000 crore** to total **defence exports**, highlighting growing **public-private collaboration**.

The government has significantly increased **defence allocation**, with the **Budget 2026–27** earmarking **₹6.81 lakh crore**, an increase of **9.5%**.

The **North Tech Symposium 2026** is themed **"Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry and Soldiering Converge**

119. In 2026, SpaceX launched the Falcon 9 rocket carrying South Korea's CAS500-2 satellite from which launch site?

A.Kennedy Space Center

B.Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

C.Baikonur Cosmodrome

D.Wallops Flight Facility

E.Vandenberg Space Force Base (SLC-4E)

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

SpaceX successfully launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in **California**, United States of America (**USA**) .

The mission deployed **Republic of Korea's CAS500-2 Earth observation satellite** into a **Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)**.

CAS500-2 is a **534 kg high-resolution Earth observation satellite**, developed by **Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)** and **Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI)**.

Detailed Explanation:

SpaceX successfully launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in **California**, United States of America (**USA**) .

The mission deployed **Republic of Korea's CAS500-2 Earth observation satellite** into a **Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)**.

CAS500-2 is a **534 kg high-resolution Earth observation satellite**, developed by **Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)** and **Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI)**.

The satellite is designed for **high-resolution optical imaging** for **Earth observation purposes**.

The mission also carried **45 secondary payloads**, including **CubeSats, small satellites, technology demonstration units**, and **commercial/research satellites**.

120. In 2026, the 34th BWF Thomas and 31st Uber Cup Finals were held in which city?

A.Copenhagen, Denmark

B.Horsens, Denmark

C.Aarhus, Denmark

D.Berlin, Germany

E.Paris, France

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026** were held at **Horsens, Denmark**.

This marked the **34th edition of the Thomas Cup (men's team championship)** and the **31st edition of the Uber Cup (women's team championship)**.

People's Republic of China won the **Thomas Cup 2026**, defeating **France (3–1)**, securing its **13th title**

Republic of Korea won the **Uber Cup 2026**, defeating **People's Republic of China (3–1)**, securing its **third title**

Detailed Explanation:

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People's Republic of China won the **Thomas Cup 2026**, defeating **France (3–1)**, securing its **13th title**

Republic of Korea won the **Uber Cup 2026**, defeating **People's Republic of China (3–1)**, securing its **third title**

Thomas Cup 2026 winners:

Gold: **China**

Silver: **France**

Bronze: **Denmark and India**

Uber Cup 2026 winners:

Gold: **South Korea**

Silver: **China**

Bronze: **Japan and Indonesia**

Tournament format: **16 teams divided into 4 groups**, top two teams advance to **quarter-finals**, followed by **knockout stage (best-of-five format)**

121. In 2026, Alex Zanardi, who passed away at the age of 59, was best known for his career in which sport?

A.Football

B.Tennis

C.Cricket

D.Formula 1 racing

E.MotoGP

Answer: D

Alessandro Leone Zanardi, popularly known as **Alex Zanardi**, passed away at the age of **59** in **Veneto, Italy**.

He was born on **October 23, 1966**, in **Bologna, Italy**.

He began his career as a professional **Formula 1 (F1) driver**, competing in **41 Grands Prix** between 1991 and 1999.

His best **F1 performance** was **6th place** at the **1993 Brazilian Grand Prix**, while racing with teams like **Jordan, Minardi, Lotus, and Williams**.

122. In 2026, World Athletics Day is observed on which date?

A.5 May 2026

B.6 May 2026

C.9 May 2026

D.8 May 2026

E.7 May 2026

Answer: E

World Athletics Day 2026 is observed on **7 May 2026** to promote awareness about **athletics** and encourage participation in sports.

The day was first observed in **1996** and was launched by **Primo Nebiolo**, President of the **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)**, to honour sportspersons and inspire youth to bring pride to the nation.

Initiative launched by the **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)** under the theme **"Athletics for a Better World"**

123. In 2026, Ravi K has been appointed as the 22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of which organisation?

A.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

B.Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

C.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

D.Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

E.Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

Answer: C

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has appointed Ravi K as its 22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).

He takes over from DK Sunil, following the latter's superannuation.

124. In 2026, which country won the Thomas Cup 2026, defeating France 3–1 to secure its 13th title?

A.Republic of Korea

B.Japan

C.Indonesia

D.China

E.Denmark

Answer: D

The **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026** were held at **Horsens, Denmark**.

People's Republic of China won the **Thomas Cup 2026**, defeating **France (3–1)**, securing its **13th title**

Republic of Korea won the **Uber Cup 2026**, defeating **People's Republic of China (3–1)**, securing its **third title**

125. In May 2026, SEBI operationalised the PaRRVA framework. What is the full form of PaRRVA?

A.Public Analysis of Risk and Return Verification Agency

B.Past Risk and Return Verification Agency

C.Portfolio and Risk Return Validation Authority

D.Performance and Risk Rating Verification Agency

E.Past Return Risk Review Authority

Answer: B

In May 2026, The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.

126. In 2026, Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL) partnered with which fintech platform as a Business Correspondent (BC) to expand last-mile digital banking services in rural and semi-urban India?

A.Ezeepay

B.PayNearby

C.Spice Money

D.Fino Payments Bank

E.BharatPe

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL), a subsidiary of **Jio Financial Services Limited (JSFL)**, has partnered with fintech platform **Ezeepay** as a **Business Correspondent (BC)** to strengthen **last-mile digital banking services** in rural and semi-urban India.

The main objective of the partnership is to expand access to **basic banking services** through **local merchant outlets**, improving **financial inclusion**.

Under this collaboration, **Ezeepay BC merchants** will offer **cash withdrawal** and **cash deposit services** using the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL), a subsidiary of **Jio Financial Services Limited (JSFL)**, has partnered with fintech platform **Ezeepay** as a **Business Correspondent (BC)** to strengthen **last-mile digital banking services** in rural and semi-urban India.

The main objective of the partnership is to expand access to **basic banking services** through **local merchant outlets**, improving **financial inclusion**.

Under this collaboration, **Ezeepay BC merchants** will offer **cash withdrawal** and **cash deposit services** using the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)**.

The partnership also enables **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based cash withdrawal services**, in compliance with **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines**.

The initiative is expected to significantly expand **digital financial access** through Ezeepay's **wide merchant network**.

The collaboration aims to extend banking services across more than **12,000 PIN codes**, targeting **underserved and unbanked communities**.

127. In 2026, SBI Cards and Payment Services sold a stressed credit card receivables pool worth around ₹1,800 crore to which Mumbai-based NBFC?

A.Capri Global

B.L&T Finance

C.Integro Finserv

D.Muthoot Finance

E.MAS Financial Services

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

SBI Cards and Payment Services, a listed subsidiary of **State Bank of India**, has sold a **stressed credit card receivables pool** worth around **₹1,800 crore** to **Integro Finserv**, a Mumbai-based NBFC.

The transaction is aimed at **reducing non-performing assets (NPAs)** and **improving asset quality** amid rising **credit card delinquencies**.

The company earlier executed a similar sale of **₹200 crore in 2022**, indicating a growing trend of **portfolio clean-up measures**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The transaction is aimed at **reducing non-performing assets (NPAs)** and **improving asset quality** amid rising **credit card delinquencies**.

The company earlier executed a similar sale of **₹200 crore in 2022**, indicating a growing trend of **portfolio clean-up measures**.

This is one of the **largest bad loan sales** by SBI Cards in the last four years, highlighting increased focus on **stress asset resolution**.

SBI Cards manages a large **credit card receivables book** of around **₹60,000 crore** with an **~18% market share**, making it one of the **top three credit card issuers** in India.

The firm has over **20 million active credit cards**, reflecting its strong presence in the **retail lending segment**.

In recent months, banks have increased **retail NPA sales**, rising to **₹24,814 crore (Dec 2025)** from **₹9,093 crore (Sept 2025)**, showing efforts to **clean up balance sheets**.

128. In 2026, under the RBI's revised lending norms for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), the total unsecured loans and advances of a UCB must not exceed what percentage of its total loans and advances?

A.10%

B.15%

C.30%

D.25%

E.20%

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **final revised lending norms** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to simplify **credit regulations** and strengthen **risk management**.

The directions titled **Urban Co-operative Banks (Concentration Risk Management) – Amendment Directions, 2026** were issued under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

The **total unsecured loans and advances** of a UCB must **not exceed 20%** of total loans and advances based on the **audited balance sheet** as of March 31 of the previous financial year.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **final revised lending norms** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to simplify **credit regulations** and strengthen **risk management**.

The directions titled **Urban Co-operative Banks (Concentration Risk Management) – Amendment Directions, 2026** were issued under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

The revised framework focuses on **unsecured lending limits**, **housing loan conditions**, and enhanced **transparency requirements**.

Unsecured advances refer to loans that are **not backed by sufficient collateral** or realisable security, increasing **credit risk exposure** for banks.

Examples of **unsecured loans** include **clean overdrafts**, **personal guarantee-based loans**, and **unsecured bills/cheques**, while certain loans like **salary-linked loans** and **short-term receivables (≤180 days)** may be treated as **secured**.

The **total unsecured loans and advances** of a UCB must **not exceed 20%** of total loans and advances based on the **audited balance sheet** as of March 31 of the previous financial year

129. In 2026, which state accounted for the highest number of unique registered investors on the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)?

A.Gujarat

B.Karnataka

C.Uttar Pradesh

D.Maharashtra

E.Tamil Nadu

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **National Stock Exchange of India** has crossed **13 crore unique registered investors**, with the latest **1 crore investors** added in just **7 months** (since September 2025).

The NSE took **14 years** to reach its **first 1 crore investors** after commencement of operations, and an additional **11 years** to add the next **3 crore investors**, showing **accelerated retail participation** in recent years.

Maharashtra leads with **2 crore investors**, followed by **Uttar Pradesh (1.5 crore)** and **Gujarat (1.1 crore)**, highlighting **key investment hubs** in India.

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Stock Exchange of India** has crossed **13 crore unique registered investors**, with the latest **1 crore investors** added in just **7 months** (since September 2025).

The NSE took **14 years** to reach its **first 1 crore investors** after commencement of operations, and an additional **11 years** to add the next **3 crore investors**, showing **accelerated retail participation** in recent years.

The **total number of client codes** reached **25.7 crore** as of April 25, 2026, reflecting **strong growth** in **retail investor participation** and **market penetration**.

Investor participation has expanded to **99.85% of India's PIN codes**, indicating **deep geographical market penetration** across India.

Maharashtra leads with **2 crore investors**, followed by **Uttar Pradesh (1.5 crore)** and **Gujarat (1.1 crore)**, highlighting **key investment hubs** in India.

130. In 2026, what is the theme of the first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit hosted by India?

A.Protect Wildlife, Protect Future

B.Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem

C.One Earth, One Wildlife

D.Global Alliance for Big Cat Protection

E.Conserving Nature for Tomorrow

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India will host the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on **1–2 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.

The announcement was made by **Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, who also launched the official logo and website of the summit.

Summit theme: **"Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem"**

Detailed Explanation:

India will host the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on **1–2 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.

The announcement was made by **Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, who also launched the official logo and website of the summit.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an intergovernmental initiative headquartered in India

Alliance focuses on conservation of seven big cat species:

Tiger

Lion

Leopard

Snow Leopard

Cheetah

Jaguar

Puma

Summit theme: **"Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem"**

Expected participation from **Heads of State, policymakers, scientists, and conservation experts**

Around **95 big cat range countries** likely to participate

Major expected outcome: adoption of the **Delhi Declaration** on global big cat conservation

131. In 2026, which national symbol was proposed to receive legal protection equivalent to the National Anthem under amendments to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act?

A.Satyameva Jayate

B.National Flag

C.Vande Mataram

D.Ashoka Chakra

E.Constitution of India

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has proposed granting **Vande Mataram** legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, through amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act**.

The proposal comes as **Vande Mataram completes 150 years** since it was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875**.

Vande Mataram written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875**

Originally composed in **Sanskritised Bengali** and published in the novel **Anandamath**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has proposed granting **Vande Mataram** legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, through amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act**.

The proposal comes as **Vande Mataram completes 150 years** since it was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875**.

Vande Mataram written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875**

Originally composed in **Sanskritised Bengali** and published in the novel **Anandamath**

Played a major role during the **Indian freedom movement** as a symbol of nationalism and resistance

In **1950**, the **Constituent Assembly** adopted **Jana Gana Mana** as the **National Anthem** and granted **Vande Mataram** the status of **National Song**

Existing provisions under the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act** currently provide legal protection only to the **National Anthem**

Proposed amendment seeks to extend similar legal protection to **Vande Mataram**

Acts such as **intentional interruption, mockery, disruption, or disrespect during official renditions** may attract legal action under the amended framework

Possible penalties may include **imprisonment up to three years, fine, or both**

Proposal aims to provide equal legal respect to both major national symbols of India

132. In 2026, India and the European Union (EU) launched a joint initiative worth how much to strengthen Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity?

A.₹99 crore

B.₹125 crore

C.₹275 crore

D.₹169 crore

E.₹300 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity**.

Initiative launched under the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** under **Working Group 2 on Green and Clean Technologies**

Focus on strengthening **Electric Vehicle battery recycling infrastructure and technology**

Aims to recover critical minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, and nickel** from used lithium-ion batteries

Detailed Explanation:

India and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity**.

Initiative launched under the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** under **Working Group 2 on Green and Clean Technologies**

Focus on strengthening **Electric Vehicle battery recycling infrastructure and technology**

Aims to recover critical minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, and nickel** from used lithium-ion batteries

Supports development of a **circular economy** through reuse of battery materials

Includes research and innovation for high-efficiency material recovery processes

Focus on creating safe digital systems for battery collection, tracking, and processing

Pilot projects to test recycling technologies at **industrial and practical scale**

Joint pilot recycling line to be established in India for real-world technology deployment

133. In 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched which digital platform to strengthen maternal and child healthcare services in India?

A.AAROGYA

B.JANANI

C.POSHAN

D.MATRUTVA

E.SURAKSHA

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** platform to strengthen **maternal and child healthcare services** in India.

The platform aims to digitally monitor and manage healthcare services for women and children across different stages of reproductive and child healthcare.

JANANI developed as an integrated **digital healthcare monitoring platform**

Focuses on healthcare services from **pregnancy to neonatal and young child care**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** platform to strengthen **maternal and child healthcare services** in India.

The platform aims to digitally monitor and manage healthcare services for women and children across different stages of reproductive and child healthcare.

JANANI developed as an integrated **digital healthcare monitoring platform**

Focuses on healthcare services from **pregnancy to neonatal and young child care**

Covers **antenatal, delivery, postnatal, newborn, and family planning services**

Creates a **centralized digital record system** for mothers and children

Improves coordination between **healthcare workers, hospitals, and beneficiaries**

Enables systematic tracking of **pregnancy progress and child health status**

Helps in **early detection of medical complications and high-risk cases**

Supports reduction in **maternal and infant mortality rates**

134. In 2026, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) were recognised for developing India's first road section using geocells made from which material?

A.Fly ash waste

B.Construction debris

C.End-of-life plastic waste

D.Industrial rubber waste

E.Agricultural biomass waste

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have been recognised by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first road section using **technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste**.

The recognition ceremony was held at **CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi** in the presence of scientists and industry experts.

Developed India's first road section using **geocells manufactured from recycled end-of-life plastic waste**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have been recognised by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first road section using **technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste**.

The recognition ceremony was held at **CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi** in the presence of scientists and industry experts.

Developed India's first road section using **geocells manufactured from recycled end-of-life plastic waste**

Geocells are three-dimensional cellular structures used in civil engineering for improving **soil stability and road durability**
Innovation converts **non-recyclable plastic waste** into sustainable road construction material
Supports the concept of **circular economy** through productive reuse of waste materials
Improves **load distribution, erosion control, and structural strength** in road infrastructure

135. In 2026, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) announced plans to establish India's largest AI-focused data centre cluster in which city?

A.Hyderabad
B.Pune
C.Bengaluru
D.Chennai
E.Visakhapatnam

Answer: E

Short Explanation:
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to establish India's largest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of around **₹1.6 lakh crore (over USD 17 billion)**.
The project aims to strengthen India's digital infrastructure and position Visakhapatnam as a major Artificial Intelligence and technology hub.
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to develop a **1.5 Gigawatt (GW) Artificial Intelligence-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
Total investment estimated at around **₹1.6 lakh crore**.

Detailed Explanation:
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to establish India's largest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of around **₹1.6 lakh crore (over USD 17 billion)**.
The project aims to strengthen India's digital infrastructure and position Visakhapatnam as a major Artificial Intelligence and technology hub.
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to develop a **1.5 Gigawatt (GW) Artificial Intelligence-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
Total investment estimated at around **₹1.6 lakh crore**.
Project will be developed across **935 acres** near **Bhogapuram**.
The project will be executed in **three phases**.
Phase 1 will use around **300 acres** and include a **500 Megawatt (MW) data centre**, targeted for completion by **October 2028**.
Remaining **635 acres** will be utilised for later phases.
Full project capacity to reach **1.5 Gigawatt**, including **1 Gigawatt conventional capacity and 500 Megawatt hybrid capacity**, by **2030**.

136. In 2026, Union Minister S. Jaishankar became the first Indian External Affairs

Minister to undertake an official bilateral visit to which country?

A.Jamaica

B.Barbados

C.Trinidad and Tobago

D.Guyana

E.Suriname

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Union Minister **S. Jaishankar,**Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook a **2-day official visit** to **Jamaica** (**May 2–4, 2026**), marking the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister** to Jamaica. The visit aimed to strengthen **India–Jamaica relations**, expand **Caribbean cooperation**, and reinforce India's commitment to **South–South cooperation** and **diaspora engagement**. During the visit, **EAM Dr. Jaishankar** held **delegation-level talks** with **Andrew Holness** and **Kamina Johnson Smith**.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister **S. Jaishankar,**Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook a **2-day official visit** to **Jamaica** (**May 2–4, 2026**), marking the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister** to Jamaica. The visit aimed to strengthen **India–Jamaica relations**, expand **Caribbean cooperation**, and reinforce India's commitment to **South–South cooperation** and **diaspora engagement**. During the visit, **EAM Dr. Jaishankar** held **delegation-level talks** with **Andrew Holness** and **Kamina Johnson Smith**.

The discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in key sectors such as **healthcare, agriculture, digitalisation, tourism, sports, infrastructure, education, capacity building, and multilateral affairs**.

India and Jamaica signed **three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** covering **health cooperation**, **solarisation of the Hugh Lawson Shearer Building**, and **broadcasting**.

137. In 2026, Bangladesh began uranium fuel loading at which nuclear power plant, marking the final stage before electricity generation?

A.Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

B.Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

C.Tarapur Nuclear Power Plant

D.Karachi Nuclear Power Plant

E.Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Bangladesh has begun **uranium fuel loading** at **Unit-1** of the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**, marking the final stage before **electricity generation** begins. With this milestone, **Bangladesh** is set to become the **33rd country** in the world to generate **nuclear power**.

The reactor will undergo **controlled nuclear fission** and **multiple safety tests**, ensuring **operational readiness** before power production.

Trial electricity generation of around **300 MW** is expected to begin by **August 2026**, with phased scaling of output thereafter.

Detailed Explanation:

Bangladesh has begun **uranium fuel loading** at **Unit-1** of the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**, marking the final stage before **electricity generation** begins.

With this milestone, **Bangladesh** is set to become the **33rd country** in the world to generate **nuclear power**.

The reactor will undergo **controlled nuclear fission** and **multiple safety tests**, ensuring **operational readiness** before power production.

Trial electricity generation of around **300 MW** is expected to begin by **August 2026**, with phased scaling of output thereafter.

The **Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission** is implementing the project with support from **Rosatom**.

The **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant** consists of **two units of 1,200 MW each**, with a total capacity of **2,400 MW**.

Once fully operational, the plant will supply **10–12%** of **Bangladesh's total electricity demand**, strengthening **national energy security**.

The project is expected to **reduce dependence on fossil fuels** and support **carbon emission reduction goals**.

138. In 2026, Soma Mandal was named the South Asia regional winner of the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards for her contribution to which field?

A.Artificial Intelligence education

B.Financial literacy education

C.Environmental and climate change education

D.Digital entrepreneurship education

E.Space science education

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Soma Mandal has been named the **South Asia regional winner** of the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026** for her contribution to **environmental and climate change education**.

The award was announced by **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**, recognising her efforts in promoting climate awareness, sustainability, and environmental responsibility among students.

Recognised for encouraging students to actively engage with **climate change and sustainability issues**

Detailed Explanation:

Soma Mandal has been named the **South Asia regional winner** of the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026** for her contribution to **environmental and climate change education**.

The award was announced by **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**, recognising her efforts in promoting climate awareness, sustainability, and environmental responsibility among students.

Recognised for encouraging students to actively engage with **climate change and sustainability issues**

Award honours teachers making significant contributions to **student learning and development**

More than 12,000 nominations received from **126 countries** for the 2026 edition

Around **90 teachers shortlisted globally**, with **nine regional winners** selected

Soma Mandal selected as the **South Asia regional winner** representing India

139. In 2026, how many Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between India and Viet Nam during the visit of To Lam to India?

A.8

B.10

C.11

D.13

E.15

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, visited India on the invitation of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**.

During the visit, both countries upgraded bilateral relations to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed **13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, cultural, and maritime sectors.

Detailed Explanation:

To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, visited India on the invitation of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**.

During the visit, both countries upgraded bilateral relations to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed **13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, cultural, and maritime sectors.

Bilateral relationship elevated to **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

Vietnam joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) for cooperation in maritime security and regional stability

Agreement between **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** for collaboration in **financial innovation and digital payment systems**

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and **National Payment Corporation of Vietnam (NAPAS)** signed pact for **cross-border Quick Response code payment interoperability**

140. In 2026, according to the World Migration Report 2026, India received remittances worth more than how many billion US dollars in 2024?

A.USD 83 billion
B.USD 95 billion
C.USD 100 billion
D.USD 120 billion
E.USD 137 billion
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
According to the **World Migration Report 2026** released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, India remained the **largest remittance recipient country in the world in 2024**, receiving more than **137 billion United States Dollars (USD)**. India became the **only country globally to cross USD 100 billion in remittance inflows**. India remained the **top remittance recipient country globally since 2010**
Detailed Explanation:
According to the **World Migration Report 2026** released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, India remained the **largest remittance recipient country in the world in 2024**, receiving more than **137 billion United States Dollars (USD)**. India became the **only country globally to cross USD 100 billion in remittance inflows**. India remained the **top remittance recipient country globally since 2010**
Remittance inflows to India increased from:
USD 53.48 billion (2010)
USD 68.91 billion (2015)
USD 83.15 billion (2020)
USD 137.67 billion (2024)
Other top remittance recipient countries in 2024:
Mexico
Philippines
France
South Asia recorded the **highest remittance growth rate of 11.8 per cent in 2024**
Growth driven mainly by inflows to **India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh**
United States of America remained the **largest remittance-sending country**, with outward remittances exceeding **USD 100 billion**

141. In 2026, which organisation inaugurated the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari Plains, Delhi?
A.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
B.Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
C.Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
D.National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
E.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at **Burari Plains, Delhi**. The centre was inaugurated by **Samir V Kamat**, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and **Chairman, DRDO**.
Detailed Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at **Burari Plains, Delhi**.

The centre was inaugurated by **Samir V Kamat**, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and **Chairman, DRDO**.

The initiative aims to strengthen India's **preparedness** for **radiological and nuclear emergencies** and improve **CBRN crisis response capabilities**.

The facility is part of the upcoming **CBRN Centre of Excellence** under the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**.

The centre includes **state-of-the-art facilities** such as a **radiological and nuclear test bed facility**, **heavy ion research facility**, **emergency medical response units**, and **real-time field response units**.

The training centre will provide **specialised training** to responders from the **Ministry of Defence**, **Ministry of Home Affairs**, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, and other agencies.

142. In 2026, the Second Edition of the Joint Commanders' Conference was organised around which theme?

A.Integrated Maritime Security

B.Self-Reliance in Defence Technology

C.Future Warfare and Defence Strategy

D.Military Capability in New Domains

E.Modernisation of Armed Forces

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Second Edition** of the **Joint Commanders' Conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on **May 07–08, 2026**, focusing on the theme **"Military Capability in New Domains"**.

The conference will be attended by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** and **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**, marking a key **strategic defence engagement**.

The event coincides with the **first anniversary** of **Operation Sindoor**, a **Tri-Services operation** symbolising India's political resolve and **precision-based military capability**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Second Edition** of the **Joint Commanders' Conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on **May 07–08, 2026**, focusing on the theme **"Military Capability in New Domains"**.

The conference will be attended by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** and **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**, marking a key **strategic defence engagement**.

The event coincides with the **first anniversary** of **Operation Sindoor**, a **Tri-Services operation** symbolising India's political resolve and **precision-based military capability**.

The discussions will focus on **modern, technology-driven warfare**, including the

impact of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **unmanned systems**, and emerging **non-traditional threats**.

The conference will address challenges in **new domains** such as **cyber warfare**, **space warfare**, and **cognitive warfare**.

A key objective is to develop a **roadmap** for **future-ready defence capabilities** ensuring a **resilient and technologically advanced** armed force.

143. In 2026, the inaugural Joint Commission meeting between India and which country was held in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation?

A.Morocco

B.Egypt

C.Algeria

D.Tunisia

E.Libya

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **inaugural Joint Commission meeting** between **India and Algeria** was held in **New Delhi**, marking a significant step in strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.

The meeting focused on **key areas of collaboration** such as **training, military exercises, medical cooperation, and defence industries**.

Both sides agreed to **expand defence cooperation activities** and strengthen **strategic engagement** between India and Algeria.

Detailed Explanation:

The **inaugural Joint Commission meeting** between **India and Algeria** was held in **New Delhi**, marking a significant step in strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.

The meeting focused on **key areas of collaboration** such as **training, military exercises, medical cooperation, and defence industries**.

Both sides agreed to **expand defence cooperation activities** and strengthen **strategic engagement** between India and Algeria.

The two countries signed the **Rules of Procedure**, which will act as a **guiding framework** for implementing **India–Algeria defence cooperation** through Joint Commission meetings.

The meeting was co-chaired by **Amitabh Prasad** and **Kaid Nour Eddine**.

The **Indian delegation** included representatives from the **three Services, Integrated Defence Staff, Department of Defence Production, DRDO, Armed Forces Medical Services, and Ministry of External Affairs**.

144. In 2026, INS Sudarshini entered the Port of Mindelo in which country during its Lokayan-26 transoceanic training voyage?

A.Seychelles

B.Mauritius

C.Mozambique

D.Madagascar

E.Cape Verde

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** entered the **Port of Mindelo**, marking its **eighth port call** during the ongoing voyage.

The visit is part of the **Lokayan-26 transoceanic training voyage**, flagged off on **20 January 2026**, and represents the **final African stopover** before the ship's **trans-Atlantic journey** to the **Caribbean**.

During the port call, the **Commanding Officer** of **INS Sudarshini** will engage with **maritime authorities of Cape Verde** to strengthen **naval cooperation** and **bilateral relations**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** entered the **Port of Mindelo**, marking its **eighth port call** during the ongoing voyage.

The visit is part of the **Lokayan-26 transoceanic training voyage**, flagged off on **20 January 2026**, and represents the **final African stopover** before the ship's **trans-Atlantic journey** to the **Caribbean**.

During the port call, the **Commanding Officer** of **INS Sudarshini** will engage with **maritime authorities of Cape Verde** to strengthen **naval cooperation** and **bilateral relations**.

The programme includes **cross-training exchanges** and **professional and social interactions** with the **Cape Verde Coast Guard** to enhance **mutual understanding** and **maritime coordination**.

The ship will also be **open to visitors**, allowing the local community to interact with the crew and explore the vessel, promoting **maritime diplomacy** and **cultural outreach**.

145. In 2026, the Technology Development Board signed an agreement with NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited for manufacturing which advanced clean-energy mobility component?

A.Hydrogen fuel cells

B.Lithium-ion batteries

C.Solar charging modules

D.Electric vehicle motors

E.Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited** for establishing a manufacturing facility for **Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders**.

The initiative supports the Government of India's vision of **clean energy mobility**, **reduced carbon emissions**, and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in advanced manufacturing.

The project focuses on the **commercialization** of indigenously developed **Type-IV CNG cylinders** using advanced technologies such as **filament**

winding, blow moulding, and high-pressure testing.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited** for establishing a manufacturing facility for **Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders**.

The initiative supports the Government of India's vision of **clean energy mobility**, **reduced carbon emissions**, and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in advanced manufacturing.

The project focuses on the **commercialization** of indigenously developed **Type-IV CNG cylinders** using advanced technologies such as **filament winding, blow moulding, and high-pressure testing**.

Type-IV composite cylinders are next-generation alternatives to traditional steel cylinders and provide up to **75% weight reduction**, improving **vehicle efficiency and fuel economy**.

The cylinders are equipped with a **corrosion-free polymer liner**, optimized **CFRP layup**, and advanced **mechanical locking systems** for enhanced **safety, durability, and leak resistance**.

The design achieves a **burst pressure exceeding 600 bar**, significantly higher than standard **regulatory safety requirements**.

The technology has been **developed indigenously** by **NTF Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**, supporting India's expanding **CNG mobility ecosystem**.

146. In 2026, what is the name of India's first orbital data centre satellite being developed by Pixxel and Sarvam AI?

A.Pathfinder

B.Vyom

C.Antriksh

D.Astra-1

E.OrbitX

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Spacetech startup Pixxel partnered with **Sarvam AI** to develop India's first **orbital data centre satellite**, named **Pathfinder**.

Under the partnership, **Pixxel** will design, build, launch, and operate the satellite, while **Sarvam AI** will provide the **AI backbone** and **full-stack language models** for **in-orbit AI processing**.

The **200 kg-class Pathfinder satellite** is scheduled for launch in the **fourth quarter of 2026**.

Detailed Explanation:

Spacetech startup Pixxel partnered with **Sarvam AI** to develop India's first **orbital data centre satellite**, named **Pathfinder**.

Under the partnership, **Pixxel** will design, build, launch, and operate the satellite, while **Sarvam AI** will provide the **AI backbone** and **full-stack language models** for **in-orbit AI processing**.

The **200 kg-class Pathfinder satellite** is scheduled for launch in the **fourth quarter of 2026**.

Unlike conventional satellites using low-power processors, **Pathfinder** will carry **data centre-grade GPUs**, significantly increasing **space-based computing capability**.

The satellite will perform **AI training and inference** directly in orbit, reducing dependence on **ground-based processing systems**.

Pathfinder integrates **high-performance computing** with advanced **Earth observation** and **hyperspectral imaging technologies**.

147. In 2026, UIDAI signed a 5-year MoU with which institution to strengthen cybersecurity and digital forensic capabilities for Aadhaar infrastructure?

A.Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

B.Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

C.Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

D.National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

E.National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to strengthen

India's **cybersecurity** and **digital forensic ecosystem** for **Aadhaar infrastructure**.

The MoU was signed between **Vivek Chandra Verma,**Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of UIDAI and Dr. S.O. Junare, Director of NFSU, Gujarat Campus, in New Delhi, Delhi.

The partnership aims to enhance **cyber resilience**, **digital security**, and **forensic capabilities** of India's **Aadhaar system**.

Key focus areas include **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based anomaly detection**, **deepfake detection**, **blockchain technology**, and **cryptographic systems**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to strengthen

India's **cybersecurity** and **digital forensic ecosystem** for **Aadhaar infrastructure**.

The MoU was signed between **Vivek Chandra Verma,**Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of UIDAI and Dr. S.O. Junare, Director of NFSU, Gujarat Campus, in New Delhi, Delhi.

The partnership aims to enhance **cyber resilience**, **digital security**, and **forensic capabilities** of India's **Aadhaar system**.

Key focus areas include **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based anomaly detection**, **deepfake detection**, **blockchain technology**, and **cryptographic systems**.

The collaboration covers **six pillars**: academic and professional development, **information security**, **system integrity**, forensic

infrastructure strengthening, **cybersecurity operations support**, emerging technology research, and awareness programmes.
Joint initiatives will promote **capacity building**, **skill development**, and **student placement opportunities** in cybersecurity and digital forensics.

148. In 2026, NITI Aayog launched which portal to strengthen real-time governance and improve last-mile service delivery under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)?

A.SAMARTH Portal
B.Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal
C.PRAGATI Portal
D.Aspirational India Portal
E.SANKALP Portal

Answer: B

Short Explanation:
Nidhi Chhibber, interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Institution for Transforming India **(NITI) Aayog** launched the **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal** in **New Delhi** to strengthen **real-time governance** and improve **last-mile service delivery** under the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
The portal was launched by **Nidhi Chhibber** to enhance **field-level monitoring** and **administrative responsiveness**.

Detailed Explanation:
Nidhi Chhibber, interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Institution for Transforming India **(NITI) Aayog** launched the **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal** in **New Delhi** to strengthen **real-time governance** and improve **last-mile service delivery** under the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
The portal was launched by **Nidhi Chhibber** to enhance **field-level monitoring** and **administrative responsiveness**.
The platform aims to bridge the gap between **field observations** and **administrative action** through a structured **real-time reporting system**.
Central Prabhari Officers (CPOs) are senior **Central Government officials** responsible for **ground-level monitoring**, **programme implementation review**, and **Centre–State–District coordination**.
The portal enables **CPOs** to upload **real-time field observations** and implementation issues using **mobile-based reporting tools**.

149. In 2026, World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on which date?

A.5 May
B.6 May
C.7 May
D.8 May

E.9 May

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about **Thalassaemia**, a genetic blood disorder, and to support patients suffering from the disease.

The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by patients suffering from **Thalassaemia** and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Detailed Explanation:

World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about **Thalassaemia**, a genetic blood disorder, and to support patients suffering from the disease.

The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by patients suffering from **Thalassaemia** and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Thalassaemia is a **genetic blood disorder** that is passed from parents to children.

The observance also honours patients and families fighting against the disease.

In **1994**, the **Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF)** established **8 May** as World Thalassaemia Day.

150. In 2026, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on which date?

A.5 May

B.6 May

C.7 May

D.9 May

E.8 May

Answer: E

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about humanitarian values, relief activities, and the importance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement across the world.

The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of **Henry Dunant**, who was born on **8 May 1828**.

Henry Dunant was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**.

151. In 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed reforms for Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) to expand access to which of the following products through GIFT-IFSC?

A.Agricultural commodity futures

B.Overseas-listed debt securities

C.Cryptocurrency exchange products

D.Gold monetisation certificates

E.Equity derivatives of foreign companies

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed **major regulatory reforms** for **w (OBPPs)** to strengthen India's **retail bond market ecosystem**.

SEBI aims to allow **OBPPs** to offer a **wider range of debt securities**, including **government securities** and **listed debt instruments**, beyond current permitted products.

The regulator has proposed permitting **OBPPs** to distribute **tax-saving bonds** under **Section 54EC** of the Income Tax Act as well as similar provisions in the **new Income-tax Act**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed **major regulatory reforms** for **w (OBPPs)** to strengthen India's **retail bond market ecosystem**.

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The regulator has proposed permitting **OBPPs** to distribute **tax-saving bonds** under **Section 54EC** of the Income Tax Act as well as similar provisions in the **new Income-tax Act**.

SEBI has also proposed expanding **OBPP scope** to include products regulated by the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, enabling access to **overseas-listed debt securities** via **GIFT-IFSC** (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City).

At present, **OBPPs** can distribute only instruments regulated by **domestic regulators** such as **SEBI** and the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

The proposed framework aims to align **OBPP operations** with **stockbrokers permitted in IFSCs**, improving **regulatory harmonisation**.

SEBI has issued a **consultation paper** seeking **public comments by May 26** on proposals to **expand products**, **simplify compliance**, and improve **ease of doing business**.

152. In 2026, what is the name of the task force constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to assess cybersecurity risks arising from advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools?

A.Cyber Shield India

B.AI Secure Force

C.Cyber-suraksha.ai

D.Digital Rakshak Task Force

E.FinCyber Mission

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a dedicated task force named **"Cyber-suraksha.ai"** to assess **cybersecurity risks** arising from advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** and strengthen **cyber resilience** in financial markets.

The task force aims to evaluate threats from **AI-driven vulnerability identification tools** such as **Claude Mythos** and develop strategies to enhance **financial cybersecurity frameworks**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a dedicated task force named **"Cyber-suraksha.ai"** to assess **cybersecurity risks** arising from advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** and strengthen **cyber resilience** in financial markets.

The task force aims to evaluate threats from **AI-driven vulnerability identification tools** such as **Claude Mythos** and develop strategies to enhance **financial cybersecurity frameworks**.

The **Cyber Suraksha AI task force** will include representatives from **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, **Qualified Registrar and Transfer Agents (QRTAs)**, **Regulated Entities (REs)**, and other key stakeholders.

Its primary responsibility is to identify and assess **AI-based cybersecurity risks** and develop a **uniform mitigation strategy** to address emerging threats.

The task force will also focus on **real-time reporting** of **cyber incidents**, **malicious activities**, and **system vulnerabilities** to strengthen **regulatory response mechanisms**.

SEBI highlighted that **AI-driven tools** are increasingly used in financial systems to **detect vulnerabilities** at high speed and scale, improving **cybersecurity efficiency**

153. In 2026, S&P Global Market Intelligence and CRISIL Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to what percentage in the report titled "India Forward – Emerging Perspectives"?

A.5.8%

B.6.6%

C.6.2%

D.7.1%

E.7.6%

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

S&P Global Market Intelligence and **CRISIL Ratings Limited** jointly released a report titled **"India Forward – Emerging Perspectives"**, revising India's Gross Domestic Product **(GDP) growth forecast** for **FY27 downward by 50 basis points** to **6.6%** from **7.1%**.

The revision is attributed to **disruptions in trade and energy supply chains** and **rising inflation** due to the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.

For **FY26**, India's **GDP growth** is estimated at **7.6%**, reflecting strong near-term economic performance.

Detailed Explanation:

S&P Global Market Intelligence and **CRISIL Ratings Limited** jointly released a report titled **"India Forward – Emerging Perspectives"**, revising India's Gross Domestic Product **(GDP) growth forecast** for **FY27 downward by 50 basis points** to **6.6%** from **7.1%**.

The revision is attributed to **disruptions in trade and energy supply chains** and **rising**

inflation due to the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.

For **FY26**, India's **GDP growth** is estimated at **7.6%**, reflecting strong near-term economic performance.

The report projects India's **average annual GDP growth** at **7.3%** between **FY23 and FY26**, indicating sustained **medium-term growth momentum**.

Retail inflation is expected to rise to an average of **5.1% in FY26** from around **2% earlier**, driven mainly by **energy supply disruptions**.

The **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** is projected to **widen** from **0.8% of GDP (FY26)** to **2.2% (FY27)**, reflecting **external sector pressure**.

India's **debt-to-GDP ratio** is expected to increase to **57.5%** from **56.1%**, moving away from the **fiscal consolidation target** of **49–51% by FY31**.

154. In 2026, under which scheme can retail investors open a Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account directly with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) without intermediaries?

A.RBI Retail Direct Scheme

B.Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

C.Bharat Bond Initiative

D.PM Jan Dhan Investment Scheme

E.Government Securities Access Scheme

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Retail investors are increasingly shifting towards the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Retail Direct platform** in search of **safer and better investment returns** in government securities.

The number of **Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) accounts** rose by around **64% year-on-year** to approximately **3.61 lakh accounts** (as of April 27, 2026), compared to **2.20 lakh accounts** in the previous year.

The **RBI Retail Direct Scheme**, launched in **November 2021** (originally announced in February 2021), aims to improve **accessibility of government securities** for retail investors.

Detailed Explanation:

Retail investors are increasingly shifting towards the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Retail Direct platform** in search of **safer and better investment returns** in government securities.

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The **RBI Retail Direct Scheme**, launched in **November 2021** (originally announced in February 2021), aims to improve **accessibility of government securities** for retail investors.

Under this scheme, investors can open a **Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account** directly with RBI **without intermediaries** such as banks or brokers.

The account can be opened in **single or joint holding mode**, and even **non-resident retail**

investors are eligible under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**.

155. In 2026, the Bihar State Cabinet approved a World Bank loan of how much for the Bihar Urban Transformation Programme?

A.USD 250 million

B.USD 350 million

C.USD 450 million

D.USD 500 million

E.USD 1 billion

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Bihar State Cabinet**, chaired by **Samrat Choudhary**, approved a **USD 500 million (₹4,750 crore)** loan from the **World Bank** for the **Bihar Urban Transformation Programme**.

The programme aims to **strengthen urban governance**, improve **civic infrastructure**, enhance **public services**, and promote **sustainable urban development** across major cities and municipalities in Bihar.

The initiative focuses on developing **integrated urban economic zones** and improving infrastructure in **selected urban centres**.

The **World Bank funding** will support **urban infrastructure upgrades**, municipal **capacity building**, **water supply improvements**, **sanitation projects**, and **planned urban expansion**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Bihar State Cabinet**, chaired by **Samrat Choudhary**, approved a **USD 500 million (₹4,750 crore)** loan from the **World Bank** for the **Bihar Urban Transformation Programme**.

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The initiative focuses on developing **integrated urban economic zones** and improving infrastructure in **selected urban centres**.

The **World Bank funding** will support **urban infrastructure upgrades**, municipal **capacity building**, **water supply improvements**, **sanitation projects**, and **planned urban expansion**.

The project is intended to address the challenges arising from **rapid population growth** and increasing **urban infrastructure demands**.

The Cabinet also approved the **transfer of 1.85 acres of land** for **developmental purposes** (specifically for the expansion of **Patna airport**).

Bihar approved **enhanced subsidy support** under the **Prime Minister e-Bus Sewa Scheme** for operating **400 electric AC buses**, promoting **green and sustainable urban transport**.

156. In 2026, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, which Indian city recorded the highest suicide rate among major cities in recent years?

A.Mumbai
B.Delhi
C.Chennai
D.Bengaluru
E.Hyderabad
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
According to data published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities in recent years.
The suicide rate in Bengaluru remained close to **20 suicides per lakh population** during **2022, 2023, and 2024**, placing it at the top among mega cities.
Detailed Explanation:
According to data published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities in recent years.
The suicide rate in Bengaluru remained close to **20 suicides per lakh population** during **2022, 2023, and 2024**, placing it at the top among mega cities.
The NCRB report titled **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI)** provides annual data on **suicide cases, accidental deaths, causes of suicides, and demographic patterns** across States, Union Territories, and selected cities.
The **National Crime Records Bureau** functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and is responsible for collecting and analysing crime-related data in India.
Bengaluru reported the following number of suicides:
2022: 2,313 cases
2023: 2,370 cases
2024: 2,403 cases
Although **Delhi** recorded a higher total number of suicides at **2,905 cases in 2024**, its suicide rate was lower at **9.8 suicides per lakh population** due to its larger population size.

157. In 2026, what is the title of the exhibition presented at the India Pavilion during the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia in Venice, Italy?
A.Threads of Tradition
B.India Beyond Borders
C.Geographies of Distance: remembering home
D.Echoes of Civilisation
E.Roots and Horizons
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
India officially opened its Pavilion at the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026** in **Venice, Italy**.
The Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** along with senior international cultural dignitaries.
The India Pavilion presents the exhibition titled **"Geographies of Distance: remembering home"**, focusing on themes of **memory, migration, belonging, and**

cultural identity through contemporary Indian art.

The exhibition is curated by **Dr Amin Jaffer** and presented by the **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre** and **Serendipity Arts**.

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The exhibition is curated by **Dr Amin Jaffer** and presented by the **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre** and **Serendipity Arts**.

The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries including **President of La Biennale di Venezia Mr Pietrangelo Buttafuoco**, **Secretary, Ministry of Culture Shri Vivek Aggarwal**, **Ambassador of India to Italy H.E. Vani Rao**, **Smt Nita M Ambani**, **Smt Isha Ambani**, and **Shri Sunil Kant Munjal**.

The Pavilion features works by five contemporary Indian artists: **Alwar Balasubramaniam, Ranjani Shettar, Sumakshi Singh, Skarma Sonam Tashi, and Asim Waqif**.

158. In 2026, which organisation is implementing the nationwide free annual health check-up initiative for workers aged 40 years and above under the new Labour Codes?

A.National Health Authority (NHA)

B.Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

C.Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

D.Central Board of Workers Welfare

E.Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Union Minister for Labour and Employment **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a nationwide **free annual health check-up initiative** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes.

The initiative was launched at the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation Medical College and Hospital, Basaidarapur, New Delhi**.

The programme is being implemented through the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** network across India to strengthen occupational healthcare and social security coverage.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister for Labour and Employment **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a

nationwide **free annual health check-up initiative** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes.

The initiative was launched at the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation Medical College and Hospital, Basaidarapur, New Delhi**.

The programme is being implemented through the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** network across India to strengthen occupational healthcare and social security coverage.

Under the initiative, workers aged **40 years and above will receive free annual health screenings** through ESIC hospitals and healthcare facilities.

The focus of the programme is on preventive healthcare, early disease detection, and long-term health monitoring of workers.

Workers engaged in **hazardous industries** such as chemical handling and high-risk operations will receive **mandatory medical check-ups irrespective of age**.

The initiative is part of the implementation of the **four Labour Codes**, aimed at strengthening labour reforms in India.

159. In 2026, which Indian city will host the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting under India's BRICS Presidency?

A.Jaipur

B.Bengaluru

C.Indore

D.Hyderabad

E.Lucknow

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India will host the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** under its **BRICS Presidency**.

The two-day meeting is scheduled to be held in **June 2026** and will bring together agriculture ministers from **BRICS member countries**.

The BRICS grouping includes **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, which together represent a significant share of global population, agricultural output, and emerging economies.

Detailed Explanation:

India will host the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** under its **BRICS Presidency**.

The two-day meeting is scheduled to be held in **June 2026** and will bring together agriculture ministers from **BRICS member countries**.

The BRICS grouping includes **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, which together represent a significant share of global population, agricultural output, and emerging economies.

The meeting will focus on major global agricultural issues, including **food security, sustainable farming, climate-resilient agriculture, and agricultural trade cooperation**.

Key discussion areas will include **artificial intelligence in agriculture, machine learning applications, precision farming, and digital**

agriculture systems to improve productivity and resource efficiency.

Climate-related challenges such as **drought-resistant farming, sustainable irrigation systems, climate adaptation strategies, and disaster-resilient agriculture** will also be discussed.

160. In 2026, Professor Harminder Singh Dua, who is participating in the AIOS–AFOU 2026 Conference, is associated with which university in the United Kingdom?

A.University of Oxford

B.University of Cambridge

C.University of Edinburgh

D.University of Nottingham

E.King's College London

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference (AIOS–AFOU 2026)** will be held at the **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment**.

The event is jointly organised by the **Army Hospital (Research and Referral)** and the **All-India Ophthalmological Society**.

The conference will witness participation of the **Chief of Defence Staff**, **three Service Chiefs**, **Defence Secretary**, and senior defence and medical officials, highlighting its **tri-service and national importance**.

International experts will also participate, including **Professor Harminder Singh Dua**, Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, known for discovering **Dua's Layer** in corneal anatomy.

Detailed Explanation:

The **All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference (AIOS–AFOU 2026)** will be held at the **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment**.

The event is jointly organised by the **Army Hospital (Research and Referral)** and the **All-India Ophthalmological Society**.

The conference will witness participation of the **Chief of Defence Staff**, **three Service Chiefs**, **Defence Secretary**, and senior defence and medical officials, highlighting its **tri-service and national importance**.

More than **100 eminent faculty members** from leading medical institutions and nearly **200 ophthalmologists across India** will participate in the event.

Major participating institutions include the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi**, **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research**, **L V Prasad Eye Institute**, **Sankara Nethralaya**, and **Aravind Eye Care System**.

International experts will also participate, including **Professor Harminder Singh Dua**, Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, known for discovering **Dua's Layer** in corneal anatomy.

161. In 2026, which Government of India flagship initiative signed an MoU with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation?

A.Digital India

B.IndiaAI

C.BharatNet

D.National Supercomputing Mission

E.PM Gati Shakti

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

IndiaAI, the Government of India's flagship Artificial Intelligence initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation in India.

The partnership aims to combine **IndiaAI's digital infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence ecosystem** with **ICMR's expertise in biomedical and public health research** to develop ethical and scalable healthcare solutions.

Detailed Explanation:

IndiaAI, the Government of India's flagship Artificial Intelligence initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation in India.

The partnership aims to combine **IndiaAI's digital infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence ecosystem** with **ICMR's expertise in biomedical and public health research** to develop ethical and scalable healthcare solutions.

Under the agreement, **ICMR will provide anonymised and ethics-approved biomedical datasets, Artificial Intelligence models, and toolkits** developed under its **Medical Information Data for Artificial Intelligence Solutions framework** to the **AIKosh platform**.

The **AIKosh platform** will enable researchers, startups, and innovators to access high-quality biomedical datasets for developing Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare applications and public health solutions.

The collaboration will also provide **subsidised access to Graphics Processing Unit-based and high-performance computing infrastructure** to ICMR through IndiaAI.

162. In 2026, who was appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea?

A.Kumar Mangalam Birla

B.Sunil Bharti Mittal

C.Ravinder Takkar

D.Akshaya Moondra

E.Himanshu Kapania

Answer: A

Kumar Mangalam Birla has been appointed as the **Non-Executive Chairman** of **Vodafone Idea**.

The company's board accepted the resignation of the outgoing chairman **Ravinder Takkar**, who will continue as a **Non-Executive Director** and also serve as **Non-Executive Vice Chairman**.

Kumar Mangalam Birla had previously served as **Chairman of Vodafone Idea** from August 2018 to 2021, stepping down during a period of **financial stress** in the company.

163. In 2026, what is the name of India's first indigenous glide weapon system whose maiden flight-trial was successfully conducted by DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha?

A.Astra-X

B.Vajra Glide

C.Pinaka Precision System

D.Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)

E.Garuda Strike Weapon

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted the **maiden flight-trial** of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon on **07 May 2026** off the coast of **Odisha**.

TARA is India's **first indigenous glide weapon system** designed to convert **unguided warheads** into **precision-guided weapons**.

The system has been **designed and developed** by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI Hyderabad)** along with other **DRDO laboratories**.

Detailed Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted the **maiden flight-trial** of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon on **07 May 2026** off the coast of **Odisha**.

TARA is India's **first indigenous glide weapon system** designed to convert **unguided warheads** into **precision-guided weapons**.

The system has been **designed and developed** by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI Hyderabad)** along with other **DRDO laboratories**.

The weapon system is aimed at enhancing the **accuracy, lethality, and operational capability** of **low-cost weapons** against **ground-based targets**.

TARA is the **first glide weapon** in India to utilise **state-of-the-art low-cost guidance** and **augmentation systems**.

The project has been developed in collaboration with **Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs)** and other **Indian defence industries**.

164. In 2026, India's first comprehensive Urban Testbed and Aerosol Observatory along with the Centre for Atmospheric Science Research and Innovation (CASRI) was established by which institute?

A.India Meteorological Department (IMD)
B.Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
C.National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)
D.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
E.National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, through its autonomous institute **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, has established **India's first comprehensive Urban Testbed and Aerosol Observatory** along with the **Centre for Atmospheric Science Research and Innovation (CASRI)** at **SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST)** in Chennai.

The facilities were inaugurated by **M. Ravichandran**, marking a major advancement in **urban atmospheric research** and **climate science infrastructure**.

The observatory aims to enhance **weather forecasting accuracy**, **monsoon prediction**, **urban flood prediction**, **severe weather nowcasting**, and **disaster mitigation systems**.

It also supports **climate resilience**, **climate adaptation planning**, and **smart urban infrastructure development** under India's scientific advancement goals.

Built with an investment of over **₹60 crore**, the facility houses around **15 advanced instruments** and monitors nearly **50 atmospheric parameters** including temperature, wind flow, aerosols, and weather patterns.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, through its autonomous institute **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, has established **India's first comprehensive Urban Testbed and Aerosol Observatory** along with the **Centre for Atmospheric Science Research and Innovation (CASRI)** at **SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST)** in Chennai.

The facilities were inaugurated by **M. Ravichandran**, marking a major advancement in **urban atmospheric research** and **climate science infrastructure**.

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It also supports **climate resilience**, **climate adaptation planning**, and **smart urban infrastructure development** under India's scientific advancement goals.

Built with an investment of over **₹60 crore**, the facility houses around **15 advanced instruments** and monitors nearly **50 atmospheric parameters** including temperature, wind flow, aerosols, and weather patterns.

The project plans to deploy about **100 Automatic Weather Stations**

(AWS) across **urban and suburban transition zones** for real-time atmospheric monitoring.
The observatory will also include advanced systems like **X-band radar**, **phased array radar**, **aerosol monitoring units**, **wind profilers**, **lidars**, **sodars**, and **radiometers** for comprehensive atmospheric analysis.
The initiative is part of **Mission Mausam** (launched in September 2024), a **flagship programme** aimed at **modernising weather forecasting** and climate services in India.

165. In 2026, the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation announced its first international centre in which location to expand India's deep-tech ecosystem?

A.Silicon Valley
B.San Francisco
C.Boston
D.New York
E.Menlo Park

Answer: E

Short Explanation:
The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Global Research Foundation** has announced its **first international centre** in **Menlo Park**, expanding India's **deep-tech innovation** presence into global ecosystems.
The announcement was made during the **SelectUSA Investment Summit** held at National Harbor, United States.

Detailed Explanation:
The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Global Research Foundation** has announced its **first international centre** in **Menlo Park**, expanding India's **deep-tech innovation** presence into global ecosystems.
The announcement was made during the **SelectUSA Investment Summit** held at National Harbor, United States.
The **IITM Centre** is designed to act as a **launchpad for Indian deep-tech startups**, enabling access to **global capital, markets, mentorship,** and **strategic partnerships**.
The centre will be developed with a total investment of **USD 7.5 million**, including a **USD 4.5 million greenfield investment** from the IITM Global Research Foundation.
It will focus on **deep-tech research**, **technology commercialisation**, **startup incubation**, **global market access**, and **industry–academia collaboration**.
The initiative aims to strengthen **innovation scaling** and **venture engagement** for **high-potential deep-tech startups**.

166. In 2026, Skyroot Aerospace became India's first space-tech unicorn after raising USD 60 million, taking its valuation to how much?

A.USD 550 million
B.USD 750 million
C.USD 900 million
D.USD 1.1 billion

E.USD 1.5 billion

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Skyroot Aerospace, a private Indian space launch startup, has become **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising **USD 60 million (₹570 crore)**.

With this funding, the company's **valuation** has reached **USD 1.1 billion**, nearly double its 2023 valuation of USD 550 million.

The startup's **total funding** has now crossed **USD 160 million (₹1,500 crore)**, marking a major milestone in **India's private space sector growth**.

Detailed Explanation:

Skyroot Aerospace, a private Indian space launch startup, has become **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising **USD 60 million (₹570 crore)**.

With this funding, the company's **valuation** has reached **USD 1.1 billion**, nearly double its 2023 valuation of USD 550 million.

The startup's **total funding** has now crossed **USD 160 million (₹1,500 crore)**, marking a major milestone in **India's private space sector growth**.

Skyroot Aerospace became the **fourth Indian startup** to enter the **unicorn club in 2026**, after KreditBee, Neysa, and Juspay.

The latest funding round was **co-led by Sherpalo Ventures (Ram Shriram)** and **GIC Private Limited**.

The funds will be used to **accelerate development** of launch vehicles such as **Vikram-1**, based on the success of **Vikram-S** (India's first private rocket launched in 2022).

167. In 2026, Ted Turner, who passed away at the age of 87, is best known as the founder of which 24-hour news channel?

A.BBC News

B.Al Jazeera

C.CNBC

D.Fox News

E.CNN

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Ted Turner, media mogul, philanthropist, and **founder of CNN**, passed away at the age of **87** in Atlanta.

He was born on **19 November 1938** in Cincinnati.

Ted Turner's full name was **Robert Edward Turner III**, and he is regarded as a **pioneer in global television broadcasting** and **24-hour news media**.

Detailed Explanation:

Ted Turner, media mogul, philanthropist, and **founder of CNN**, passed away at the age of **87** in Atlanta.

He was born on **19 November 1938** in Cincinnati.

Ted Turner's full name was **Robert Edward Turner III**, and he is regarded as a **pioneer in global television broadcasting** and **24-hour news media**.

He revolutionized **broadcast journalism** by launching **CNN in 1980** as the **world's first 24-**

hour continuous news channel, introducing the concept of **real-time global news coverage**.

Turner transformed a struggling local TV station into the **Turner Broadcasting System (TBS)** and pioneered the **"superstation" satellite broadcasting model**.

He acquired Atlanta's independent station **WJRJ Channel 17 in 1970**, which later became the **foundation of his media empire**.

168. In 2026, Indian chess player Apaar Saxena was awarded which title by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)?

A.Grandmaster (GM)

B.Candidate Master (CM)

C.International Master (IM)

D.FIDE Master (FM)

E.Senior International Master (SIM)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Indian chess player **Apaar Saxena** has been awarded the prestigious **International Master (IM) title** by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**.

He achieved the title after securing all **three required International Master norms** through consistent performances in European chess tournaments.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian chess player **Apaar Saxena** has been awarded the prestigious **International Master (IM) title** by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**.

He achieved the title after securing all **three required International Master norms** through consistent performances in European chess tournaments.

Apaar Saxena is from **Karnataka** and reached the milestone by performing strongly against high-rated international opponents.

He successfully completed the requirement of **three IM norms** along with the necessary rating benchmark through international tournament performances

169. In 2026, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) lifted restrictions on which countries' athletes could participate in the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics?

A.Belarus

B.Russia

C.Ukraine

D.Kazakhstan

E.China

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, while **Russia continues to remain under suspension**.

The IOC announced that it will no longer recommend restrictions on Belarusian athletes and teams in international competitions.

Detailed Explanation:

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028**

Summer Olympics, while **Russia continues to remain under suspension**.

The IOC announced that it will no longer recommend restrictions on Belarusian athletes and teams in international competitions.

Belarusian athletes will be allowed to participate in the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, including **opening ceremonies and medal events**.

The IOC stated that athletes should not face restrictions for actions taken by governments.

The **Russian Olympic Committee (ROC)** remains suspended after its suspension in 2023.

Russian athletes are allowed to compete only as **Individual Neutral Athletes** under strict conditions.

170. In 2026, Victory Day is observed every year on which date to commemorate the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945?

A.May 1

B.May 5

C.May 7

D.May 9

E.May 11

Answer: D

Victory Day is observed every year on **May 9** as one of the most significant national holidays in **Russia**, marking the surrender of **Nazi Germany in 1945** during the **Second World War**.

The day commemorates the signing of the **German Instrument of Surrender** in Berlin, which led to the end of the war in Europe.

Victory Day was first observed across the **15 Republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** following the declaration of victory after the Second World War.

171. Consider the following statements regarding the Jan Suraksha Schemes:

1. **The Jan Suraksha Schemes were launched on 9 May 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
2. **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) provides life insurance coverage.**
3. **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is an accident insurance scheme for unorganised workers.**
4. **Combined enrolments under PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY have crossed 90 crore.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.1, 2 and 4 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 3 and 4 only

E.1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The three **Jan Suraksha Schemes** — **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** — have completed **11 years of implementation**.

Combined enrolments stand at **PMJJBY – 27+ crore**, **PMSBY – 58+ crore**, and **APY – 9 crore**, showing massive **social security penetration**.

Detailed Explanation:

The three **Jan Suraksha Schemes** — **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** — have completed **11 years of implementation**.

The **Jan Suraksha Schemes** were launched on **9 May 2015** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to provide **affordable insurance and pension security** to citizens, especially the underserved and vulnerable sections of society.

The three flagship schemes are **PMJJBY (life insurance)**, **PMSBY (accident insurance)**, and **APY (pension scheme)**, aimed at strengthening **financial inclusion**, **social security**, and **long-term financial resilience**.

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** highlighted that the schemes provide **low-cost insurance and pension benefits** to citizens across India.

Combined enrolments stand at **PMJJBY – 27+ crore**, **PMSBY – 58+ crore**, and **APY – 9 crore**, showing massive **social security penetration**.

PMJJBY has settled claims worth **₹21,500+ crore** for over **10.7 lakh families**, while **PMSBY** has settled **₹3,660 crore** for over **1.84 lakh families**.

172. Which platform was launched by SEBI on 01 October 2023 to provide brokers with an alternative trading access point during disruptions in trading services?

A.SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES)

B.Supervisory Control and Monitoring System (SUPCOMS)

C.Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)

D.Securities Market Automated Reporting and Tracking System (SMARTS)

E.Cyber Security Audit Compliance System (C-SAC)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has discontinued the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform for stock brokers with **immediate effect**.

The **IRRA platform** was launched on **01 October 2023** to provide brokers with an **alternative trading access point** during disruptions in trading services.

SEBI stated that the platform has become **structurally redundant** due to major improvements in **business continuity systems**, **cyber resilience mechanisms**, and **technological infrastructure** in the securities market.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has discontinued the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform for stock brokers with **immediate effect**.

The **IRRA platform** was launched on **01 October 2023** to provide brokers with an **alternative trading access point** during disruptions in trading services.

SEBI stated that the platform has become **structurally redundant** due to major improvements in **business continuity systems**, **cyber resilience mechanisms**, and **technological infrastructure** in the securities market.

The regulator highlighted that **stock brokers** now have the capability for **seamless transition** between **primary and alternate sites** during disruptions, supported by advanced **business continuity** and **disaster recovery systems**.

SEBI also noted the emergence of **independent cold sites** for ensuring **uninterrupted trading operations** during technical failures or cyber incidents.

Stock exchanges already provide a **Contingency Pool Trading facility**, which allows brokers to **square off client positions** during system disruptions through dedicated **exchange-connected terminals**.

173. Which division secured the top position in the Group A category of the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) rankings in March 2026?

A.Insurance Division

B.Banking Division

C.Revenue Division

D.Pension Division

E.Economic Affairs Division

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** receives more than **2.5 lakh grievances annually** and has consistently ranked among the **top 10 ministries/departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)** since **November 2025**, reflecting strong **administrative responsiveness**.

In **March 2026**, the **Insurance Division** secured the **top position** in **Group A category** of GRAI, while the **Banking Division** retained **5th position** for the second consecutive month, indicating **sustained performance**.

The **GRAI framework**, developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, evaluates ministries on **effectiveness and timeliness** of grievance redressal through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** receives more than **2.5 lakh grievances annually** and has consistently ranked among the **top 10 ministries/departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)** since **November 2025**, reflecting strong **administrative responsiveness**.

In **March 2026**, the **Insurance Division** secured the **top position** in **Group A category** of GRAI, while the **Banking Division** retained **5th position** for the second consecutive month, indicating **sustained performance**.

The **GRAI framework**, developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, evaluates ministries on **effectiveness and timeliness** of grievance redressal through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.

The improved performance is driven by **timely disposal of grievances**, **reduction in pending cases**, and **enhanced quality of resolution**, strengthening **public trust** in the grievance system.

The department follows a **structured mechanism** involving a **dedicated Grievance Redressal Cell**, **daily CPGRAMS monitoring**, **weekly senior-level reviews**, and **monthly scrutiny** of complaints by top officials to ensure **accountability and efficiency**.

174. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme framework:

1. **The Ministry of Finance has introduced a performance-based framework to reward states demonstrating stronger fiscal discipline.**
2. **The assessment framework assigns the highest weightage to borrowing discipline.**
3. **States are required to prepare a Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS) in consultation with the RBI.**
4. **Fourth-quarter borrowing under the framework cannot exceed 30% of annual borrowing.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1, 3 and 4 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 2, 3 and 4

E.3 and 4 only

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a **performance-based framework** under the **Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme to reward states showing stronger **fiscal discipline**.

States demonstrating **prudent debt management**, adherence to **borrowing schedules**, and complete disclosure of **off-budget liabilities** will receive priority access to a **₹3,000 crore incentive pool**.

The new assessment framework gives **50% weightage to debt management**, **30% weightage to borrowing discipline**, and **20% weightage to fiscal transparency**.

The **MTDS** must receive **Cabinet approval** and be published by **15 December 2026**.

Under the **borrowing discipline norms**, quarterly borrowing deviations should remain **within 10%** of the approved schedule.
The guidelines also specify that **fourth-quarter borrowing** must not exceed **30% of annual borrowing**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a **performance-based framework** under the **Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme to reward states showing stronger **fiscal discipline**.
States demonstrating **prudent debt management**, adherence to **borrowing schedules**, and complete disclosure of **off-budget liabilities** will receive priority access to a **₹3,000 crore incentive pool**.
The new assessment framework gives **50% weightage to debt management**, **30% weightage to borrowing discipline**, and **20% weightage to fiscal transparency**.
States are required to prepare a **Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS)** in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
The **MTDS** must receive **Cabinet approval** and be published by **15 December 2026**.
Under the **borrowing discipline norms**, quarterly borrowing deviations should remain **within 10%** of the approved schedule.
The guidelines also specify that **fourth-quarter borrowing** must not exceed **30% of annual borrowing**.
The framework **categorises states based on size** for incentive allocation under the **SASCI Scheme**.
Larger states are eligible for incentives up to **₹250 crore**, while **mid-sized states** can receive up to **₹200 crore**.
Smaller states and **North-Eastern states** are eligible for incentives ranging between **₹100 crore and ₹150 crore**.

175. Which ISO subcommittee is responsible for developing international standards related to Space Systems and Operations?
A.ISO TC 176
B.ISO TC 45
C.ISO TC 211
D.ISO TC 20/SC 14
E.ISO TC 34
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
India hosted the **International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 20 Subcommittee 14 (ISO TC 20/SC 14)** meetings on **Space Systems and Operations** for the first time.
The meetings were organised by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
Detailed Explanation:
India hosted the **International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 20 Subcommittee 14 (ISO TC 20/SC 14)** meetings on **Space Systems and Operations** for the first time.

The meetings were organised by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

A total of **131 international delegates from 13 countries** participated, including experts from **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, global space agencies, industry, academia, and policymakers.

ISO TC 20/SC 14 develops international standards related to space systems, satellite operations, mission safety, sustainability, and interoperability across the lifecycle of space missions.

The initiative aligns with India's space sector reforms, including the establishment of the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)** to promote private sector participation.

176. Which city hosted the first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference under the vision of "Sahkar se Samriddhi"?

A.Guwahati

B.Shillong

C.Imphal

D.Agartala

E.Aizawl

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Aizawl, Mizoram hosted its **first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** under the vision of **"Sahkar se Samriddhi"** to strengthen cooperative institutions in **North-East India**.

The conference was organised by the **Ministry of Cooperation** as part of nationwide cooperative reform initiatives.

Detailed Explanation:

Aizawl, Mizoram hosted its **first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** under the vision of **"Sahkar se Samriddhi"** to strengthen cooperative institutions in **North-East India**.

The conference was organised by the **Ministry of Cooperation** as part of nationwide cooperative reform initiatives.

It marked the **first such conference in Mizoram**, highlighting focus on expanding **cooperative-led development in the North-East region**.

Representatives from **all North-Eastern states**, cooperative institutions, financial organisations, and national agencies participated in the event.

Key sectors discussed included **dairy cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives, cooperative banking, grain storage infrastructure, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies expansion, and organic farming**.

The conference emphasised improving **market linkages, exports, branding, packaging, and certification** for indigenous and organic products.

177. Under its BRICS Chairship 2026, India plans to host the inaugural_____

A.BRICS Startup Innovation Summit

B.BRICS Digital Finance Forum

C.BRICS MSME Forum

D.BRICS Industrial Technology Expo

E.BRICS Trade Facilitation Conference

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India is advancing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) cooperation** under its **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Chairship 2026** with focus on **financial inclusion, financial technology ecosystems, and inclusive growth**.

India will organise **three Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meetings** and host the **inaugural Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Forum** during its Chairship.

Detailed Explanation:

India is advancing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) cooperation** under its **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Chairship 2026** with focus on **financial inclusion, financial technology ecosystems, and inclusive growth**.

The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** organised the **first Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meeting on April 24, 2026**, focusing on **access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.

India will organise **three Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meetings** and host the **inaugural Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Forum** during its Chairship.

The meeting was conducted under the **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution**, which promotes cooperation in **industry, technology, innovation, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises development**.

178. Consider the following statements regarding Census 2027 in India:

1. **India has introduced QR-code-enabled identity cards for Census enumerators.**
2. **Citizens can verify enumerators by scanning QR codes using mobile devices.**
3. **The first phase of Census 2027 began on April 1, 2026.**
4. **Around 3 lakh enumerators are involved in the nationwide Census exercise.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1, 2 and 3 only

B.1 and 4 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 2, 3 and 4

E.3 and 4 only

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

India has introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for Census enumerators for the upcoming **Census 2027** to improve **identity verification and data collection**.

The initiative allows citizens to **verify enumerators by scanning QR codes using**

mobile devices, enhancing transparency and security during field visits.

The first phase of **Census 2027 began on April 1, 2026** and will continue till **September 30, 2026**.

Around **30 lakh enumerators** are involved in the nationwide Census exercise.

Detailed Explanation:

India has introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for Census enumerators for the upcoming **Census 2027** to improve **identity verification and data collection**.

The initiative allows citizens to **verify enumerators by scanning QR codes using mobile devices**, enhancing transparency and security during field visits.

The first phase of **Census 2027 began on April 1, 2026** and will continue till **September 30, 2026**.

Around **30 lakh enumerators** are involved in the nationwide Census exercise.

The Census is being conducted using a **technology-driven framework**, including:

Mobile applications

Centralised data portals

Real-time data transmission systems

Live field monitoring tools

Under the QR-code system, residents can:

Scan the QR code on the enumerator's identity card

Verify identity and official assignment details

179. Which state emerged as the top-performing state in house completions under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)?

A.Odisha

B.Maharashtra

C.Gujarat

D.Uttar Pradesh

E.Tamil Nadu

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Odisha has emerged as the **top-performing state** in house completions under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.

The state maintained the **first position from March 2025 to March 2026** in terms of housing completion performance.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 was launched in **September 2024** to provide **affordable pucca houses** to **urban poor, economically weaker sections, and middle-income groups**.

Detailed Explanation:

Odisha has emerged as the **top-performing state** in house completions under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.

The state maintained the **first position from March 2025 to March 2026** in terms of housing completion performance.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 was launched in **September 2024** to provide **affordable pucca houses** to **urban poor, economically weaker sections, and middle-income groups**.

Odisha has made significant progress under the scheme:

24,625 houses sanctioned
23,464 sites geo-tagged
3,134 houses with foundation work started
2,008 houses completed as of May 5, 2026
The scheme uses **technology-driven monitoring systems**, including **geo-tagging of construction sites, foundation tracking, and real-time progress monitoring**.
Geo-tagging helps in identifying the exact location of houses and tracking construction progress efficiently.
The **Housing and Urban Development Department of Odisha** and **urban local bodies** are responsible for implementation, beneficiary identification, and project monitoring.

180. Consider the following statements regarding Maharashtra's Compressed Biogas Policy 2026:

1. **Maharashtra has allocated ₹500 crore for implementation of the policy in FY 2026–27.**
2. **The policy aims to establish Compressed Biogas projects in every district of the state.**
3. **Compressed Biogas is produced from organic waste through anaerobic digestion.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A.1 and 2 only
B.2 and 3 only
C.1 and 3 only
D.1, 2 and 3
E.2 only
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** to promote **renewable energy generation through waste-to-energy projects**.
The policy was approved by the **Maharashtra Cabinet** and officially released.
The state has allocated **₹500 crore for implementation in the financial year 2026–27**.
It supports India's **clean energy transition and Net-Zero emissions target by 2070**.
Compressed Biogas is a purified form of biogas produced from **organic waste through anaerobic digestion**, and is used as **transport fuel, industrial fuel, and clean energy source**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** to promote **renewable energy generation through waste-to-energy projects**.
The policy was approved by the **Maharashtra Cabinet** and officially released.
The state has allocated **₹500 crore for implementation in the financial year 2026–27**.
The policy aims to establish **Compressed Biogas projects in every district** of the state using **municipal solid waste and agricultural residue**.
It supports India's **clean energy transition and Net-Zero emissions target by 2070**.

Compressed Biogas is a purified form of biogas produced from **organic waste through anaerobic digestion**, and is used as **transport fuel, industrial fuel, and clean energy source**.
Maharashtra generates around **24,500 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste daily** and over **20 million metric tonnes of agricultural residue annually**, which will be utilised for Compressed Biogas production.

181. The Supreme Court has proposed the creation of a permanent women-only Vice-President post in which organisation from the 2027–28 election cycle?
A.Bar Council of India (BCI)
B.Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)
C.Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA)
D.National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)
E.Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA)
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
The **Supreme Court of India** has proposed the creation of a **permanent women-only Vice-President post** in the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.
The proposal was made during hearings related to **reforms in Bar bodies and women's representation in the legal profession**.
On **May 8, 2026**, the Supreme Court asked the **SCBA General Body** to consider creating an **additional Vice-President post reserved exclusively for women**.
The move aims to **increase participation of women advocates in leadership roles** within the Supreme Court Bar Association.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Supreme Court of India** has proposed the creation of a **permanent women-only Vice-President post** in the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.
The proposal was made during hearings related to **reforms in Bar bodies and women's representation in the legal profession**.
On **May 8, 2026**, the Supreme Court asked the **SCBA General Body** to consider creating an **additional Vice-President post reserved exclusively for women**.
The move aims to **increase participation of women advocates in leadership roles** within the Supreme Court Bar Association.
The proposal is linked to ongoing discussions on **reservation of posts for women in SCBA's elected office-bearer structure**.
The **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** is the recognised body of advocates practising before the Supreme Court of India, with key posts including **President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Executive Committee Members**.
The issue is connected to an earlier Supreme Court order dated **April 27, 2026**, regarding reservation of posts in the **2026–27 SCBA elections**.

182. Consider the following statements regarding Jharkhand's school education performance:

1. **Jharkhand achieved a zero primary dropout rate (0%) in 2024–25.**
2. **The primary dropout rate increased from 6.41% in 2014–15 to 9% in 2024–25.**
3. **The data on dropout rates is based on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+).**
4. **Jharkhand recorded an improvement in secondary dropout rate, declining to 3.5% in 2024–25.**

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

A.1 and 3 only

B.2 only

C.1, 2 and 4 only

D.2 and 3 only

E.3 and 4 only

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Jharkhand has achieved a **zero primary dropout rate (0%) in 2024–25**, marking a major milestone in school education.

The primary dropout rate declined from **6.41 per cent in 2014–15 to 0 per cent in 2024–25**, as per data from the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** and a **NITI Aayog report** released on May 8, 2026.

The state also recorded significant improvement in other levels:

Upper primary dropout rate reduced from **7.42 per cent to 1.7 per cent**

Secondary dropout rate declined from **23.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent**

Jharkhand ranked **fourth in India** in terms of reduction in secondary dropout rates.

The **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** is a national database used by the **Ministry of Education** to track **enrolment, teachers, infrastructure, and educational indicators**.

Detailed Explanation:

Jharkhand has achieved a **zero primary dropout rate (0%) in 2024–25**, marking a major milestone in school education.

The primary dropout rate declined from **6.41 per cent in 2014–15 to 0 per cent in 2024–25**, as per data from the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** and a **NITI Aayog report** released on May 8, 2026.

The state also recorded significant improvement in other levels:

Upper primary dropout rate reduced from **7.42 per cent to 1.7 per cent**

Secondary dropout rate declined from **23.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent**

Jharkhand ranked **fourth in India** in terms of reduction in secondary dropout rates.

Dropout rate refers to the percentage of students who leave school before completing a specific level of education:

Primary: Classes I to V

Upper Primary: Classes VI to VIII

Secondary: Classes IX to X

The **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** is a national database used by the **Ministry of Education** to track **enrolment, teachers, infrastructure, and educational indicators**.
Jharkhand showed consistent progress in school retention over the decade, despite having recorded **over 11 per cent primary dropout in 2022–23** before achieving zero in 2024–25.

183. Who has been nominated as the Co-Chair of the Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)?
A.Naina Lal Kidwai
B.Falguni Nayar
C.Indra Nooyi
D.Roshni Nadar
E.Priyanka Mittal
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has nominated **Priyanka Mittal**, Director of KRBL (Khushi Ram & Behari Lal) **Limited**, as the **Co-Chair** of the **Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)**, strengthening India's representation in **bilateral economic cooperation**.
Dr. Siddeek Ahmed, Chairman of **Eram Holdings**, has been nominated as the **Chair** of the Indian side of **SIBC**, which is a key platform for **India–Saudi Arabia trade and investment relations**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has nominated **Priyanka Mittal**, Director of KRBL (Khushi Ram & Behari Lal) **Limited**, as the **Co-Chair** of the **Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)**, strengthening India's representation in **bilateral economic cooperation**.
Dr. Siddeek Ahmed, Chairman of **Eram Holdings**, has been nominated as the **Chair** of the Indian side of **SIBC**, which is a key platform for **India–Saudi Arabia trade and investment relations**.
The **Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)**, jointly formed by **FICCI** and the **Federation of Saudi Chambers (FSC)**, is an important bilateral platform promoting **trade, investment, and economic cooperation** between India and Saudi Arabia.

184. Who has been appointed as the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of India?
A.Admiral R. Hari Kumar
B.Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
C.Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
D.Admiral Sunil Lanba
E.Vice Admiral Karambir Singh
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
The Government has appointed **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, PVSM, AVSM, VSM as the **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** of India.
The present **CNS Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** will retire from service on **31 May 2026**, marking a key **leadership transition** in the **Indian Navy**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Government has appointed **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, PVSM, AVSM, VSM as the **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** of India.

The present **CNS Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** will retire from service on **31 May 2026**, marking a key **leadership transition** in the **Indian Navy**.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan is the **34th Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief** of the **Western Naval Command**, having assumed charge on **31 July 2025**.

He was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **01 July 1987** and is a specialist in **Communication and Electronic Warfare**, reflecting strong **technical expertise** in naval operations.

185. As of 2026, Kotak Mahindra Bank has received RBI approval to acquire up to what percentage stake each in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank?

A.9.99%

B.7.5%

C.5%

D.10%

E.15%

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Kotak Mahindra Bank has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to acquire up to **9.99% stake (each)** in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**, marking a key development in India's **banking sector consolidation**.

Detailed Explanation:

Kotak Mahindra Bank has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to acquire up to **9.99% stake (each)** in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**, marking a key development in India's **banking sector consolidation**.

The approval allows **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, along with its subsidiaries and managed funds (**Kotak Mahindra Group**), to collectively hold up to **9.99% shareholding/voting rights** in both banks.

The permission is subject to compliance with the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, **RBI Commercial Banks (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights Directions, 2025)**, and **FEMA, 1999** regulations, along with other applicable rules.

186. Which investment group plans to increase its stake in IIFL Capital Services to at least 51% through a ₹2,000 crore capital infusion?

A.BlackRock Inc.

B.Vanguard Group

C.Goldman Sachs Group

D.Fairfax India Holdings Corporation

E.Morgan Stanley

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation, led by billionaire investor **Prem Watsa**, plans to increase its stake in **IIFL Capital Services** to **at**

least 51% through a **₹2,000 crore capital infusion**.

The investment will be made through Fairfax's wholly owned subsidiary **FIH Mauritius Investments** via a combination of **preferential allotment of equity shares**, **open offer**, and arrangements with existing promoters.

Detailed Explanation:

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation, led by billionaire investor **Prem Watsa**, plans to increase its stake in **IIFL Capital Services** to **at least 51%** through a **₹2,000 crore capital infusion**.

The investment will be made through Fairfax's wholly owned subsidiary **FIH Mauritius Investments** via a combination of **preferential allotment of equity shares**, **open offer**, and arrangements with existing promoters.

Currently, the Canada-headquartered **Fairfax Group** is the **second-largest shareholder** in IIFL Capital Services, holding around **27.18% stake** through FIH Mauritius Investments. Including its affiliate holdings, **Fairfax India**, through FIH Mauritius and **HWIC Asia Fund Class A**, presently holds nearly **30.5% stake** in the company.

187. As of 2026, ICGS Achal, recently commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard, is built by which shipyard?

A.Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

B.Cochin Shipyard Limited

C.Hindustan Shipyard Limited

D.Goa Shipyard Limited

E.Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **ICGS Achal**, the latest **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**, marking a major boost to India's **maritime operational capability**.

The vessel was formally commissioned by **Shri A. Anbarasu**, Additional Secretary & Director General (Acquisition), **Ministry of Defence**.

The ship is named **"Achal" (meaning "firm")**, symbolizing the Indian Coast Guard's **steadfast commitment** to maritime security, coastal protection, and safeguarding national interests.

Detailed Explanation:

The **ICGS Achal**, the latest **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**, marking a major boost to India's **maritime operational capability**.

The vessel was formally commissioned by **Shri A. Anbarasu**, Additional Secretary & Director General (Acquisition), **Ministry of Defence**.

The ship is named **"Achal" (meaning "firm")**, symbolizing the Indian Coast Guard's **steadfast commitment** to maritime security, coastal protection, and safeguarding national interests.

It will be deployed for **multiple maritime operations**, including **coastal and offshore surveillance**, **Search and Rescue (SAR)**, **anti-smuggling operations**, **interdiction**, and **marine pollution response**.

The vessel has been **indigenously designed and built** by **Goa Shipyard Limited**, reflecting India's growing strength in **domestic defence manufacturing**.

It incorporates **more than 50% indigenous components**, supporting the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India**.

The commissioning of ICGS Achal strengthens the **Indian Coast Guard fleet expansion programme** and enhances **coastal security** and **operational readiness** of India's maritime forces.

188. Which DRDO laboratory conducted the successful long-duration test of the Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor at the SCPT Facility, Hyderabad?

A.Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)

B.Research Centre Imarat (RCI)

C.Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)

D.Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)

E.Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a major breakthrough in **Hypersonic Missile technology** through a successful long-duration test of the **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor**.

The test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** at the **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) Facility**, Hyderabad, on **09 May 2026**.

During the test, the **Scramjet Combustor** achieved a run-time of **over 1,200 seconds**, surpassing the earlier successful test of 700 seconds conducted in January 2026.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a major breakthrough in **Hypersonic Missile technology** through a successful long-duration test of the **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor**.

The test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** at the **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) Facility**, Hyderabad, on **09 May 2026**.

During the test, the **Scramjet Combustor** achieved a run-time of **over 1,200 seconds**, surpassing the earlier successful test of 700 seconds conducted in January 2026.

The successful test marks a significant advancement in India's **Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme** and strengthens India's position in **advanced aerospace** and **next-generation warfare technologies**.

The **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor** was designed and developed by **DRDL** with support from **Indian industry partners**, highlighting **indigenous technological capability**.

189. In 2026, the Steel Cutting Ceremony of the 5th and final Fleet Support Ship (FSS) of the Indian Navy was held at which shipyard?

A.Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

B.Cochin Shipyard Limited

C.Hindustan Shipyard Limited

D.Goa Shipyard Limited

E.Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **'Steel Cutting' Ceremony** of the **5th and final Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** was held at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL),Visakhapatnam** .

The **Indian Navy** had signed a contract with **HSL** in **August 2023** for the acquisition of **five Fleet Support Ships (FSS)**.

Delivery of the Fleet Support Ships is scheduled to commence from **mid-2027**.

The **Fleet Support Ships** will strengthen the **Blue Water capabilities** of the Indian Navy by enabling **replenishment of fleet ships at sea**.

Detailed Explanation:

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Delivery of the Fleet Support Ships is scheduled to commence from **mid-2027**.

The **Fleet Support Ships** will strengthen the **Blue Water capabilities** of the Indian Navy by enabling **replenishment of fleet ships at sea**.

Each **FSS** will have a **displacement of more than 40,000 tonnes**, making them among the **largest support vessels** for the Navy.

The ships will supply **fuel, water, ammunition, and other stores** to fleet ships, supporting **long-duration deployments** and enhanced **operational mobility**.

The project will significantly improve the **strategic reach, endurance, and mobility** of the **Indian Naval Fleet**.

190. Which university became India's first Institute of Eminence (IoE) to receive accreditation from the Data Science Council of America (DASCA)?

A.Ashoka University

B.O.P. Jindal Global University

C.Amity University

D.Shiv Nadar University

E.Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Sonipat, Haryana, has become India's first **Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive accreditation from the **Data Science Council of America (DASCA)**.

DASCA is an **international standards body** that provides academic accreditation and

professional certifications in **Data Science** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

Detailed Explanation:

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Sonipat, Haryana, has become India's first **Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive accreditation from the **Data Science Council of America (DASCA)**.

DASCA is an **international standards body** that provides academic accreditation and professional certifications in **Data Science** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

The accreditation was awarded under the **World Data Sciences & AI Initiative (WDSAI)**, a global initiative led by DASCA to help universities adopt **internationally benchmarked** AI and data science standards.

The recognition strengthens JGU's position as a leader in the **integration of AI and Data Science** into higher education and academic ecosystems.

Seven flagship programmes of JGU related to AI and Data Science have been aligned with DASCA standards under the **WDSAI framework**.

191. In 2026, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum celebrated Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) was first launched in which of the following months and year?

A.June 2022

B.July 2024

C.August 2023

D.July 2023

E.January 2023

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2026** on **8 May 2026** to promote **Intellectual Property (IP) awareness** in India.

RBSM is part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** initiative and was first launched in **July 2023**.

The programme began with **lamp lighting** and **Saraswati Vandana**, followed by opening remarks from **Dr. D V Naik**, In-charge of **IPMG, CSIR-IIP**.

Detailed Explanation:

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2026** on **8 May 2026** to promote **Intellectual Property (IP) awareness** in India.

RBSM is part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** initiative and was first launched in **July 2023**.

The programme began with **lamp lighting** and **Saraswati Vandana**, followed by opening remarks from **Dr. D V Naik**, In-charge of **IPMG, CSIR-IIP**.

Dr. Maity, Chairman of **PPC**, delivered a brief address during the event.

An **expert lecture** on **"Fuelling Innovation: The Role of Intellectual Property in Technology and Industrial**

Advancement" was delivered by **Kapil Arya** from **CSIR-Innovation Protection Unit**. Winners of the **IP Quiz Competition**, conducted on **6 May 2026**, were **felicitated** during the programme.

192. As of 2026, Pixxel, an Indian space technology company, has secured a contract from which US agency under the Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)?

A.National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)

B.NOAA

C.NASA

D.US Geological Survey (USGS)

E.Pentagon Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Indian space technology company **Pixxel** has secured a major contract from the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, United States under the **Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)** to develop advanced **hyperspectral remote sensing** capabilities.

The contract is part of the **Strategic Commercial Enhancements Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)** programme, aimed at integrating commercial hyperspectral data into **US national intelligence** and **Earth observation systems** for defence and security applications.

The project will utilise Pixxel's **Firefly satellite constellation**, which consists of **six hyperspectral satellites** launched in **2025**, to demonstrate **high-resolution global imaging** capabilities.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian space technology company **Pixxel** has secured a major contract from the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, United States under the **Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)** to develop advanced **hyperspectral remote sensing** capabilities.

The contract is part of the **Strategic Commercial Enhancements Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)** programme, aimed at integrating commercial hyperspectral data into **US national intelligence** and **Earth observation systems** for defence and security applications.

The project will utilise Pixxel's **Firefly satellite constellation**, which consists of **six hyperspectral satellites** launched in **2025**, to demonstrate **high-resolution global imaging** capabilities.

The initiative is being executed by **Pixxel Federal**, under the leadership of **Allyson Jenkins** (Vice President, Pixxel), focusing on advanced **multi-phenomenology remote sensing** solutions.

Hyperspectral Imaging (HSI) enables detailed analysis of materials, environmental conditions, and activities beyond conventional imaging systems, making it useful for **defence, agriculture, energy, environmental monitoring, and intelligence applications**.

193. In 2026, Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "Lakshya 2047" Centre for Future Skills, Cadaveric Centre, and Advanced Medical Simulation facilities at Parul University. An India achieved how much distance of secure quantum communication under the National Quantum Mission within three years?

A.500 km

B.750 km

C.1,000 km

D.1,500 km

E.2,000 km

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated the **"Lakshya 2047" Centre for Future Skills**, **Cadaveric Centre**, and **Advanced Medical Simulation** facilities at **Parul University**.

The **Lakshya 2047 Centre** has been developed in collaboration with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, **Ethnotech**, and **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**.

The centre will provide training in **nine future-technology domains** along with **globally recognised certifications**.

Under the **National Quantum Mission**, India successfully completed **1,000 km of secure quantum communication** within just **three years**, ahead of the projected timelineDetailed Explanation:

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated the **"Lakshya 2047" Centre for Future Skills**, **Cadaveric Centre**, and **Advanced Medical Simulation** facilities at **Parul University**.

The initiative aims to prepare India's youth for a **Viksit Bharat by 2047** through advanced training in **emerging technologies** and **future skills**.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that India is progressing rapidly in **Quantum Technology**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Semiconductors**, **Cybersecurity**, and **Deep-Tech** sectors.

The **Lakshya 2047 Centre** has been developed in collaboration with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, **Ethnotech**, and **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**.

The centre will provide training in **nine future-technology domains** along with **globally recognised certifications**.

Under the **National Quantum Mission**, India successfully completed **1,000 km of secure quantum communication** within just **three years**, ahead of the projected timeline.

The **National Quantum Mission** is an **8-year mission** being implemented through **four thematic hubs** and collaborations with institutions across India.

The **India AI Mission**, launched in 2024, focuses on building an ecosystem around **compute infrastructure**, **datasets**, **innovation**, and **future skills**.

194. In 2026, Mohan Singh, who recently passed away at the age of 78, was associated with which sport?

A.Football
B.Cricket
C.Hockey
D.Badminton
E.Athletics

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Former India football midfielder **Mohan Singh** passed away at the age of **78** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, marking the loss of a notable figure in Indian football.

Born in **1948**, he was known for his **skilful playing style** and key contributions to Indian football during the **1970s**.

He made his **international debut** for India against **Burma** on **22 March 1972** in the **Pre-Olympic Tournament** held in Rangoon (now Yangon, Myanmar) and earned **3 international caps** during the campaign.

Detailed Explanation:

Former India football midfielder **Mohan Singh** passed away at the age of **78** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, marking the loss of a notable figure in Indian football.

Born in **1948**, he was known for his **skilful playing style** and key contributions to Indian football during the **1970s**.

He made his **international debut** for India against **Burma** on **22 March 1972** in the **Pre-Olympic Tournament** held in Rangoon (now Yangon, Myanmar) and earned **3 international caps** during the campaign.

At the club level, he represented major Indian clubs including **East Bengal FC**, **Mohun Bagan AC**, and **Mohammedan Sporting Club** during the 1970s.

He scored **11 goals for East Bengal** and **3 goals for Mohun Bagan**, showcasing his impact as an **attacking midfielder**.

His major achievements include winning prestigious domestic titles such as the **Calcutta Football League** (1972, 1975), Indian Football Association (IFA) **Shield** (1972, 1975), **Durand Cup** (1972), **Rovers Cup** (1972, 1975), and **Bordoloi Trophy** (1972).

195. As of 2026, National Technology Day is observed every year in India on which date?

A.May 9
B.May 10
C.May 8
D.May 12
E.May 11

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

National Technology Day is observed every year on **May 11** to recognise the contributions

of **scientists, research, and technological advancements** in India.

The day commemorates the successful **Pokhran nuclear tests conducted on May 11, 1998** under **Operation Shakti** at the **Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan**.

Detailed Explanation:

National Technology Day is observed every year on **May 11** to recognise the contributions of **scientists, research, and technological advancements** in India.

The day commemorates the successful **Pokhran nuclear tests conducted on May 11, 1998** under **Operation Shakti** at the **Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan**.

The tests were carried out under the leadership of **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam** with the involvement of:

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Defence Research and Development Organisation

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research

National Technology Day was first declared by former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and was first observed on **May 11, 1999**.

196. In FY 2025–26, consider the following statements regarding the performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs):

1. **The Gross NPA ratio of PSBs declined to 1.93% as on 31 March 2026.**
2. **The aggregate operating profit of PSBs reached ₹3.21 lakh crore during FY 2025–26.**
3. **The aggregate Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) stood at 12.6% as on 31 March 2026.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- The **Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio** of PSBs declined to **93%** as on **31 March 2026**, indicating **historically low stressed assets**.
- The **Net NPA ratio** improved further to **39%** during **FY 2025–26**.
- Every PSB maintained a **Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) above 90%**, reflecting **prudent provisioning practices** and strong **balance sheet resilience**.
- **Improved asset quality** was driven by **better underwriting standards**, effective **risk management mechanisms**, and stronger **credit discipline**.

- The **slippage ratio** reduced to **7%**, indicating lower addition of **fresh bad loans** during **FY 2025–26**.
- **Aggregate operating profit** of PSBs reached **₹3.21 lakh crore** during **FY 2025–26**.
- **Aggregate net profit** increased by **1% year-on-year** to a **historic high of ₹1.98 lakh crore**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** recorded **strong financial performance** during **FY 2025–26**, reflecting sustained business growth, **improved asset quality**, **record profitability**, and **strong capital position**.
- The improved performance demonstrates the growing **resilience, stability, and institutional capacity** of PSBs in supporting the **credit needs** of the **Indian economy**.
- The **Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio** of PSBs declined to **93%** as on **31 March 2026**, indicating **historically low stressed assets**.
- The **Net NPA ratio** improved further to **39%** during **FY 2025–26**.
- Every PSB maintained a **Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) above 90%**, reflecting **prudent provisioning practices** and strong **balance sheet resilience**.
- **Improved asset quality** was driven by **better underwriting standards**, effective **risk management mechanisms**, and stronger **credit discipline**.
- The **slippage ratio** reduced to **7%**, indicating lower addition of **fresh bad loans** during **FY 2025–26**.
- **Total recoveries**, including recoveries from **written-off accounts**, stood at **₹86,971 crore**.
- Improved **asset quality**, healthy **credit expansion**, and **higher income** contributed to **stronger profitability** of PSBs.
- **Aggregate operating profit** of PSBs reached **₹3.21 lakh crore** during **FY 2025–26**.
- **Aggregate net profit** increased by **1% year-on-year** to a **historic high of ₹1.98 lakh crore**.
- **FY 2025–26** marked the **fourth consecutive year** of **aggregate profitability** for PSBs.
- The **aggregate Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)** improved to **6%** as on **31 March 2026**.

197. In 2026, SEBI's revised framework allowing a uniform 30-day time lag for sharing and using stock price data for

educational and investor awareness activities will come into effect from_____

A.January 1, 2026

B.April 1, 2026

C.October 1, 2026

D.July 1, 2026

E.December 1, 2026

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised rules to allow a **uniform 30-day time lag** for sharing and using **stock price data** for **educational and investor awareness activities**.
- The revised framework aims to maintain a balance between **preventing misuse of market data** and ensuring that **educational content** remains relevant and updated.
- The new rules will come into effect from **July 1, 2026**.

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised rules to allow a **uniform 30-day time lag** for sharing and using **stock price data** for **educational and investor awareness activities**.
- The revised framework aims to maintain a balance between **preventing misuse of market data** and ensuring that **educational content** remains relevant and updated.
- The new rules will come into effect from **July 1, 2026**.
- The revised framework replaces the earlier system of **one-day lag** for sharing market data and **three-month lag** for educational usage.
- In **May 2024**, SEBI had restricted the sharing of **live market data** by stock exchanges only for trading and allied activities, while **educational use** was permitted with a **one-day delay**.
- In **January 2025**, SEBI further tightened the framework by allowing entities engaged solely in education to use market data only with a **three-month lag**.

198. In FY26, according to SBI's Ecowrap Research Report, what is the projected real GDP growth rate for India?

A.6.2%

B.6.6%

C.7.0%

D.7.5%

E.8.1%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** released its latest **Ecowrap Research Report**, providing key projections on **India's economic growth outlook**.

- The report projects India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.2% in Q4 (Jan–Mar)** Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), slightly lower than the earlier estimate of **3%** (Feb 2026 projection).
- For the **full FY26**, India's **GDP growth is projected at 7.5%**, supported by **rural demand, fiscal stimulus, and urban consumption** despite global headwinds.
- For **FY27**, India's **real GDP growth is estimated at 6.6%**, mainly due to **global geopolitical uncertainties**.

Detailed Explanation:

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- The report projects India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.2% in Q4 (Jan–Mar)** Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), slightly lower than the earlier estimate of **3%** (Feb 2026 projection).
- For the **full FY26**, India's **GDP growth is projected at 7.5%**, supported by **rural demand, fiscal stimulus, and urban consumption** despite global headwinds.
- For **FY27**, India's **real GDP growth is estimated at 6.6%**, mainly due to **global geopolitical uncertainties**.
- The report estimates India's **nominal GDP growth at 12.2% for FY26**, and around **11% for FY27**, assuming a **deflator of ~4.5%**.
- **Bank credit growth** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** increased to **1%**, compared to **11.0%** in the previous year, indicating **strong credit expansion**.
- Total **incremental credit growth** stood at **₹29.5 trillion**, reflecting **robust lending activity** in the economy.

199. As of 2026, coins of which denomination ceased to be legal tender in India from June 30, 2011?

A.50 paise and below

B.25 paise and below

C.₹1 and below

D.₹2 and below

E.10 paise and below

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all **bank branches** to provide **universal cash services** without discrimination.
- Branches must ensure facilities for:
- **Issuing fresh currency notes and coins**
- **Exchanging soiled, mutilated, and imperfect notes**
- **Accepting coins and small denomination notes** from the public
- All **banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs)** must ensure **timely**

ATM cash replenishment to prevent cash shortages and customer inconvenience.
- All **coins of ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, and ₹20** remain **legal tender**.
- Coins of **25 paise and below** ceased to be legal tender from **June 30, 2011**.

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all **bank branches** to provide **universal cash services** without discrimination.
- Branches must ensure facilities for:
- **Issuing fresh currency notes and coins**
- **Exchanging soiled, mutilated, and imperfect notes**
- **Accepting coins and small denomination notes** from the public
- All **banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs)** must ensure **timely ATM cash replenishment** to prevent cash shortages and customer inconvenience.
- All **coins of ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, and ₹20** remain **legal tender**.
- Coins of **25 paise and below** ceased to be legal tender from **June 30, 2011**.
- Under the **Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 2009 (amended 2018)**, banks are empowered to **exchange mutilated and imperfect notes** free of cost.
- **Soiled notes** up to **20 pieces or ₹5,000 per day** must be exchanged **immediately over the counter** free of charge.
- For **bulk deposits**, banks must accept notes **against receipt** and complete payment within **7 days**.

200. As of 2026, under RBI's revised norms on Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE), borrowers with Potential Loss/EBID ratio above 75% will attract_____

A.10 percentage point increase in risk weight
B.15 percentage point increase in risk weight
C.20 percentage point increase in risk weight
D.25 percentage point increase in risk weight
E.50 percentage point increase in risk weight

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amendments to the **"Commercial Banks – Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026"** under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, in public interest.
- **RBI** clarified that until banks fully adopt **internal country rating systems**, they may continue using the **seven-category country classification framework** of **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)**.
- Specifically, such **high-risk exposures** will lead to a **25 percentage**

point increase in **risk weight**, significantly raising capital requirements.

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amendments to the **"Commercial Banks – Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026"** under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, in public interest.
- **RBI** clarified that until banks fully adopt **internal country rating systems**, they may continue using the **seven-category country classification framework** of **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)**.
- The **ECGC framework** will provide **quarterly updates** and issue alerts on sudden major changes in country classifications to all banks.
- Banks are required to continuously assess and monitor **Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE)** of borrowers and maintain **adequate additional capital** against such risks.
- Under the **revised norms**, exposure to **currency risk** becomes a key component of **capital adequacy assessment**.
- Borrowers with **Potential Loss/EBID ratio above 75%** will attract **incremental capital requirements**.
- Specifically, such **high-risk exposures** will lead to a **25 percentage point increase** in **risk weight**, significantly raising capital requirements.

201. As of 2026, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) partnered with which bank to launch co-branded RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)?

A.Paytm Payments Bank

B.India Post Payments Bank

C.Airtel Payments Bank

D.Jio Payments Bank

E.AU Small Finance Bank

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to launch **co-branded RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)** for seamless **digital payments** and **metro travel** across India.
- The initiative supports the **Government of India's vision** of **"One Nation, One Card"**, aimed at promoting **interoperability**, **cashless transactions**, and **commuter convenience**.
- The cards enable users to travel across **metro systems, buses**, and other **public transport networks** using a single **open-loop mobility card**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to launch **co-branded RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)** for seamless **digital payments** and **metro travel** across India.
- The initiative supports the **Government of India's vision** of **"One Nation, One Card"**, aimed at promoting **interoperability**, **cashless transactions**, and **commuter convenience**.
- The cards enable users to travel across **metro systems, buses**, and other **public transport networks** using a single **open-loop mobility card**.
- The **co-branded cards** are issued in **two variants**: **Debit Cards** and **PPI-MTS (Prepaid Payment Instrument for Mass Transit Systems)**
- The cards feature **EMV chip-based security**, ensuring safe **online and offline transactions**.
- A key **sustainability feature** is the use of **99% recycled plastic**, aimed at reducing the **carbon footprint**.

202. In FY26, India Post has recorded revenue growth above 15%, indicating a clear shift toward a revenue-driven business model. The India Post recorded a total revenue of_____

A.₹10,296 crore

B.₹12,450 crore

C.₹18,750 crore

D.₹16,999 crore

E.₹15,296 crore

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

- **India Post** has added more than **11,000 post offices** in the last four years, expanding its reach to nearly **90% rural geography**, strengthening its role as a **last-mile logistics partner**.
- The **total network** has reached **1,64,999 post offices**, making it one of the **largest postal networks** in the world.
- The Department achieved a **record revenue of ₹15,296 crore in FY26**, registering a strong **16% year-on-year growth**, marking a significant performance milestone.
- This is the first time in several years that **India Post** has recorded **revenue growth above 15%**, indicating a clear shift toward a **revenue-driven business model**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **India Post** has added more than **11,000 post offices** in the last four years, expanding its reach to nearly **90% rural geography**, strengthening its role as a **last-mile logistics partner**.

- The **total network** has reached **1,64,999 post offices**, making it one of the **largest postal networks** in the world.
- The Department achieved a **record revenue of ₹15,296 crore in FY26**, registering a strong **16% year-on-year growth**, marking a significant performance milestone.
- This is the first time in several years that **India Post** has recorded **revenue growth above 15%**, indicating a clear shift toward a **revenue-driven business model**.
- The transformation highlights **India Post's evolution** from a traditional **cost centre** to a **citizen-centric and revenue-generating organisation**.
- **Major growth** was recorded across key segments:
    - **Parcels segment** grew by **69%**
    - **Mail services** grew by **34%**
    - **Citizen-centric services** grew by **70%**

203. As of 2026, under RBI's Master Direction on incentives for currency distribution, banks opening Currency Chests in North-Eastern states and remote/hilly regions of J&K and Ladakh are eligible for capital expenditure reimbursement up to_____

A.₹10 lakh

B.₹25 lakh

C.₹50 lakh

D.₹75 lakh

E.₹1 crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **Master Direction** on **incentives** for **currency distribution and exchange**, along with **penalties** for **deficiencies in customer service** and reporting by bank branches and currency chests.
- A **Scheme of penal interest and penalties** has been introduced to ensure **accurate and timely reporting** of **Currency Chest (CC)** transactions and improve **customer service delivery** through banks, branches, and ATMs.
- The provisions apply to all banks, and **Currency Chest-related penalties** apply to banks operating **Currency Chests (CCs)**.

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **Master Direction** on **incentives** for **currency distribution and exchange**, along with **penalties** for **deficiencies in customer service** and reporting by bank branches and currency chests.
- A **Scheme of penal interest and penalties** has been introduced to ensure **accurate and timely**

reporting of **Currency Chest (CC)** transactions and improve **customer service delivery** through banks, branches, and ATMs.

- The provisions apply to all banks, and **Currency Chest-related penalties** apply to banks operating **Currency Chests (CCs)**.
- RBI's **Clean Note Policy** aims to ensure availability of **good-quality banknotes** to the public.
- **Currency Chests (CCs)** are authorised facilities set up by select scheduled banks to support **distribution of banknotes and coins**.
- **Definitions**:
- **Soiled Note**: A note damaged due to **normal wear and tear**, including pasted two-piece notes of the same original note.
- **Mutilated Note**: A note with a **missing portion** or made of **more than two pieces**.
- **Imperfect Note**: A note that is **wholly/partially obliterated**, shrunk, washed, altered, or indecipherable.
- Banks opening **Currency Chests** in **North-Eastern states** and **remote/hilly regions** of **J&K and Ladakh** are eligible for **100% capital expenditure reimbursement** up to **₹50 lakh**.

204. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka and Telangana:

1. **The Prime Minister inaugurated the PM MITRA Park in Warangal, Telangana.**
2. **He inaugurated the Dhyan Mandir at the Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru.**
3. **The foundation stone for four-laning of National Highway 167 under the Hyderabad– Chennai Economic Corridor was laid during the visit.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Karnataka and Telangana** to participate in events and **inaugurate development projects worth** around **₹9,400 crore**
- The visit included the inauguration of **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park** in **Warangal, Telangana**

- In Bengaluru, the Prime Minister attended the **45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living Foundation** and the **70th birthday of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**
- He inaugurated the **Dhyan Mandir** at the Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru

Detailed Explanation:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Karnataka and Telangana** to participate in events and **inaugurate development projects worth** around **₹9,400 crore**
- The visit included the inauguration of **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park** in **Warangal, Telangana**
- In Bengaluru, the Prime Minister attended the **45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living Foundation** and the **70th birthday of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**
- He inaugurated the **Dhyan Mandir** at the Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru
- In Hyderabad, the Prime Minister launched multiple infrastructure and development projects
- He laid the foundation stone for **four-laning of National Highway 167** from **Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar** under the **Hyderabad–Panaji Economic Corridor**, with an investment of over **₹3,175 crore**
- He also laid the foundation stone for the **Zaheerabad Industrial Area** in **Sangareddy district**

205. As of 2026, in the Government of India's 'SEHAT Mission'to integrate agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare through a unified approach, the acronym SEHAT stands for_____

A.Scientific Expansion for Health and Technology

B.Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation

C.Sustainable Energy and Health Advancement Technology

D.Social Empowerment for Healthcare and Agriculture Transformation

E.Strategic Excellence for Holistic Agricultural Treatment

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- The **Government of India** launched the **'Sehat Mission'** in the National Capital under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- **Sehat Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)** aims to **integrate agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare** through a unified approach

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Government of India** launched the **'Sehat Mission'** in the National Capital under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- **Sehat Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)** aims to **integrate agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare** through a unified approach
- The mission is a joint initiative of:
    - Indian Council of Agricultural Research
    - Indian Council of Medical Research

The objective is to **link agricultural production with health outcomes** and promote **preventive healthcare**

206. As of 2026, under the 'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025', every eligible rural household will receive guaranteed wage employment for how many days per financial year?

A.100 days
B.110 days
C.120 days
D.125 days
E.150 days
Answer: D
Short Explanation:

- The **Government of India** has announced the rollout of the **'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' (VB-G RAM G Act)**
- The Act will come into force from **July 1, 2026**
- The initiative aims to **enhance rural employment**, **strengthen livelihood security**, and **develop rural infrastructure**
- The Ministry of Rural Development has notified that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 will be **repealed from July 1, 2026**
- Ongoing works under **MGNREGA** will **continue seamlessly under the new framework**
- Under the new Act, every eligible rural household will get **125 days of guaranteed wage employment per financial year**
- This is an increase from the earlier **100 days under MGNREGA**

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Government of India** has announced the rollout of the **'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' (VB-G RAM G Act)**
- The Act will come into force from **July 1, 2026**
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security, and **develop rural infrastructure**

- The Ministry of Rural Development has notified that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 will be **repealed from July 1, 2026**
- Ongoing works under **MGNREGA** will **continue seamlessly under the new framework**
- Under the new Act, every eligible rural household will get **125 days of guaranteed wage employment per financial year**
- This is an increase from the earlier **100 days under MGNREGA**
- Employment will be provided to **adults willing to do unskilled manual work**
- Workers will be eligible for **unemployment allowance** if work is not provided within the stipulated time
- The government has made a **record Budget allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore for FY 2026–27**

207. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the proposed 'Made in India Brand Scheme':

1. **The scheme aims to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.**
2. **The government plans to identify nearly 100 products that are not produced in India or are manufactured in limited quantities.**
3. **The scheme was announced by the Ministry of Finance at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 3 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1 and 2 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- The **Government of India** is planning to launch the **'Made in India Brand Scheme'** to **strengthen domestic manufacturing** and **reduce import dependence**
- The scheme aims to create a **trusted global identity for products manufactured in India**
- The government plans to identify nearly **100 products** that are **not produced in India or manufactured in limited quantities**
- The announcement was made by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Government of India** is planning to launch the **'Made in India Brand Scheme'** to **strengthen domestic manufacturing** and **reduce import dependence**
- The scheme aims to create a **trusted global identity for products manufactured in India**
- The government plans to identify nearly **100 products** that are **not produced in India or manufactured in limited quantities**
- The announcement was made by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026
- Focus sectors include **industrial and automotive components** such as **automobile axles and motorcycle parts**, where **import dependence is high**
- The objective is to **increase domestic production**, **improve product quality**, and **enhance global competitiveness**

208. As of 2026, what is the name of the AI-powered chatbot launched by the Supreme Court of India along with the 'One Case One Data' initiative?

A.न्याय मित्र

B.Su-Sahayak

C.e-Sakshi

D.Nyaya Setu

E.Bharat न्याय AI

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched the **'One Case One Data' initiative** along with an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot 'Su-Sahayak'**
- The initiative aims to **digitally integrate case data across all levels of the judiciary**
- **'One Case One Data'** is a **digital case management framework** designed to create a **unified judicial data system**

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched the **'One Case One Data' initiative** along with an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot 'Su-Sahayak'**
- The initiative aims to **digitally integrate case data across all levels of the judiciary**
- **'One Case One Data'** is a **digital case management framework** designed to create a **unified judicial data system**
- It will connect courts across different levels, including:
  - **Supreme Court**
  - **High Courts**
  - **District Courts**
  - **Taluka Courts**

- **Government Departments**

- The initiative enables **centralised access to case-related information** for better coordination and efficiency
- The announcement was made by Chief Justice of India Surya Kanta along with Justice Joymalya Bagchi

209. As of 2026, under West Bengal's Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme, eligible women will receive financial assistance of_____

A.₹1,500 per month
B.₹1,700 per month
C.₹2,000 per month
D.₹2,500 per month
E.₹3,000 per month
Answer: E
Short Explanation:

- The **Government of West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari,** has approved the launch of the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme** in its first Cabinet meeting
- The scheme provides **₹3,000 per month** financial assistance to **eligible women**
- It will be implemented from **June 1, 2026**

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Government of West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari,** has approved the launch of the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme** in its first Cabinet meeting
- The scheme provides **₹3,000 per month** financial assistance to **eligible women**
- It will be implemented from **June 1, 2026**
- Funds will be transferred through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**
- Focus on **financial empowerment of women**
- The scheme will replace the **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**
- Earlier benefits: **₹1,500 (General Category)** and **₹1,700 (Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes – SC/ST)**
- New scheme provides a **uniform ₹3,000 per month**, indicating a **significant increase in assistance**
- The Cabinet also approved **free bus travel for women** in **state-run buses**

210. As of 2026, the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) banner handed over by India to South Africa will be displayed at which telescope?

A.Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)
B.James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)
C.Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)
D.Very Large Telescope (VLT)
E.Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)
Answer: C
Short Explanation:

- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, **Prabhat Kumar**, formally handed over the banner of the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** to the **South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)** during a ceremony at the **Royal Observatory, Cape Town**.
- The event highlights the strengthening of long-standing **scientific and astronomical cooperation** between **India and South Africa**.
- The **IUCAA banner** will be displayed at the **Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)**, one of the largest **optical telescopes** in the Southern Hemisphere, symbolising **enhanced research collaboration** in **astronomy and astrophysics**.

Detailed Explanation:

- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, **Prabhat Kumar**, formally handed over the banner of the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** to the **South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)** during a ceremony at the **Royal Observatory, Cape Town**.
- The event highlights the strengthening of long-standing **scientific and astronomical cooperation** between **India and South Africa**.
- The **IUCAA banner** will be displayed at the **Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)**, one of the largest **optical telescopes** in the Southern Hemisphere, symbolising **enhanced research collaboration** in **astronomy and astrophysics**.
- The initiative promotes **joint research, academic exchanges**, and **collaborative projects** in **astronomy and space sciences** between the two countries.
- **SALT** is collaborating with **Indian researchers** on a **new camera detector and controller system**, strengthening **technology-driven scientific cooperation**.
- **South African scientists** will participate in **astronomy-related meetings** hosted by **India** under its **2026 BRICS Chairship**, enhancing **multilateral scientific engagement**.

211. As of May 2026, who assumed charge as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

A.Amarendu Prakash

B.Krishna Kumar Singh

C.Ashok Kumar Panda

D.T. V. Narendran

E.Soma Mondal

Answer: C

- **Ashok Kumar Panda** assumed charge as **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** under the **Ministry of Steel**, effective from **9 May 2026**.
- He succeeded **Krishna Kumar Singh**, who was serving as **interim MD & CEO** after **Amarendu Prakash** stepped down on **1 April 2026**.

212. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu:

1. **C. Joseph Vijay, founder of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**
2. **He succeeded Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**
3. **TVK won 208 seats in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

- **Joseph Vijay**, founder of **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, was sworn in as the **13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai**.
- He officially succeeded **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin** as **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**.
- The **oath of office** was administered by **Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.
- **TVK** emerged as the **single largest party** in the **2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections**, winning **108 seats out of 234 seats**, ending the dominance of **DMK and AIADMK**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Joseph Vijay**, founder of **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, was sworn in as the **13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai**.
- He officially succeeded **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin** as **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**.
- The **oath of office** was administered by **Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.
- After assuming office at **Fort St. George, Chennai**, the **Chief Minister** signed **three major policy files**:

- **200 Units Free Electricity** scheme for domestic consumers using up to 500 units
- **Singappen Special Task Force** for **women's safety**
- **Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF)** to curb **drug trafficking** in Tamil Nadu
- **TVK** emerged as the **single largest party** in the **2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections**, winning **108 seats out of 234 seats**, ending the dominance of **DMK and AIADMK**.

213. As of 2026, what is the cash prize awarded under the National Florence Nightingale Awards?

A.₹50,000

B.₹1 lakh

C.₹2 lakh

D.₹5 lakh

E.₹10 lakh

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- The **President of India, Droupadi Mur**mu, presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **International Nurses Day (May 12)**
- The awards recognise **outstanding nursing professionals** for their **dedication, service, and contribution to healthcare**
- The awards are instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to honour **excellence in nursing services**
- Each award includes:
  - **Certificate of Merit**
  - **₹1 lakh cash prize**
  - **Medal**

Detailed Explanation:

- The **President of India, Droupadi Mur**mu, presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **International Nurses Day (May 12)**
- The awards recognise **outstanding nursing professionals** for their **dedication, service, and contribution to healthcare**
- The awards are instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to honour **excellence in nursing services**
- Each award includes:
  - **Certificate of Merit**
  - **₹1 lakh cash prize**
  - **Medal**
- The ceremony was attended by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda
- The awards are among the **highest recognitions for nursing professionals in India**
- Awardees were selected from **States, Union Territories, and various institutions** across the country

214. As of 2026, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) signed a five-year MoU for elite youth football development with the Government of which state?

A.West Bengal

B.Kerala

C.Karnataka

D.Goa

E.Odisha

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

- **All India Football Federation and the Department of Sports and Youth Services**, Government **of Odisha**, have signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand their **elite youth football development partnership**
- The MoU was signed by **Vijay Yeddula and M. Satyanarayan in the presence of Syed Sabir Pasha**

Detailed Explanation:

- **All India Football Federation and the Department of Sports and Youth Services**, Government **of Odisha**, have signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand their **elite youth football development partnership**
- The MoU was signed by **Vijay Yeddula and M. Satyanarayan in the presence of Syed Sabir Pasha**
- The partnership originally began in **November 2023** under the **All India Football Federation – Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Academy initiative**, supported by the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Development Scheme**
- The renewed agreement introduces a **structured framework** with:
  - Defined roles and responsibilities
  - Governance mechanisms
  - Performance benchmarks
  - Financial commitments
- The initiative aims to adopt **international training standards**, **sports science practices**, and **professional football pathways**

215. As of 2026, the Indian Air Force conducted the "Op Sindoor Commemorative Run" for how many hours?

A.48 hours

B.72 hours

C.80 hours

D.88 hours

E.96 hours

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the **"Op Sindoor Commemorative Run"** for **88 hours** from **07 May to 10 May 2026** in **New Delhi**.

- The event commemorated the **first anniversary** of the **88-hour successful air operations** carried out by the **IAF**, showcasing its capability to deliver **decisive and precise strikes**.
- Around **600 runners** from various **Commands** of the **Indian Air Force** and the **Indian Army** participated in the commemorative event.
- The run was **flagged off** on **07 May 2026** at **0105 hours** by the **Air Officer in Charge Administration (AOA)** from **India Gate**.

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the **"Op Sindoor Commemorative Run"** for **88 hours** from **07 May to 10 May 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The event commemorated the **first anniversary** of the **88-hour successful air operations** carried out by the **IAF**, showcasing its capability to deliver **decisive and precise strikes**.
- Around **600 runners** from various **Commands** of the **Indian Air Force** and the **Indian Army** participated in the commemorative event.
- The run was **flagged off** on **07 May 2026** at **0105 hours** by the **Air Officer in Charge Administration (AOA)** from **India Gate**.
- The event concluded with a **flag-in ceremony** by the **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)** on **10 May 2026** at **1700 hours** at **Air Force Station New Delhi (AFND)**.
- The commemorative run was organised in a **continuous relay format** lasting for **88 hours**.
- **Civil authorities** played an important role in organising the event, while **civilian volunteers** also participated enthusiastically.

216. As of 2026, how many indigenous technologies developed by CSIR-CBRI were transferred to industries and start-ups during the CSIR Technology Transfer Event?

A.8

B.10

C.13

D.15

E.18

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organised its monthly **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi** on the occasion of **National Technology Day**.
- The event reaffirmed India's commitment toward **technology-led growth, innovation, and self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)**.

- The programme focused on **Technology Transfers** by **CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee**.
- During the event, **13 indigenous technologies** developed by **CSIR-CBRI** were formally transferred to **industries and start-ups**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organised its monthly **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi** on the occasion of **National Technology Day**.
- The event reaffirmed India's commitment toward **technology-led growth, innovation, and self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)**.
- The programme focused on **Technology Transfers** by **CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee**.
- During the event, **13 indigenous technologies** developed by **CSIR-CBRI** were formally transferred to **industries and start-ups**.
- The initiative supports the national vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, **sustainable infrastructure**, and **technology-driven development**.
- The transferred technologies covered sectors such as **fire safety, sustainable construction, infrastructure protection, energy efficiency**, and **advanced building materials**.
- Major technologies transferred included **fire-resistant transparent intumescent coating** for wood and wood substitute surfaces.

217. As of 2026, the High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast pilot project launched under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) was introduced for which state?

A.Bihar

B.Uttar Pradesh

C.Rajasthan

D.Madhya Pradesh

E.Odisha

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched two advanced **AI-driven weather forecast products** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **hyper-local, impact-based and decision-support** weather services.
- The second product is a **High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast for Uttar Pradesh** (pilot project) with **1-km resolution rainfall prediction** up to **10 days in advance**.
- The system uses **AI-based downscaling techniques** and integrates data

from **Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs)**, **Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs)**, **Doppler Weather Radars**, and **satellite datasets**.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched two advanced **AI-driven weather forecast products** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **hyper-local, impact-based and decision-support** weather services.
- The products were developed jointly by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**.
- The first product is an **AI-enabled "Forecast of Monsoon Advance over Different Parts of the Country"**, which provides **probabilistic monsoon forecasts** up to **4 weeks in advance**.
- This system is designed to support **farmers** across **16 States** and over **3,000 sub-districts** for better **agricultural planning and preparedness**.
- The second product is a **High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast for Uttar Pradesh** (pilot project) with **1-km resolution rainfall prediction** up to **10 days in advance**.
- The system uses **AI-based downscaling techniques** and integrates data from **Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs)**, **Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs)**, **Doppler Weather Radars**, and **satellite datasets**.

218. As of 2026, Australian tennis legend Mal Anderson, who recently passed away, had won which major title in 1957 as the first unseeded player?

A.Wimbledon Championships

B.Australian Championships

C.French Championships

D.United States National Championships

E.Davis Cup

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

- Australian tennis legend **Mal Anderson** passed away at the age of **91** in Australia.
- He was born on **3 March 1935** in **Theodore, Queensland,**
- In **1957**, he created history by becoming the **first unseeded player** to win the **United States National Championships men's singles title**.

Detailed Explanation:

- Australian tennis legend **Mal Anderson** passed away at the age of **91** in Australia.

- He was born on **3 March 1935** in **Theodore, Queensland,**
- Mal Anderson achieved a career-high ranking of **World No. 2** in international tennis.
- He began playing tennis on a **dirt court** and later became one of **Australia's most respected tennis players** during the **1950s to 1970s**.
- In **1957**, he created history by becoming the **first unseeded player** to win the **United States National Championships men's singles title**.
- He defeated fellow Australian **Ashley Cooper** in the final of the **1957 championship**.

219. As of 2026, who authored the books "The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre" and "The Lawful and the Awful"?

A.Amit Shah

B.Tushar Mehta

C.Harish Salve

D.Kapil Sibal

E.Chetan Bhagat

Answer: B

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** of the Ministry of Home Affairs **released two books authored by Tushar Mehta**
- The books titled **"The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre"** and **"The Lawful and the Awful"** were released at Bharat Mandapam
- The books are published by **Rupa Publications India**

220. As of 2026, the theme of Mental Health Awareness Week (May 11 to May 17, 2026) is_____

A.Action

B.Together for Mental Health

C.Hope

D.Mental Health for All

E.Building Resilience

Answer: A

- **Mental Health Awareness Week 2026** is being observed from **May 11 to May 17, 2026**
- The week is organised by the Mental Health Foundation and supported by organisations like Mind and the National Health Service
- The theme for 2026 is **'Action'**, focusing on **moving beyond awareness to practical steps for mental wellbeing**

221. What is the name of the new 8-year strategy launched by the Government of India in partnership with IFAD to enhance rural incomes, resilience, and sustainable livelihood opportunities?

A.National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) 2030

B.Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) 2.0

C.Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033

D.Digital India Agri-Tech Fellowship Programme

E.Rural Infrastructure and Climate Resilience Fund (RICRF)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** in partnership with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033** to enhance **rural incomes, resilience**, and **sustainable livelihood opportunities** across India.

The new **8-year COSOP strategy** places strong emphasis on strengthening **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, and **cooperatives** as key **grassroots institutions**.

These institutions will connect **rural communities** with **finance, technology, infrastructure**, and **markets** to support **inclusive rural development**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** in partnership with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033** to enhance **rural incomes, resilience**, and **sustainable livelihood opportunities** across India.

The new **8-year COSOP strategy** places strong emphasis on strengthening **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, and **cooperatives** as key **grassroots institutions**.

These institutions will connect **rural communities** with **finance, technology, infrastructure**, and **markets** to support **inclusive rural development**.

Over the past **two decades**, **IFAD-supported projects** in India have significantly improved **women's financial inclusion** through **SHGs**, enhanced **market access** for farmers, and promoted **women-led enterprises** through **value addition** and **e-commerce integration**.

The **COSOP** aims to position India as a **global knowledge leader** in **rural development** by sharing successful models of **inclusive rural finance, cooperative governance, digital agriculture services**, and **climate-resilient value chains** with countries across **Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America**.

On the sidelines of the launch event, **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **IFAD** signed a **strategic partnership agreement** to strengthen **rural finance systems** and support **innovation** in **agriculture and allied sectors**.

222. As of 2026, what is the total size of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) launched by the Department of Financial Services?

A.USD 500 million

B.USD 1 billion

C.USD 1.5 billion

D.USD 2 billion

E.USD 2.5 billion

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** with a size of **USD 1.5 billion** and a **sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore)** to ensure uninterrupted **maritime insurance coverage** amid global geopolitical tensions.

The **BMIP** covers major **maritime risks** including **Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk** for **Indian-flagged or controlled vessels** and ships operating to or from India.

The launch event was chaired by **DFS Secretary Shri M. Nagaraju** and attended by senior officials.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** with a size of **USD 1.5 billion** and a **sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore)** to ensure uninterrupted **maritime insurance coverage** amid global geopolitical tensions.

The **BMIP** covers major **maritime risks** including **Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk** for **Indian-flagged or controlled vessels** and ships operating to or from India.

The launch event was chaired by **DFS Secretary Shri M. Nagaraju** and attended by senior officials.

The first **Marine Hull & Machinery War Policy** under **BMIP** was issued by **New India Assurance Company Limited** to **Hoger Offshore and Marine Private Limited** for protection against **War Perils** in high-risk maritime zones.

A **Marine Cargo War Policy** was also issued to **Vedanta Sterlite Copper Ltd.** for cable wire imports, while another policy was provided to **Balrampur Chini Mills Limited**.

The initiative was launched in the backdrop of **Middle East tensions**, where **sanctions or geopolitical risks** could lead **foreign insurers and reinsurers** to withdraw maritime insurance support, disrupting global trade and shipping operations.

The scheme addresses India's dependence on the **International Group (IG) Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club** for **third-party maritime liability insurance**.

223. As of 2026, under SEBI's proposed GARUDA mechanism, Non-Accredited Investor AIF schemes will be allowed to launch within how many working days of filing documents?

A.5 working days

B.7 working days

C.15 working days

D.10 working days

E.30 working days

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a new regulatory framework called the **"Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism"** to speed up the launch process of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes in India.

The **GARUDA mechanism** aims to streamline the processing of **Placement Memorandums (PPMs)** filed with SEBI and improve **ease of fundraising** and **capital deployment** by AIFs.

For **first-time AIF schemes**, launch permission will be granted either from the date of **SEBI registration approval** or after **10 working days** of filing, whichever is later.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a new regulatory framework called the **"Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism"** to speed up the launch process of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes in India.

The **GARUDA mechanism** aims to streamline the processing of **Placement Memorandums (PPMs)** filed with SEBI and improve **ease of fundraising** and **capital deployment** by AIFs.

Under the proposed system, **Non-Accredited Investor AIF schemes** will be allowed to launch within **10 working days** of filing documents, compared to the current **30-day waiting period**, significantly reducing **approval timelines**.

The mechanism will also allow **Angel Funds** and **Accredited Investor-only (AI-only) schemes** to begin **fundraising almost immediately** after filing, improving **speed and efficiency** in capital markets.

For **first-time AIF schemes**, launch permission will be granted either from the date of **SEBI registration approval** or after **10 working days** of filing, whichever is later.

224. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):

1. **The Ministry of Finance empowered the Principal Bench of GSTAT, New Delhi to function as the National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR).**
2. **The notification came into effect from April 1, 2026.**
3. **The Principal Bench of GSTAT is located in Mumbai.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** empowered the **Principal Bench** of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**, New Delhi to function as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR)**.
The notification came into effect from **April 1, 2026**, following the recommendation of the **GST Council** under **Section 101A(1A)** of the **CGST Act, 2017**.
The **President of GSTAT** will act as the **Presiding Officer of NAAAR**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** empowered the **Principal Bench** of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**, New Delhi to function as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR)**.
The notification came into effect from **April 1, 2026**, following the recommendation of the **GST Council** under **Section 101A(1A)** of the **CGST Act, 2017**.
The **President of GSTAT** will act as the **Presiding Officer of NAAAR**.
The **Principal Bench of GSTAT**, acting as **NAAAR**, will **resolve disputes** arising from **divergent advance rulings** issued across different **States and Union Territories (UTs)** under **Section 101B** of the CGST Act, 2017.
The move aims to ensure a **single and uniform interpretation** of GST laws and **reduce inconsistencies** in advance rulings across jurisdictions.

The **Principal Bench of GSTAT** was constituted under **Section 109(3)** of the **CGST Act, 2017** and is located in **New Delhi**.
The tribunal consists of a **President**, one **Judicial Member**, and **two Technical Members** representing the **Centre and States**.

225. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):

1. **GSTAT is a statutory appellate body established under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.**
2. **For filing an appeal before GSTAT, 10% of the disputed tax amount must be paid, subject to a maximum cap of ₹20 crore each for CGST and SGST.**
3. **Members of GSTAT hold office for six years or until attaining the age of 75 years.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
A.1 only
B.2 only
C.3 only
D.1 and 2 only
E.2 and 3 only
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
The **GSTAT** is a **statutory appellate body** established under the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017**.

The **GSTAT structure** includes **31 State Benches** in addition to the Principal Bench, spread across **45 locations** nationwide for wider access.

For **filing an appeal** before GSTAT, **10% of the disputed tax amount** must be paid (in addition to first appeal payment), subject to a **maximum cap of ₹20 crore** each for **CGST and SGST**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **GSTAT** is a **statutory appellate body** established under the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017**.

The **GSTAT structure** includes **31 State Benches** in addition to the Principal Bench, spread across **45 locations** nationwide for wider access.

Each **State Bench** consists of **two Judicial Members** and **two Technical Members** (one from Centre and one from State).

Members of GSTAT hold office for **four years**, or until attaining the age of **70 years** (President/Judicial) and **67 years** (Technical Members).

The **GSTAT** generally handles disputes where the **tax, interest, penalty, or refund amount** is up to **₹20 lakh**.

Appeals involving disputes **above ₹1 crore** go to the **High Court**, while those **above ₹2 crore** are heard by the **Supreme Court**.

For **filing an appeal** before GSTAT, **10% of the disputed tax amount** must be paid (in addition to first appeal payment), subject to a **maximum cap of ₹20 crore** each for **CGST and SGST**.

226. As of 2026, what GDP growth rate did Moody's project for India for Calendar Year 2027 (CY2027) in its Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update?

A.5.5%

B.6.0%

C.6.5%

D.7.5%

E.8.0%

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Moody's **Ratings** released its **Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update**, revising **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, reflecting a weaker global and domestic economic outlook.

For **CY2027**, **Moody's** further reduced **India's growth projection** by **50 basis points to 6%**, indicating continued **moderation** in **medium-term growth expectations**.

Detailed Explanation:

Moody's **Ratings** released its **Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update**, revising **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, reflecting a weaker global and domestic economic outlook.

The **downgrade** is driven by **weak private consumption**, **slower capital formation**, and **subdued industrial activity**, along with **elevated energy costs** impacting overall economic momentum.

For **CY2027**, **Moody's** further reduced **India's growth projection** by **50 basis points to 6%**, indicating continued **moderation** in **medium-term growth expectations**.
The outlook highlighted **risks** arising from the **United States–Iran confrontation** and ongoing **shipping disruptions** in **West Asia**, which may impact **global energy supply chains**.

227. As of 2026, CMS Info Systems secured a contract worth how much from HDFC Bank for managing around 6,000 ATMs?
A.₹100 crore
B.₹200 crore
C.₹300 crore
D.₹400 crore
E.₹500 crore
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
CMS Info Systems has secured a **₹400 crore contract** from **HDFC Bank** for managing around **6,000 ATMs** for a period of **five years**.
The agreement is an **integrated ATM managed services outsourcing contract**, covering **currency forecasting, cash logistics**, and **AI-based operational solutions**.
The company will deploy its **Vision AI-based monitoring solution "HAWKAI"**, aimed at improving **ATM uptime, security**, and **regulatory compliance**.
Detailed Explanation:
CMS Info Systems has secured a **₹400 crore contract** from **HDFC Bank** for managing around **6,000 ATMs** for a period of **five years**.
The agreement is an **integrated ATM managed services outsourcing contract**, covering **currency forecasting, cash logistics**, and **AI-based operational solutions**.
The company will deploy its **Vision AI-based monitoring solution "HAWKAI"**, aimed at improving **ATM uptime, security**, and **regulatory compliance**.
The deal is expected to strengthen **CMS Info Systems' presence** in the **private banking sector**, expanding its **ATM management business footprint**.
CMS Info Systems stated that **revenue contribution** from **private sector banks** is expected to rise to around **30% by FY27**, up from the current 25% level.

228. As of 2026, SEBI has proposed allowing depositories to use up to what percentage of the interest or income earned from Investor Protection Fund (IPF) investments for administrative and statutory expenses?
A.2%
B.3%
C.5%
D.7%
E.10%
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing **depositories** to

use up to **5% of the interest or income** earned from **Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** investments for **administrative and statutory expenses**.

The proposal aims to bring **depositories in line** with existing rules already applicable to **stock exchanges**, ensuring **uniform regulatory treatment** of **IPF usage**.

Detailed Explanation:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing **depositories** to use up to **5% of the interest or income** earned from **Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** investments for **administrative and statutory expenses**.

The proposal aims to bring **depositories in line** with existing rules already applicable to **stock exchanges**, ensuring **uniform regulatory treatment** of **IPF usage**.

The permitted **administrative expenses** may include **salaries of IPF Trust employees**, **taxes**, **audit fees**, **Charity Commissioner fees**, and other **IPF-related operational costs**.

SEBI clarified that if **expenses exceed the 5% limit**, the **additional expenditure** must be borne by the **concerned depository** from its **own funds**.

At present, **depositories bear all IPF-related expenses** from their **own income**, while **100% of IPF investment income** is directly **credited to the IPF corpus**.

229. As of 2026, under RBI's Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, Forex Correspondents (FxCs) are permitted to operate under which model?

A.Principal–agent model

B.Cooperative model

C.Franchise model

D.Public-private partnership model

E.Direct licensing model

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026** to rationalise **authorisation and renewal framework** for foreign exchange dealers.

Under the **revised framework**, issuance of **fresh licences** for **Full-Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs)** will generally be **discontinued**, except for applications already under process.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026** to rationalise **authorisation and renewal framework** for foreign exchange dealers.

Under the **revised framework**, issuance of **fresh licences** for **Full-Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs)** will generally be **discontinued**, except for applications already under process.

The regulations permit **AD Category-I** and **AD Category-II** entities to appoint **Forex**

Correspondents (FxCs) under a **principal–agent model** for conducting money-changing operations.

Forex Correspondents (FxCs) are allowed to:

Buy and sell foreign currency notes, coins, and travellers' cheques

Operate for **travel-related foreign exchange requirements**

Function as **sub-agents** under the **Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS)**

Applicants seeking authorisation as foreign exchange dealers must be **companies incorporated** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.

230. As of 2026, the Jute Crop Information System (JCIS) has been implemented in collaboration with which organisation for technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation?

A.Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

B.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

C.Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

D.Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

E.National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)** has been implemented to enable **technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation** in India

The initiative is led by the National Jute Board in **collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Jute Corporation of India**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)** has been implemented to enable **technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation** in India

The initiative is led by the National Jute Board in **collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Jute Corporation of India**

JCIS integrates **satellite data**, **weather analytics**, and **field-level inputs** into a **single unified platform** for crop monitoring

Two key tools developed under the system are:

BHUVAN JUMP – a **mobile application for field-level data collection**

PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations) – a **web-based platform for real-time analytics**

The National Jute Board has facilitated **large-scale geo-tagged data collection** through field networks and **Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)** using geospatial techniques

231. As of 2026, which of the following labour market frameworks under the revamped Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is used for annual estimates?

A.Usual Status only

B.Current Weekly Status (CWS) only

C.Both Usual Status and Current Weekly Status (CWS)

D.Monthly Current Weekly Status only

E.Neither Usual Status nor Current Weekly Status

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the National Statistical Office under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been **revamped from January 2025**

The revised methodology aims to provide **high-frequency labour market indicators** for both **rural and urban areas** under the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** framework

Annual estimates under **Usual Status (Principal Status + Subsidiary Status)** and **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the National Statistical Office under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been **revamped from January 2025**

The revised methodology aims to provide **high-frequency labour market indicators** for both **rural and urban areas** under the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** framework

Key objectives of the revised PLFS include:

Monthly estimates of **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**, **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**, and **Unemployment Rate (UR)**

Quarterly estimates for both **rural and urban areas**

Annual estimates under **Usual Status (Principal Status + Subsidiary Status)** and **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**

Earlier, PLFS quarterly data covered **only urban areas**; from **April–June 2025**, it includes **both rural and urban areas**

232. As of 2026, the Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee formed to improve court infrastructure across India is headed by:

A.Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

B.Justice Sanjiv Khanna

C.Justice Surya Kant

D.Justice B.R. Gavai

E.Justice Aravind Kumar

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** has announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to improve **court infrastructure across India**

The committee aims to address issues such as **poor facilities**, **outdated buildings**, **digital gaps**, and **delays in case handling**

The committee will be **headed by Justice Aravind Kumar**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** has announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to improve **court infrastructure across India**

The committee aims to address issues such as **poor facilities**, **outdated buildings**, **digital gaps**, and **delays in case handling**

The committee will be **headed by Justice Aravind Kumar**

The objective is to identify infrastructure gaps and develop a national roadmap for judicial infrastructure development

The initiative focuses on strengthening infrastructure in **High Courts and District Courts** across different states

The committee will submit its recommendations to the **Chief Justice of India**, followed by coordination with the **Government of India and State Governments** for implementation and funding

233. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP):

1. **The BMIP has a total size of USD 1.5 billion with a sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion.**
2. **It covers maritime risks including Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk.**
3. **The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Shipping as part of the Sagarmala Programme.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1 and 3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance held an event chaired by Secretary,** DFS to launch the domestic insurance pool, **namely 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMIP) of USD 1.5 billion**, with a sovereign guarantee of **USD 1.4 billion/₹12,980 crores** to facilitate continuous maritime insurance coverages.

The pool covers all maritime risks such as Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I and War risk for Indian flagged or controlled vessels or vessels destined to or starting from India, in the context of the current Middle East tensions.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance held an event chaired by Secretary,** DFS to launch the domestic insurance pool, **namely 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMIP) of USD 1.5 billion**, with a sovereign guarantee of **USD 1.4 billion/₹12,980 crores** to facilitate continuous maritime insurance coverages.

The pool covers all maritime risks such as Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I and War risk for Indian flagged or controlled vessels or vessels destined to or starting from India, in the context of the current Middle East tensions.

The initiative aims to **reduce dependence on foreign insurers** and ensure **uninterrupted insurance coverage for vessels and maritime assets**

The pool has a total size of **$1.5 billion**, backed by a **$1.4 billion sovereign guarantee**

It provides insurance coverage for **vessels operating to and from India globally**

The initiative was approved by the **Union Cabinet in April 2026** and is now **operational**

234. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the revised import duty on precious metals in India:

1. **The customs duty on gold and silver has been increased from 6% to 15%.**
2. **The duty structure includes 10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and 5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC).**
3. **The duty on platinum has been increased to 14.4%.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.3 only

E.1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has increased **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**

The move aims to **protect foreign exchange reserves** and **support the Indian rupee** amid global uncertainties

The customs duty on **gold and silver** has been increased from **6% to 15%**

For **platinum**, the duty has been raised from **6.4% to 15.4%**

The revised duty structure includes:

10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)

5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** has increased **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**

The move aims to **protect foreign exchange reserves** and **support the Indian rupee** amid global uncertainties

The customs duty on **gold and silver** has been increased from **6% to 15%**

For **platinum**, the duty has been raised from **6.4% to 15.4%**

The revised duty structure includes:

10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)

5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)

The duty hike also applies to **gold dore, silver dore, coins, and findings**

The decision comes amid:

Rising crude oil prices

Geopolitical tensions (especially in West Asia)

Global economic uncertainties

235. As of 2026, Dr. Harvansh Chawla has been appointed as the Chairman of which organisation?

A.BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)
B.BRISEC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRISEC CCI)
C.International Bar Association (IBA)
D.Indo-USA Business Council
E.Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Legal expert **Dr. Harvansh Chawla** has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **BRISEC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRISEC CCI)** after stepping down from his earlier role as Chairman of the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)**.
Detailed Explanation:
Legal expert **Dr. Harvansh Chawla** has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **BRISEC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRISEC CCI)** after stepping down from his earlier role as Chairman of the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)**.
Dr. Harvansh Chawla is the **Founder and Managing Partner** of **K.R. Chawla & Co. Advocates** (since 1994) and is an expert in **infrastructure, privatisation** (including port privatisation in India), and **banking transactions**.
He has handled **major financial deals** including **ABN-AMRO** and **Bank of America** transactions, highlighting his experience in **international banking** and **corporate law**.
He is associated with **global professional bodies** such as the **International Bar Association (IBA)**, **Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)**, and **Indo-USA Business Council**.

236. As of 2026, Rumen Radev, who was elected as Prime Minister, is associated with which country?
A.Romania
B.Hungary
C.Serbia
D.Slovakia
E.Bulgaria
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
The **National Assembly of Bulgaria** formally elected and swore in former President **Rumen Radev** of the **Progressive Bulgaria Party** as the **Prime Minister of Bulgaria** in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.
Rumen Radev secured the support of **124 out of 240 members** in the Bulgarian Parliament.
Detailed Explanation:
The **National Assembly of Bulgaria** formally elected and swore in former President **Rumen Radev** of the **Progressive Bulgaria Party** as the **Prime Minister of Bulgaria** in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.
Rumen Radev secured the support of **124 out of 240 members** in the Bulgarian Parliament.
The election marked Bulgaria's **eighth parliamentary election in five years**, following

the collapse of former Prime Minister **Rosen Zhelyazkov's** government in **December 2025**.
Rumen Radev holds the rank of **Major General** and previously served as a professional **fighter pilot**.
He was the **Commander of the Bulgarian Air Force** from **2014 to 2016**.
He served as the **President of Bulgaria** from **2017** and was **re-elected in 2021**.

237. As of 2026, India successfully conducted the flight trial of which missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology?

A.Agni-I
B.Agni-II
C.Agni-III
D.Agni-IV
E.Agni-V

Answer: E

Short Explanation:
India successfully conducted the **flight-trial** of an advanced **Agni missile** equipped with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
The missile was tested with **multiple payloads**, each capable of **striking different targets** spread across a large geographical area in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
The trial demonstrated India's capability to **simultaneously engage multiple strategic targets** using a single missile system through **MIRV technology**.

Detailed Explanation:
India successfully conducted the **flight-trial** of an advanced **Agni missile** equipped with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
The missile was tested with **multiple payloads**, each capable of **striking different targets** spread across a large geographical area in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
The trial demonstrated India's capability to **simultaneously engage multiple strategic targets** using a single missile system through **MIRV technology**.
The entire **missile trajectory** from lift-off to payload impact was tracked using multiple **ground-based and ship-based telemetry** and tracking stations.
Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were successfully achieved, validating the **system's performance**.
The missile has been developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** laboratories with support from **Indian industries**, reflecting strong **indigenous defence capability**.

238. As of 2026, the Joint Aerospace Power Seminar organised by the Indian Air Force was held in_____

A.New Delhi
B.Bengaluru

C.Nagpur

D.Pune

E.Hyderabad

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Headquarters Maintenance Command of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)**, organised a one-day **Joint Aerospace Power Seminar** at **Nagpur**.

The seminar was conducted on the theme **"Efficient Maintenance and Atmanirbharta Enablers of Airpower"**, focusing on **maintenance efficiency** and **self-reliance** in strengthening India's **aerospace capability**.

Detailed Explanation:

Headquarters Maintenance Command of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)**, organised a one-day **Joint Aerospace Power Seminar** at **Nagpur**.

The seminar was conducted on the theme **"Efficient Maintenance and Atmanirbharta Enablers of Airpower"**, focusing on **maintenance efficiency** and **self-reliance** in strengthening India's **aerospace capability**.

The event brought together **senior military leaders, domain experts, strategic thinkers**, and **operational stakeholders** to discuss the role of **maintenance systems** in enhancing **operational readiness** and **national security**.

Air Marshal Yalla Umesh, VSM, PhD, **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command**, attended the seminar as the **Chief Guest**.

239. As of 2026, the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) inducted by the Indian Army was jointly developed by DRDO and which company?

A.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

B.Bharat Electronics Limited

C.Tata Advanced Systems Limited

D.Larsen & Toubro Defence

E.Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Army (IA)** inducted two **indigenous combat systems** under the **Emergency Procurement-6 (EP-6)** programme — the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM)** and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone** — from **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

The induction took place after successful **high-altitude**, **Electronic Warfare (EW)**, and **precision-strike trials** conducted in the presence of officials from the **Western Command** of the Indian Army.

The **ULPGM** was jointly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Army (IA)** inducted two **indigenous combat systems** under the **Emergency Procurement-6 (EP-6)** programme — the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM)** and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone** — from **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

The induction took place after successful **high-altitude**, **Electronic Warfare (EW)**, and **precision-strike trials** conducted in the presence of officials from the **Western Command** of the Indian Army.

The **ULPGM** was jointly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited**.

The **ULPGM** is India's first **indigenous loitering munition** in its category and is equipped with an **Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker** for **precision targeting**.

The system can be launched from **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** and is capable of **striking both stationary and moving targets** in **all-weather, day-night, GPS-denied**, and **communication-jammed environments**.

The **ULPGM** has an **operational UAV range of up to 20 km**, a **strike range of 2.5 km**, carries a **2-kg warhead**, and offers **targeting accuracy of about one metre CEP (Circular Error Probable)**

240. As of 2026, the Central Government approved how much amount for installing 4,874 electric vehicle (EV) chargers across India?

(a) ₹350.25 crore

A.₹350.25 crore

B.₹420.10 crore

C.₹503.86 crore

D.₹612.75 crore

E.₹750.00 crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** has approved proposals worth **₹503.86 crore** for installing **4,874 electric vehicle (EV) chargers** across various States and **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

The implementation involves major **CPSEs** such as **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**, and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)**, along with states including **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** has approved proposals worth **₹503.86 crore** for installing **4,874 electric vehicle (EV) chargers** across various States and **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

The implementation involves major **CPSEs** such as **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**,

and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)**, along with states including **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.

H.D. Kumaraswamy announced the launch of the **Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC)** platform, described as a **"UPI for EV charging"** to enhance **digital mobility infrastructure**.

The platform aims to provide a **"One Nation, One App"** system, enabling **EV users** to **locate, book, access, and pay** for charging stations across **multiple networks** through a **single unified interface**.

241. As of 2026, NASA's Psyche Mission captured Mars appearing as a thin glowing crescent from approximately how far away?

A.2.5 million km

B.4.8 million km

C.3.8 million km

D.5.8 million km

E.6.8 million km

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Psyche Mission captured a rare image of **Mars** appearing as a **thin glowing crescent** during its deep-space journey.

At the time of imaging, the **Psyche spacecraft** was approximately **4.8 million kilometres** away from Mars, showcasing its **advanced long-distance imaging capability**.

Detailed Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Psyche Mission captured a rare image of **Mars** appearing as a **thin glowing crescent** during its deep-space journey.

At the time of imaging, the **Psyche spacecraft** was approximately **4.8 million kilometres** away from Mars, showcasing its **advanced long-distance imaging capability**.

The spacecraft is not travelling to Mars but is using the planet's gravity for a **"gravity assist" manoeuvre** to **increase speed** and **save fuel** on its journey toward the **metal-rich asteroid Psyche**.

NASA launched the Psyche spacecraft on **13 October 2023** with the objective of studying the **asteroid Psyche**, believed to be rich in **metals** and possibly the **exposed core** of an early planet.

The **asteroid Psyche's gravity** is expected to **capture the spacecraft** in **late July 2029**, while the mission's **prime scientific operations** will begin in **August 2029**.

242. As of 2026, Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited signed an MoU with which institute's Defence Research and Innovation Foundation to strengthen indigenous defence mobility capabilities?

A.Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)

B.Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)
C.Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)
D.Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar)
E.Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru (IISc Bengaluru)
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited (DDS) and **IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **indigenous defence mobility capabilities**
The partnership focuses on **advanced ground mobility systems**, including:
Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs)
Robotic Combat Vehicles (RCVs)
All-terrain and specialised mobility platforms
Detailed Explanation:
Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited (DDS) and **IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **indigenous defence mobility capabilities**
The partnership focuses on **advanced ground mobility systems**, including:
Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs)
Robotic Combat Vehicles (RCVs)
All-terrain and specialised mobility platforms
The initiative emphasises **Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)** solutions with **high local content**
The collaboration includes a **joint Research and Development (R&D) programme** in **autonomous systems**, **robotics**, and **next-generation mobility platforms**
The platforms will be designed for **extreme environments** such as:
High-altitude regions
Deserts
Forests
Coastal areas

243. As of 2026, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an MoU with which institution to enhance digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
A.National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS)
B.Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA
C.Stanford University, USA
D.University of Oxford, UK
E.Tsinghua University, China
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to

enhance **digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The MoU was exchanged at the **CII Annual Business Summit** in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu and Simon Wong

The partnership aims to **strengthen India's digital transformation ecosystem** and build **AI leadership capabilities among enterprises**

Detailed Explanation:

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The MoU was exchanged at the **CII Annual Business Summit** in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu and Simon Wong

The partnership aims to **strengthen India's digital transformation ecosystem** and build **AI leadership capabilities among enterprises**

Under the collaboration, both organisations will jointly deliver the **'Leadership Programme on Artificial Intelligence and Governance'**

The programme is designed for:

Board members

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)

Senior executives and decision-makers

244. As of 2026, D Y Patil International University signed an MoU with which company to establish an Advanced Digital Engineering and Digital Manufacturing Experience Centre?

A.Siemens

B.Honeywell

C.Bosch

D.General Electric

E.Dassault Systèmes

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

D Y Patil International University (DYPIU) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Dassault Systèmes**

The partnership aims to establish an **Advanced Digital Engineering and Digital Manufacturing Experience Centre** on campus

The initiative focuses on **strengthening industry–academia collaboration** and **enhancing student employability**

Detailed Explanation:

D Y Patil International University (DYPIU) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Dassault Systèmes**

The partnership aims to establish an **Advanced Digital Engineering and Digital Manufacturing Experience Centre** on campus

The initiative focuses on **strengthening industry–academia collaboration** and **enhancing student employability**

The Experience Centre will integrate advanced digital technologies into the Smart Manufacturing curriculum

It is among the **first such initiatives in Maharashtra** to create **industry-ready talent**

The centre will include **NextGen Product Innovation Lab**, **Intelligent Production System Lab**, and **Virtual Twin and Simulation Lab with Virtual Reality (VR)**

The collaboration will provide **live projects**, **certification programmes**, **internships**, and **industry interactions**

245. As of 2026, Rahul Dravid has become the owner of which franchise in the European T20 Premier League (ETPL)?

A.Dublin franchise

B.London franchise

C.Amsterdam franchise

D.Edinburgh franchise

E.Belfast franchise

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Rahul Dravid, former Indian cricketer, has become the **owner of the Dublin franchise** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**

The **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)** is **Europe's first International Cricket Council (ICC)-sanctioned multi-country franchise T20 league**

Detailed Explanation:

Rahul Dravid, former Indian cricketer, has become the **owner of the Dublin franchise** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**

The **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)** is **Europe's first International Cricket Council (ICC)-sanctioned multi-country franchise T20 league**

The league aims to **promote and accelerate the growth of cricket in Europe**

It is a **multi-country tournament** involving cricket boards of:

Ireland

Scotland

Netherlands

246. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the banking licence of which co-operative bank based in Mumbai, Maharashtra?

A.Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited

B.Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited

C.Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited

D.Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Limited

E.Janata Sahakari Bank Limited

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking licence** of **Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited**, based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, under **Sections 22(4) and 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

The licence was cancelled due to **inadequate capital**, **weak earning prospects**, **inability to repay depositors** in full, and **non-compliance** with **capital adequacy** and licensing norms under **Sections 11(1) and 22(3)** of the Banking Regulation Act.

The **RBI** observed that continuation of the bank's operations would be **prejudicial to the interests of depositors**, leading to the cancellation decision.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking licence** of **Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited**, based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, under **Sections 22(4) and 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

The licence was cancelled due to **inadequate capital**, **weak earning prospects**, **inability to repay depositors** in full, and **non-compliance** with **capital adequacy** and licensing norms under **Sections 11(1) and 22(3)** of the Banking Regulation Act.

The **RBI** observed that continuation of the bank's operations would be **prejudicial to the interests of depositors**, leading to the cancellation decision.

The **RBI directed** the **Maharashtra Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS)** to initiate the **winding-up process** of Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited and **appoint a liquidator**.

Following the cancellation, the bank has been **prohibited** from **accepting deposits**, **repaying existing deposits**, and carrying out **any banking operations**.

The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** provides **insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh** per depositor per bank, covering both **principal and interest** on savings, current, fixed, and recurring deposits.

247. In 2026, which organisation signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to strengthen AI-based detection of mule accounts and cyber financial frauds in India?

A.National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

B.Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

C.Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

D.National Informatics Centre (NIC)

E.Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a subsidiary of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **AI-based detection** of **mule accounts** and **cyber financial frauds** in India.

The **MoU** was signed by **Roopa M (IG, Administration, I4C)** and **Sahil Kinni (CEO, RBIH)** in the presence of **Rohit Jain, Deputy Governor of RBI**, in **New Delhi**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a subsidiary of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **AI-based detection** of **mule accounts** and **cyber financial frauds** in India.

The **MoU** was signed by **Roopa M (IG, Administration, I4C)** and **Sahil Kinni (CEO, RBIH)** in the presence of **Rohit Jain, Deputy Governor of RBI**, in **New Delhi**.

The key objective of the **MoU** is to enhance **fraud-risk intelligence sharing**, **analytical support**, and **operational coordination** for building a stronger **fraud detection and prevention framework**.

Under the agreement, **I4C and RBIH** will share **mule account intelligence** and **suspect data** from the **I4C–MHA Suspect Registry** to improve **AI-driven fraud detection systems** such as **MuleHunter.ai** used by banks.

The initiative will help **RBIH** improve **AI models** for **fraud risk assessment** and detection, enabling **proactive identification** of **suspicious financial activities** across the banking ecosystem.

248. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in India:

1. **FPI holding in Indian equities declined to 14% in June 2026, the lowest level in nearly 14 years.**
2. **Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) increased their stake in Indian equities to 18.9%.**
3. **Under India's current rules, an FPI can hold up to 10% stake in a company without being classified as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.3 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) holding in Indian equities declined to **14% in June 2026**, marking the **lowest level in nearly 14 years**, indicating sustained **foreign selling pressure** in Indian markets.

At the same time, **Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)** increased their stake to **18.9%**, reflecting the **rising dominance and strength** of domestic capital in Indian equities.

As per India's current rules, an **FPI** can hold up to **10% stake** in a company without being classified as **Foreign Direct Investor (FDI)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) holding in Indian equities declined to **14% in June 2026**, marking the **lowest level in nearly 14 years**, indicating sustained **foreign selling pressure** in Indian markets.

At the same time, **Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)** increased their stake to **18.9%**, reflecting the **rising dominance and strength** of domestic capital in Indian equities.

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to investments by foreign entities in **financial assets** such as stocks, bonds, and securities without acquiring **control** over companies.

Unlike **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**, which involves **controlling ownership** in

businesses, **FPI is passive and short-term** in nature, with **no management control**.

As per India's current rules, an **FPI** can hold up to **10% stake** in a company without being classified as **Foreign Direct Investor (FDI)**.

According to **NSDL data (May 2026)**, FPIs were **net sellers** in 4 out of 5 trading sessions, indicating continuous **foreign outflows** from Indian equities.

The **highest single-day selling** was recorded on **May 7, 2026**, with outflows of **₹5,697.61 crore**, while total **weekly FPI outflows** stood at **₹14,207.20 crore**.

Despite occasional buying, FPIs showed overall **weak sentiment**, with only one session witnessing **net inflows of ₹2,969.02 crore**.

249. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms related to inclusion of quarterly profits in which capital component used for calculating the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)?

A.Tier 2 Capital

B.Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Capital

C.Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) Capital

D.Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

E.Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amended directions relaxing norms for inclusion of **quarterly profits** in **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital** for calculating the **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**.

The revised framework allows banks to include **current year quarterly profits** in **CET1 capital** without the earlier additional qualifying condition.

Earlier, banks could include quarterly profits only if **incremental NPA provisions** in the previous financial year did not deviate by more than **25%** from the **four-quarter average**.

Under the revised rules, the restriction linked to **NPA provisioning variability** has been removed after **stakeholder feedback**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amended directions relaxing norms for inclusion of **quarterly profits** in **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital** for calculating the **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**.

The revised framework allows banks to include **current year quarterly profits** in **CET1 capital** without the earlier additional qualifying condition.

Earlier, banks could include quarterly profits only if **incremental NPA provisions** in the previous financial year did not deviate by more than **25%** from the **four-quarter average**.

Under the revised rules, the restriction linked to **NPA provisioning variability** has been removed after **stakeholder feedback**.

The relaxation applies to **commercial banks**, **small finance banks**, and **payments banks**, and comes into **effect immediately**.

Similar directions have also been issued for **Small Finance Banks**

(SFBs) and **Payments Banks (PBs)** under RBI regulations.

The RBI clarified that the amendment was made after **stakeholder consultation**, though it rejected the proposal to shift fully to **annual CET1 accounting** due to concerns over temporary profit spikes.

250. In 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) directed all States and Union Territories to shift the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) base year to which year by FY27?

A.2004–05

B.2011–12

C.2015–16

D.2020–21

E.2022–23

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has directed all **States and Union Territories** to shift their **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) base year** from **2011–12 to 2022–23** by **FY27**.

The move aligns with the **revised national GDP base year of 2022–23**, aimed at improving **accuracy, consistency, and comparability** of economic data.

Currently, **34 States/UTs** are still using the **2011–12 base year** for GSDP estimation.

MoSPI revised the **national accounts base year** in **February 2026**, incorporating new data sources, improved methodology, and updated economic structure coverage.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has directed all **States and Union Territories** to shift their **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) base year** from **2011–12 to 2022–23** by **FY27**.

The move aligns with the **revised national GDP base year of 2022–23**, aimed at improving **accuracy, consistency, and comparability** of economic data.

Currently, **34 States/UTs** are still using the **2011–12 base year** for GSDP estimation.

MoSPI revised the **national accounts base year** in **February 2026**, incorporating new data sources, improved methodology, and updated economic structure coverage.

The revision better captures **informal sector activity**, **service sector growth**, and **structural economic changes**.

States and UTs are now required to adopt the new base year to ensure **uniform regional economic measurement** and **national-level consistency**.

A **Sub-Committee on Regional Accounts** under the **Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS)** has been formed to guide implementation and review methodology.

The committee is chaired by **Prof. Ravindra H. Dholakia (IIM Ahmedabad)** with members from **RBI, NITI Aayog, academia**, and state governments.

The revised framework focuses on improving **Gross State Value Added (GSVA)** and **GSDP estimation**, where **GSDP = GSVA + Net Taxes on Products**.
Key priorities include **expanded data integration**, **improved estimation techniques**, and **standardized statistical practices** across States/UTs.
GSDP is a key indicator for measuring **state-level economic performance**, sectoral growth, fiscal planning, and industrial output.

251. In 2026, which bank launched the new credit card portfolio comprising AU Ananta, AU Laksya, AU Tejas, and AU Prathama cards?

A.Equitas Small Finance Bank
B.Jana Small Finance Bank
C.Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
D.AU Small Finance Bank
E.ESAF Small Finance Bank

Answer: D

Short Explanation:
AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) has launched a new **credit card portfolio** comprising four cards — **AU Ananta, AU Laksya, AU Tejas, and AU Prathama** — to strengthen its **retail credit card business** across **Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities**.
The portfolio is designed to cater to customers across **different income groups** and **lifestyle segments**, enhancing **financial inclusion** and **retail banking penetration**.
Detailed Explanation:
AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) has launched a new **credit card portfolio** comprising four cards — **AU Ananta, AU Laksya, AU Tejas, and AU Prathama** — to strengthen its **retail credit card business** across **Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities**.
The portfolio is designed to cater to customers across **different income groups** and **lifestyle segments**, enhancing **financial inclusion** and **retail banking penetration**.
The launch includes an **industry-first feature** offering **complimentary airport lounge access** through flight bookings made on the **AU Rewardz platform**.
AU Ananta Credit Card targets **affluent achievers**, offering **premium travel and lifestyle benefits**, including reward points, **airport lounge access**, milestone bonuses, **insurance cover**, and **no-cost EMI** on travel expenses.
AU Laksya Credit Card is designed for **Gen Z and mid-career professionals**, offering reward points, **grocery and food delivery discounts**, **Buy-One-Get-One (BOGO) movie tickets**, lounge access, and **zero-fee EMI conversions**.

252. In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project at an estimated cost of how much?

A.₹10,450 crore
B.₹15,320 crore
C.₹18,900 crore

D.₹20,667 crore

E.₹25,780 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project** at an estimated cost of **₹20,667 crore**.

The project aims to **enhance connectivity between Ahmedabad and Dholera** and support major upcoming infrastructure developments.

The approval was granted by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, under the **Ministry of Railways**.

It will be **Indian Railways' first semi high-speed rail corridor developed using indigenous technology**, marking a key step in railway modernisation.

The project has a **total outlay of ₹20,667 crore** and is expected to be **completed by Financial Year 2030-2031**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project** at an estimated cost of **₹20,667 crore**.

The project aims to **enhance connectivity between Ahmedabad and Dholera** and support major upcoming infrastructure developments.

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It will be **Indian Railways' first semi high-speed rail corridor developed using indigenous technology**, marking a key step in railway modernisation.

The project has a **total outlay of ₹20,667 crore** and is expected to be **completed by Financial Year 2030-2031**.

The new rail corridor will add approximately **134 kilometres** to India's railway network.

The corridor is strategically important for **Gujarat's economic development**, as it will provide direct connectivity between:

Ahmedabad

Dholera Special Investment Region

Dholera International Airport (upcoming)

Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex

253. In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved a scheme of ₹37,500 crore to promote which of the following?

A.Surface coal and lignite gasification projects

B.Offshore wind energy projects

C.Green hydrogen export hubs

D.Nuclear power expansion projects

E.Solar panel manufacturing units

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification projects**.

The initiative aims to **reduce dependence on imported fuels and industrial chemicals** and strengthen India's energy security.

The scheme has a **total financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore** and targets the **gasification of 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification projects**.

The initiative aims to **reduce dependence on imported fuels and industrial chemicals** and strengthen India's energy security.

The scheme has a **total financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore** and targets the **gasification of 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite**.

It supports India's broader goal of achieving **100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030**.

The policy is designed to encourage **industrial investment in the production of synthesis gas and downstream products**, including:

Methanol

Ammonia

Urea

Synthetic Natural Gas

Ammonium nitrate

Other industrial chemicals

Coal gasification is a process in which coal or lignite is converted into **synthesis gas**, instead of being directly burned.

254. In 2026, what is the duration of internship under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme?

A.3 months

B.6 months

C.9 months

D.12 months

E.18 months

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** has launched the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026** to provide practical **workplace experience and improve employability among youth.**

The scheme aims to offer internship opportunities to **one crore youth over the next five years**, making it a large-scale skill development initiative.

It is designed to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by enabling hands-on experience in leading companies across sectors.

The pilot phase was launched in Financial Year 2024-2025 with a target of **1.25 lakh internship opportunities**.

The internship duration is **12 months**, ensuring adequate exposure to workplace conditions.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** has launched the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026** to provide practical **workplace experience and improve employability among youth.**

The scheme aims to offer internship opportunities to **one crore youth over the next**

five years, making it a large-scale skill development initiative.

It is designed to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by enabling hands-on experience in leading companies across sectors.

The pilot phase was launched in Financial Year 2024-2025 with a target of **1.25 lakh internship opportunities**.

The scheme focuses on improving job readiness, workplace understanding, communication skills, and technical abilities.

The scheme provides an opportunity for candidates to work in real professional environments instead of relying only on theoretical learning.

Eligibility includes:

Students trained at Industrial Training Institutes

Candidates from skill development centres

Unemployed youth seeking workplace exposure

Applicants not engaged in full-time employment

Ineligible categories include:

Graduates from premier institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management

Candidates with professional qualifications such as Chartered Accountant and Cost and Management Accountant

The internship duration is **12 months**, ensuring adequate exposure to workplace conditions.

At least half of the internship period involves **direct practical work experience**, allowing candidates to actively participate in real-world tasks.

The scheme is expected to improve employability, reduce skill gaps, and support workforce readiness in the country.

255. In 2026, the Government of India imposed a ban on sugar exports until which date to safeguard domestic supply and control inflation risks?

A.30 September 2026

B.30 June 2026

C.31 July 2026

D.31 March 2026

E.31 December 2026

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has imposed an **immediate ban on sugar exports until 30 September 2026** to **safeguard domestic supply and control inflation risks**.

As the **world's second-largest sugar producer**, this move is expected to **impact both domestic availability and global sugar prices**.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has **changed the sugar export policy from "restricted" to "prohibited"**, marking a **significant policy shift**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** has imposed an **immediate ban on sugar exports until 30 September 2026** to **safeguard domestic supply and control inflation risks**.

As the **world's second-largest sugar producer**, this move is expected to **impact both domestic availability and global sugar prices**.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has **changed the sugar export policy from "restricted" to "prohibited"**, marking a **significant policy shift**.

The ban applies to:

Raw sugar

White sugar

Refined sugar

Earlier, India had allowed **controlled exports based on surplus production expectations**, but the current decision reflects **tightening supply conditions**.

The ban is **effective immediately** and will remain in force **until 30 September 2026 or until further orders**.

Certain **limited exemptions** have been provided under the policy:

Exports where loading began before 13 May 2026

Shipments already handed over to customs before notification

Exports approved by the government for food security support to other countries

Exports to the European Union and the United States under existing tariff-rate quota arrangements

256. In 2026, the Government of India set an export target of how much for the current financial year?

A.500 billion US dollars

B.750 billion US dollars

C.863 billion US dollars

D.1.5 trillion US dollars

E.1 trillion US dollars

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has set an **ambitious export target of 1 trillion United States dollars** for the **current financial year**, following a **record export of 863 billion United States dollars in Financial Year 2025-2026**.

The roadmap was announced by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** while releasing the **Logistics Ease Across Different States Report 2025** and honouring logistics leaders at the **Logistics Excellence Advancement and Performance Shield Awards 2025** in **New Delhi**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of India** has set an **ambitious export target of 1 trillion United States dollars** for the **current financial year**, following a **record export of 863 billion United States dollars in Financial Year 2025-2026**.

The roadmap was announced by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** while releasing the **Logistics Ease Across Different States Report 2025** and honouring logistics leaders at the **Logistics**

Excellence Advancement and Performance Shield Awards 2025 in **New Delhi**.

The achievement comes despite major global disruptions such as:

West Asia geopolitical tensions

Ongoing Ukraine conflict

Slower global economic growth

Trade uncertainty and tariff pressures

According to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, **services exports grew by around 8.5 percent to 9 percent**, while **overall exports increased by nearly 5 percent year on year**.

India has expanded its **Free Trade Agreement network**, covering **38 developed and prosperous economies through nine Free Trade Agreements in the last three and a half years**.

Out of these, **four Free Trade Agreements are already operational**, while **five more are expected to become active within the next 12 months**.

257. In 2026, which state government approved the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill?

A.Gujarat

B.Uttarakhand

C.Assam

D.Madhya Pradesh

E.Goa

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **State Government of Assam** has approved the **draft Uniform Civil Code Bill**, marking a **major legal and political development** in the state.

The decision was taken by the Assam Cabinet led by **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

The Bill is expected to be **introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly on May 26**.

The proposed law will cover key civil matters, including:

Marriage

Divorce

Property succession

Live-in relationships

Compulsory marriage registration

Mandatory divorce registration

Detailed Explanation:

The **State Government of Assam** has approved the **draft Uniform Civil Code Bill**, marking a **major legal and political development** in the state.

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Marriage

Divorce

Property succession

Live-in relationships

Compulsory marriage registration

Mandatory divorce registration

With this move, **Assam becomes one of the few states moving towards a state-level Uniform Civil Code framework**.

A **Uniform Civil Code** refers to a **common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens irrespective of religion**, covering areas such as **marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession**.

258. In 2026, Uber partnered with which group to establish its first data centre in India?

A.Adani Group

B.Reliance Industries

C.Tata Group

D.Bharti Group

E.Vedanta Group

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Uber has partnered with the Adani Group to establish its **first data centre in India**, marking a **significant expansion of its digital and engineering infrastructure** in one of its most important global markets.

The announcement was made by **Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi** after a meeting with **Gautam Adani** in **Ahmedabad**.

The proposed facility will be **Uber's first data centre in India** and is expected to strengthen the company's digital backbone for technology development and deployment.

Detailed Explanation:

Uber has partnered with the Adani Group to establish its **first data centre in India**, marking a **significant expansion of its digital and engineering infrastructure** in one of its most important global markets.

The announcement was made by **Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi** after a meeting with **Gautam Adani** in **Ahmedabad**.

The proposed facility will be **Uber's first data centre in India** and is expected to strengthen the company's digital backbone for technology development and deployment.

According to Uber, the data centre will enable the company to test, scale, and deploy technology solutions from India for its global operations, enhancing its international service capabilities.

India has become a **crucial hub in Uber's global technology ecosystem**, with the company already operating one of its **largest engineering and product development centres outside the United States in Bengaluru**.

India offers several **strategic advantages** for Uber's expansion, including:

Large and skilled engineering talent pool

Rapidly expanding digital economy

Growing demand for cloud and Artificial Intelligence infrastructure

Highly competitive technology ecosystem

Strong startup and innovation environment

Increasing enterprise digitisation across sectors

These factors make India a **preferred destination for deeper infrastructure investment** by global technology companies.

A **data centre** is a facility that houses **computing infrastructure used for processing, storing, and managing digital data**.

259. In 2026, which feedstock became the largest contributor to India's ethanol production, surpassing sugarcane-based sources?

A.Wheat

B.Maize

C.Barley

D.Rice

E.Sugar beet

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India's **ethanol programme** is witnessing a **major shift** as **maize becomes the largest ethanol feedstock**, surpassing **sugarcane-based sources**.

During the first half of **Ethanol Supply Year 2025-2026**, total ethanol supplies crossed **515 crore litres**, indicating strong progress in **clean fuel transition**.

According to estimates by the All-India Distillers Association, **maize has become the single largest contributor** to ethanol production. **Maize contributed around 182 crore litres**, the **highest among all feedstocks**.

Detailed Explanation:

India's **ethanol programme** is witnessing a **major shift** as **maize becomes the largest ethanol feedstock**, surpassing **sugarcane-based sources**.

During the first half of **Ethanol Supply Year 2025-2026**, total ethanol supplies crossed **515 crore litres**, indicating strong progress in **clean fuel transition**.

According to estimates by the All-India Distillers Association, **maize has become the single largest contributor** to ethanol production. **Maize contributed around 182 crore litres**, the **highest among all feedstocks**.

Other contributors include:

Surplus rice and surplus food grains: around **125 crore litres**

Damaged food grains: approximately **26 crore litres**

This marks a **significant structural change** in **India's ethanol production strategy**.

Total ethanol supply of **515 crore litres** has been achieved against the **contracted target of 1,059 crore litres**, covering nearly **49 percent of annual supply** in the first half.

260. In 2026, which edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue was hosted by India in New Delhi under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World"?

A.5th

B.7th

C.8th

D.9th

E.10th

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India hosted the **10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi** under the theme **"Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World."**

The Dialogue was organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association Secretariat.

The event brought together **senior officials, policymakers, scholars, and experts** from member states and dialogue partners to discuss **key regional developments and emerging challenges**.

Detailed Explanation:

India hosted the **10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi** under the theme **"Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World."**

The Dialogue was organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association Secretariat.

The event brought together **senior officials, policymakers, scholars, and experts** from member states and dialogue partners to discuss **key regional developments and emerging challenges**.

The inaugural session featured addresses by:

Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of India

Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius

Waleed Mohammed Al Qadimi, Minister of State of Yemen

They emphasised the need for **enhanced cooperation, collective security, and sustainable development** in the Indian Ocean Region amid changing geopolitical and economic conditions.

261. In 2026, who was elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2026–27 term?

A.Rajiv Memani

B.Shashwat Goenka

C.R Mukundan

D.N. Chandrasekaran

E.Dr Suchitra K. Ella

Answer: C

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** elected **R Mukundan** as its **President** for **2026–27**, succeeding **Rajiv Memani** after the announcement by the newly constituted **CII National Council**.

R Mukundan is the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Tata Chemicals**.

The **CII** also elected **Dr Suchitra K. Ella** as **President-Designate** and **Shashwat Goenka** as **Vice President** for the **2026–27 term**.

262. In 2026, who was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Hungary after the parliamentary election victory of the Tisza Party?

A.Viktor Orbán

B.Gergely Karácsony

C.Péter Szijjártó

D.Peter Magyar

E.Katalin Novák

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Peter Magyar was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Hungary** after his party secured victory in the **parliamentary elections**.

His victory marks the end of nearly **two decades of political dominance** by former Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** and his **Fidesz government**.

Magyar's centre-right **Tisza Party** achieved a **historic win** by securing a **two-thirds majority** with **141 seats** in the **199-member National Assembly**.

Detailed Explanation:

Peter Magyar was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Hungary** after his party secured victory in the **parliamentary elections**.

His victory marks the end of nearly **two decades of political dominance** by former Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** and his **Fidesz government**.

Magyar's centre-right **Tisza Party** achieved a **historic win** by securing a **two-thirds majority** with **141 seats** in the **199-member National Assembly**.

The result gives the **Tisza Party** a **strong parliamentary mandate**, strengthening its ability to implement major **legislative and governance reforms** in Hungary.

The new **Hungarian parliament** includes a **record 54 women lawmakers**, most from the **Tisza Party**, marking a significant rise in **female political representation**.

263. In 2026, the oath of office and secrecy to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was administered according to which Schedule of the Constitution of India?

A.First Schedule

B.Second Schedule

C.Third Schedule

D.Fourth Schedule

E.Fifth Schedule

Answer: C

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, senior leader of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** and **MLA** from the **Jalukbari constituency**, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM) of Assam** for a **second consecutive term**.

With this achievement, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** became the **first non-Congress leader** in Assam to serve **two successive terms** as Chief Minister.

The **oath-taking ceremony** was held at the **Veterinary College Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati**.

Lakshman Prasad Acharya, **Governor of Assam**, administered the **oath of office and secrecy** according to the **Third Schedule** of the **Constitution of India**.

264. In 2026, which conference focusing on India's defence transformation, indigenous capability development, and future warfighting preparedness will be inaugurated in New Delhi?

A.DefExpo

B.Aero India

C.Bharat Defence Summit

D.Kalam & Kavach

E.Raksha Manthan

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth will inaugurate the third edition of **"Kalam & Kavach"** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

The conference will serve as a **premier strategic platform** bringing together **policy makers, military leadership, defence industry stakeholders**, diplomats, innovators, start-ups, academia, and strategic experts.

The event focuses on **India's defence transformation**, **indigenous capability development**, and **future warfighting preparedness**.

Detailed Explanation:

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth will inaugurate the third edition of **"Kalam & Kavach"** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

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The event focuses on **India's defence transformation**, **indigenous capability development**, and **future warfighting preparedness**.

The conference is centred around the strategic vision of **Jointness, Aatmanirbharta and Innovation (JAI)** along with **Indigenisation and International Collaboration (I²)**.

The objective is to strengthen discussions on **integrated military capability development**, **technological innovation**, and **strategic partnerships** aligned with national security objectives and the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

265. In 2026, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of a 7.14% stake in Lloyds Engineering Works Limited by which company?

A.Adani Enterprises Limited

B.Tata Steel Limited

C.Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited

D.JSW Infrastructure Limited

E.Vedanta Limited

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of a **7.14% stake** in **Lloyds Engineering Works Limited (LEWL)** by **Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited (TEMPL)** along with the **merger of three entities** into LEWL.

The proposed transaction included a **Block Deal** under which **TEMPL** acquired **7.14% shareholding** in LEWL through **BSE Limited** on **09 February 2026**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of a **7.14%**

stake in **Lloyds Engineering Works Limited (LEWL)** by **Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited (TEMPL)** along with the **merger of three entities** into LEWL.

The proposed transaction included a **Block Deal** under which **TEMPL** acquired **7.14% shareholding** in LEWL through **BSE Limited** on **09 February 2026**.

The approved combination also involves the **merger by absorption** of **Lloyds Infrastructure & Construction Limited (LICL)**, **Metalfab Hightech Private Limited (MHPL)**, and **Techno Industries Private Limited (TIPL)** into **LEWL**, which will remain the **surviving entity**.

Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited (TEMPL) provides **contract mining services** including exploration, drilling, mining, excavation, hauling, sizing, processing, and transportation of minerals.

TEMPL is also engaged in **coal trading**, manufacture of **solid blocks**, and **investment activities**.

266. In 2026, the Technology Development Board (TDB) signed an agreement with Helix Cell Therapeutics Private Limited for developing dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy to treat which disease?

A.Multiple Myeloma

B.Lung cancer

C.Leukemia

D.Breast cancer

E.Lymphoma

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with **Helix Cell Therapeutics Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana** for a project on **dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy** for **Multiple Myeloma**.

The project is titled **"Generation of Novel Dual Targeting Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells to Treat Multiple Myeloma and Conducting Phase I Clinical Trial."**

The initiative is being implemented under the **Indo-Singapore collaborative framework** in partnership with **Biocell Innovations, Singapore**, strengthening **India-Singapore biomedical cooperation**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with **Helix Cell Therapeutics Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana** for a project on **dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy** for **Multiple Myeloma**.

The project is titled **"Generation of Novel Dual Targeting Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells to Treat Multiple Myeloma and Conducting Phase I Clinical Trial."**

The initiative is being implemented under the **Indo-Singapore collaborative framework** in partnership with **Biocell**

Innovations, Singapore, strengthening **India-Singapore biomedical cooperation**.

The project focuses on developing an advanced **dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy** for **Multiple Myeloma**, a serious and currently **incurable blood cancer**.

The proposed therapy simultaneously targets both **BCMA (B-cell Maturation Antigen)** and **CD19 markers** expressed on Multiple Myeloma cells, aiming to improve **treatment efficacy** and **long-term remission outcomes**.

Existing **BCMA-targeted CAR-T therapies** have shown encouraging results in **relapsed and refractory** Multiple Myeloma patients, but the new **dual-targeting strategy** seeks to provide more **durable remission**.

267. In 2026, Samsung Electronics became only the second Asian company to cross a $1 trillion market valuation, after which company?

A.Sony Corporation

B.Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)

C.Intel Corporation

D.Alibaba Group

E.SK Hynix

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Samsung Electronics has crossed the **$1 trillion market valuation** mark, driven by strong global demand for **AI-related semiconductor chips**.

This milestone highlights the company's strong position in the global **technology and semiconductor industry**.

Samsung Electronics became only the **second Asian company** to achieve a **$1 trillion valuation**, after **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Samsung Electronics has crossed the **$1 trillion market valuation** mark, driven by strong global demand for **AI-related semiconductor chips**.

This milestone highlights the company's strong position in the global **technology and semiconductor industry**.

Samsung Electronics became only the **second Asian company** to achieve a **$1 trillion valuation**, after **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)**.

The growth has been supported by the **global surge** in **Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure** demand.

Along with **TSMC** and **SK Hynix**, Samsung has emerged as a **key beneficiary** of the **AI-driven semiconductor boom**.

268. In 2026, what is the theme of the International Day of Families observed on 15 May?

A.Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing

B.Strong Families, Strong Nations

C.Families and Sustainable Development

D.Empowering Families for Equality

E.Families for a Better Future

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

International Day of Families is celebrated every year on **15 May** to raise awareness about the **importance of families in society**.

The **theme for 2026** is **"Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing."**

Detailed Explanation:

International Day of Families is celebrated every year on **15 May** to raise awareness about the **importance of families in society**.

The **theme for 2026** is **"Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing."**

The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1993** and was **first observed in 1994**.

The observance highlights the role of families in areas such as **health, economic well-being, work-life balance, and women's rights**.

In **2026, the day marks the 30th anniversary** of the International Day of Families.

269. In 2026, what is the currency of Hungary?

A.Euro

B.Krona

C.Dinar

D.Franc

E.Forint

Answer: E

About Hungary :

Capital : Budapest

Currency : Hungarian Forint (HUF)

270. In 2026, under which Article of the Constitution of India does the Governor appoint the Chief Minister?

A.Article 153

B.Article 162

C.Article 163

D.Article 164

E.Article 165

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, senior leader of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** and **MLA** from the **Jalukbari constituency**, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM) of Assam** for a **second consecutive term**.

Lakshman Prasad Acharya, **Governor of Assam**, administered the **oath of office and secrecy** according to the **Third Schedule** of the **Constitution of India**.

271. In 2026, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) capped duty-free gold import authorisations under the Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme at what limit per licence?

A.50 kg

B.75 kg

C.100 kg

D.150 kg

E.200 kg

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has tightened regulations for **duty-free gold imports** under the **Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme** for the **gems and jewellery sector**.

The revised norms introduce **five new compliance notes** under **Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs)** M1 to M8, effective immediately to strengthen **monitoring and regulatory control**.

Under the new framework, **gold import authorisations** under the **AA scheme** are **capped at 100 kilograms per licence**, aimed at preventing misuse and ensuring better compliance.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has tightened regulations for **duty-free gold imports** under the **Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme** for the **gems and jewellery sector**.

The revised norms introduce **five new compliance notes** under **Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs)** M1 to M8, effective immediately to strengthen **monitoring and regulatory control**.

Under the new framework, **gold import authorisations** under the **AA scheme** are **capped at 100 kilograms per licence**, aimed at preventing misuse and ensuring better compliance.

First-time applicants will now undergo **mandatory physical inspection** of manufacturing facilities by regional authorities to verify **operational capacity** and unit existence.

Repeat applicants will receive fresh licences only after fulfilling at least **50% export obligations** under previous authorisations, ensuring stronger **export compliance discipline**.

The move follows the government's decision to **raise gold import duty from 6% to 15%**, amid **record imports** worth **$71.98 billion in FY 2025–26**.

The policy aims to **reduce gold imports**, protect **foreign exchange reserves**, and **stabilise the Indian rupee** amid global geopolitical tensions.

The **Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme** allows exporters in the gems and jewellery sector to **import gold duty-free**, provided it is used exclusively for **manufacturing jewellery for export**.

272. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed the requirement of prior approval for non-bank entities to enter into tie-up arrangements for enabling outward remittance services through which category of banks?

A.Small Finance Banks

B.Payment Banks

C.Cooperative Banks

D.Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks

E.Regional Rural Banks

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed the requirement of **prior approval** for **non-bank entities (fintechs)** to enter into **tie-up arrangements** for enabling **outward remittance services** through banks in India.
This move is part of the **RBI's updated operating framework** to facilitate **outward remittances** via **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.
Earlier, under the **2016 framework**, **non-bank entities** were required to obtain **RBI approval** before partnering with **AD banks** for providing **outward remittance services**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed the requirement of **prior approval** for **non-bank entities (fintechs)** to enter into **tie-up arrangements** for enabling **outward remittance services** through banks in India.
This move is part of the **RBI's updated operating framework** to facilitate **outward remittances** via **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.
Earlier, under the **2016 framework**, **non-bank entities** were required to obtain **RBI approval** before partnering with **AD banks** for providing **outward remittance services**.
The **revised framework** applies to **cross-border outward remittance** of funds for **non-trade current account transactions** conducted through **websites, online platforms, software applications, and mobile apps** operated by **third-party entities**.
As per **RBI directions**, **AD Category-I banks** must ensure compliance with the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** and conduct proper **Know Your Customer (KYC)** due diligence.
Banks are also required to **inform customers** about the exact **foreign exchange amount** credited and the **maximum time required** for **fund transfer** to the beneficiary.

273. In 2026, SEBI proposed allowing select agricultural commodity derivatives contracts to be initially settled in which manner before transitioning to compulsory physical settlement?
A.Cash settlement
B.Net settlement
C.Financial settlement
D.Rolling settlement
E.Gross settlement
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing select **agricultural commodity derivatives contracts** to be initially **financially settled** before transitioning to **compulsory physical settlement**.
The proposal aims to **improve liquidity**, revive **illiquid agri-derivative contracts**, and encourage the launch of new **delivery-based commodity contracts** on exchanges.
According to the proposed framework, contracts will be designed as **delivery-based from**

inception, while the **financially settled phase** will function as a **temporary market-development mechanism**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing select **agricultural commodity derivatives contracts** to be initially **financially settled** before transitioning to **compulsory physical settlement**.

The proposal aims to **improve liquidity**, revive **illiquid agri-derivative contracts**, and encourage the launch of new **delivery-based commodity contracts** on exchanges.

According to the proposed framework, contracts will be designed as **delivery-based from inception**, while the **financially settled phase** will function as a **temporary market-development mechanism**.

The framework seeks to address **liquidity constraints** faced by agricultural derivatives, especially during the **initial launch phase**, when contracts often experience **low trading volumes** and **limited open interest**.

SEBI stated that **compulsory physical settlement** from inception may **restrict participation** only to entities capable of taking or giving delivery, thereby limiting **broader market participation**.

Allowing contracts to operate temporarily in a **financially settled format** is expected to **improve market depth**, increase **trading participation**, and enhance **price discovery** before delivery obligations begin.

274. In 2026, India's retail inflation (CPI) rose to 3.48% in April, marking a 14-month high. What is the revised base year of the updated CPI released by MoSPI?

A.2011

B.2012

C.2015

D.2019

E.2024

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India's **retail inflation (CPI)** rose to **3.48% in April**, marking a **14-month high**, primarily due to increased prices of **food items, gold, and silver**.

The **highest inflation** was recorded in key commodities such as **silver jewellery (144.34%)**, **coconut/copra (44.55%)**, **gold, diamond and platinum jewellery (40.72%)**, **tomato (35.28%)**, and **cauliflower (25.58%)**.

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the updated **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** in February, **revising the base year to 2024**, replacing the earlier 2012 base year.

Detailed Explanation:

India's **retail inflation (CPI)** rose to **3.48% in April**, marking a **14-month high**, primarily due to increased prices of **food items, gold, and silver**.

Despite the rise, inflation remained **below the RBI target of 4%**, supporting expectations

that **interest rates** may remain **unchanged** in the near term.

The **highest inflation** was recorded in key commodities such as **silver jewellery (144.34%)**, **coconut/copra (44.55%)**, **gold, diamond and platinum jewellery (40.72%)**, **tomato (35.28%)**, and **cauliflower (25.58%)**.

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the updated **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** in February, **revising the base year to 2024**, replacing the earlier 2012 base year.

The **new CPI 2024 basket** includes **358 goods and services**, significantly higher than the earlier basket of 59 items, improving the **measurement of inflation accuracy** and coverage.

275. In 2026, which bank became the first Taiwanese bank to establish a presence in India's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City?

A.CTBC Bank Co. Ltd

B.Mega International Commercial Bank

C.Taipei Fubon Bank

D.E.SUN Commercial Bank

E.Taiwan Cooperative Bank

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

CTBC Bank Co. Ltd. has opened its new branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, becoming the **first Taiwanese bank** to establish presence in India's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

Detailed Explanation:

CTBC Bank Co. Ltd. has opened its new branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, becoming the **first Taiwanese bank** to establish presence in India's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

The branch was established after receiving necessary approvals from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, marking a key milestone in **India–Taiwan financial cooperation**.

The new **CTBC Bank** branch in **GIFT City** aims to strengthen **cross-border financing**, **trade**, and **investment flows**, and enhance **financial connectivity** between **India**, **Taiwan**, and the wider **Asia region**.

The bank has maintained a presence in **India** for over **30 years**, demonstrating **long-term commitment** to the **Indian market**.

276. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the UDGAM portal:

1. **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) is an online centralized portal developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
2. **The portal has been developed in collaboration with ReBIT and IFTAS along with selected banks.**

3. **A total of 30 banks have been integrated into the UDGAM portal to help trace unclaimed deposits.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.3 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** informed the **Supreme Court** that **30 banks** have been integrated into the **UDGAM portal** to help **legal heirs** trace **unclaimed funds** of deceased account holders.

UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) is an **online centralized portal** developed by the **RBI**.

The platform was developed in collaboration with **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT)** and **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)** along with selected banks.

The portal covers around **90% of unclaimed deposits (by value)** held in the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**.

A total of **30 banks** are currently part of the **UDGAM platform**, enabling **consolidated search** of unclaimed accounts.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** informed the **Supreme Court** that **30 banks** have been integrated into the **UDGAM portal** to help **legal heirs** trace **unclaimed funds** of deceased account holders.

UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) is an **online centralized portal** developed by the **RBI**.

The platform was developed in collaboration with **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT)** and **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)** along with selected banks.

The portal covers around **90% of unclaimed deposits (by value)** held in the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**.

A total of **30 banks** are currently part of the **UDGAM platform**, enabling **consolidated search** of unclaimed accounts.

The portal allows users to search both **individual and non-individual** unclaimed deposits/accounts.

UDGAM is only a **search and information platform** and **does not process claims**; claims must be made **directly with the respective bank**.

It also provides details of the **claim and settlement process** of each participating bank.

To search **individual accounts**, users must provide:

Account holder name

Bank name (one or more)

Any one or more **identifiers** such as **PAN, Driving License, Voter ID, Passport Number, or Date of Birth**

After registration, users receive a **UDRN (Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number)**, generated via the **Core Banking Solution (CBS)**.

The **UDRN** ensures **privacy**, preventing identification of the account holder or bank branch by **third parties**.

277. In 2026, as per revised norms for GDP data availability, listed companies are required to submit their audited Q4 and annual financial statements within how many days from the end of the financial year?

A.30 days

B.45 days

C.60 days

D.90 days

E.120 days

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has revised the **release schedule** for India's **Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **Fourth Quarter (Q4) GDP estimates**.

Under the revised system, the **Provisional Estimates (PE)** of **Annual GDP** and **January–March Quarter GDP data** will now be released on **7 June** every year, or on the previous working day if 7 June is a holiday.

Listed companies are required to submit their **audited Q4 and annual financial statements** within **60 days** from the end of the financial year, resulting in many filings arriving close to the **31 May deadline**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has revised the **release schedule** for India's **Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **Fourth Quarter (Q4) GDP estimates**.

Under the revised system, the **Provisional Estimates (PE)** of **Annual GDP** and **January–March Quarter GDP data** will now be released on **7 June** every year, or on the previous working day if 7 June is a holiday.

Earlier, the **GDP data** used to be released on the **last working day of May**.

The revision was made after consultations with the **Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS)** to improve the **quality, robustness, reliability, and coverage** of national accounts data.

The **Ministry** stated that the change was necessary because certain **critical datasets** become available only after a **delay of up to two months**.

Listed companies are required to submit their **audited Q4 and annual financial statements** within **60 days** from the end of the financial year, resulting in many filings arriving close to the **31 May deadline**.

In the case of **Central Government Accounts**, key **fiscal data** related to **revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, taxes, subsidies, and**

interest payments for March become available only after a **two-month lag**.

Under the revised calendar, the **Provisional GDP Estimates for FY 2025–26** and **Q4 GDP data for January–March 2026** will be released on **5 June 2026**.

The revision is part of **MoSPI's** continued efforts to strengthen **national accounts compilation** and align India's **statistical practices** with **international best practices**.

278. In 2026, India is planning to construct a ₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline connecting Oman with which Indian state?

A.Gujarat

B.Tamil Nadu

C.Maharashtra

D.Andhra Pradesh

E.Kerala

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

India is planning to construct a **₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline** connecting **Oman and Gujarat** to strengthen long-term energy security.

The Ministry of Petroleum is directing **GAIL, Engineers India, and Indian Oil Corporation** to prepare a detailed feasibility report for the ₹40,000 crore **Middle East-India Deep-water Pipeline** (MEIDP).

Detailed Explanation:

India is planning to construct a **₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline** connecting **Oman and Gujarat** to strengthen long-term energy security.

The Ministry of Petroleum is directing **GAIL, Engineers India, and Indian Oil Corporation** to prepare a detailed feasibility report for the ₹40,000 crore **Middle East-India Deep-water Pipeline** (MEIDP).

This follows a pre-feasibility study by South Asia Gas Enterprise, which has already laid 3,000 metres of test pipeline to assess seabed conditions.

The project, if approved, could take five to seven years to complete and would deliver 31 mmscmd of natural gas directly to Gujarat.

The proposal gained urgency after the **2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis**, which disrupted global energy flows and exposed India's dependence on a single maritime route.

Nearly **88 percent of India's crude oil imports** and a significant share of **Liquefied Natural Gas supplies** pass through the **Strait of Hormuz**.

279. In 2026, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Phase III launched by the Election Commission of India covered almost the entire country except which of the following regions?

A.Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

B.Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra

C.West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar

D.Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

E.Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Election Commission of India** has launched **Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision** across **16 States and 3 Union Territories** to update electoral rolls.

The exercise covers **36.73 crore voters** and aims to ensure **accurate, transparent, and updated electoral data** before upcoming elections.

The exercise will cover almost the entire country except:

Himachal Pradesh

Jammu and Kashmir

Ladakh

Detailed Explanation:

The **Election Commission of India** has launched **Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision** across **16 States and 3 Union Territories** to update electoral rolls.

The exercise covers **36.73 crore voters** and aims to ensure **accurate, transparent, and updated electoral data** before upcoming elections.

The **Special Intensive Revision** is a detailed process conducted to:

Update electoral rolls

Add new eligible voters

Remove duplicate or ineligible entries

Correct voter details

The revision process helps strengthen the **credibility and transparency of the electoral system**.

Phase III involves:

36.73 crore electors

Around **3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers**

Support from **3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents**

The exercise will cover almost the entire country except:

Himachal Pradesh

Jammu and Kashmir

Ladakh

280. In 2026, India assumed the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board for which period?

A.2024–2026

B.2025–2027

C.2026–2028

D.2027–2029

E.2026–2030

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028**, marking a major achievement in the country's global cybersecurity leadership.

The decision was confirmed during the meeting of the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement** held in **Tokyo, Japan**, in April 2026.

Detailed Explanation:

India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028**, marking a major achievement in the country's global cybersecurity leadership.

The decision was confirmed during the meeting of the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement** held in **Tokyo, Japan**, in April 2026.

The **Common Criteria Development Board** is a major technical body responsible for developing and maintaining international cybersecurity evaluation standards.
It functions under the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement**, a global framework that enables countries to mutually recognise Information Technology security certifications.

281. In 2026, which irrigation canal was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena in the Changthang region?
A.Zanskar Canal
B.Nubra Irrigation Canal
C.Shyok Water Canal
D.Indus Valley Canal
E.Mahey Tokpo–Raldho Irrigation Canal
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the **Mahey Tokpo–Raldho irrigation canal** in the remote **Changthang region of Ladakh**.
The canal has been constructed at an elevation of **more than 14,000 feet**, making it a significant engineering achievement in the Himalayan region.
The newly completed canal is **2.10 kilometres long** and has been designed to bring water from **Yaya Lake** to agricultural fields in the Mahey area.
Detailed Explanation:
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the **Mahey Tokpo–Raldho irrigation canal** in the remote **Changthang region of Ladakh**.
The canal has been constructed at an elevation of **more than 14,000 feet**, making it a significant engineering achievement in the Himalayan region.
The newly completed canal is **2.10 kilometres long** and has been designed to bring water from **Yaya Lake** to agricultural fields in the Mahey area.
The canal has been built:
Around **200 feet above the road level**
With a **width and depth of 2 feet each**
Using **Plain Cement Concrete lining and breast wall protection**
These features improve durability, slope stability, and resistance to harsh weather conditions.
Along with the inauguration, the Lieutenant Governor also launched a **plantation drive of 15,000 trees** with participation from local villagers.
The plantation initiative focuses on:
Soil conservation
Prevention of land erosion
Slope stabilisation
Ecological restoration
Long-term environmental sustainability

282. In 2026, who was appointed as the first Managing Director (MD) of Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) for a five-year term?

A.Mukesh Ambani
B.Anant Ambani
C.Isha Ambani
D.Akash Ambani
E.Nita Ambani
Answer: D
Jio Platforms Limited (JPL), the digital services arm of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, has appointed **Akash Ambani** as its first **Managing Director (MD)** for a **five-year term** effective from **9 April 2026**.
Akash Ambani is the eldest son of **Mukesh Ambani**, **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of Reliance Industries Limited.
He joined the **Board of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL)** in **October 2014** and has served as its **Chairman** since **June 2022**.

283. In 2026, who was sworn in as President of Uganda for a seventh term after winning the presidential election?
A.Yoweri Museveni
B.Uhuru Kenyatta
C.Paul Kagame
D.William Ruto
E.Joseph Kabila
Answer: A
Yoweri Museveni, leader of the **National Resistance Movement (NRM)**, was sworn in as the **President of Uganda** for a **seventh term** after winning the **January 2026 presidential election**.
He took the **oath of office** at the **Kololo Independence Grounds** in **Kampala, Uganda**, in a ceremony featuring fly-pasts of **Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets**.
Museveni first came to power in **1986** as a **rebel leader** and has since won **seven presidential elections**, making him one of **Africa's longest-serving leaders**.

284. In 2026, N. Rangasamy became the first leader in Puducherry's history to serve as Chief Minister for how many terms?
A.Third
B.Fourth
C.Seventh
D.Sixth
E.Fifth
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
N. Rangasamy, leader of the **All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)** from **Thattanchavady** and **Mangalam** constituencies, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM) of Puducherry** for a **fifth term** following the **2026 Assembly elections**.
With this achievement, **N. Rangasamy** became the **first leader** in the history of Puducherry to serve as **Chief Minister for five terms**.
Detailed Explanation:
N. Rangasamy, leader of the **All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)** from **Thattanchavady** and **Mangalam** constituencies, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM) of Puducherry** for a **fifth term** following the **2026 Assembly elections**.

With this achievement, **N. Rangasamy** became the **first leader** in the history of Puducherry to serve as **Chief Minister for five terms**.

The **oath of office and secrecy** was administered by the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) Kuniyil Kailashnathan** at **Lok Nivas, Puducherry**.

Along with the **Chief Minister**, two ministers—**Malladi Krishna Rao (AINRC)** and **A. Namassivayam (BJP)**—also took oath in the **AINRC-led NDA government**.

In the **33-member Puducherry Legislative Assembly**, the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** secured **18 seats**, crossing the **majority mark of 17 seats**.

285. In 2026, Afghanistan signed a $46 million agreement with which Indian company to develop customs laboratory infrastructure across the country?

A.Tata Projects

B.Larsen & Toubro

C.TCRC

D.Engineers India Limited

E.Reliance Infrastructure

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Taliban administration in Afghanistan** has signed a **46 million United States dollar agreement** with Indian company TCRC to develop **customs laboratory infrastructure across Afghanistan**.

The project aims to improve **trade quality checks, customs inspection systems, and technical capacity** in the country.

The agreement was signed between the Taliban's economic office and TCRC.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Taliban administration in Afghanistan** has signed a **46 million United States dollar agreement** with Indian company TCRC to develop **customs laboratory infrastructure across Afghanistan**.

The project aims to improve **trade quality checks, customs inspection systems, and technical capacity** in the country.

The agreement was signed between the Taliban's economic office and TCRC.

Major features of the project include:

Establishment of laboratory centres in **Kabul** and **nine customs facilities**

Project duration of **five years**

Installation of advanced laboratory equipment

Repair and upgrading of existing systems

Deployment of foreign technical experts

The initiative is intended to strengthen Afghanistan's **customs inspection and trade regulation framework**.

286. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Henley Passport Index:

1. **India's passport was ranked 78th in the Henley Passport Index 2026.**

2. **Japan ranked 1st with access to 192 destinations.**
3. **India's passport ranking improved compared to its 2025 position of 85th.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.1 and 3 only

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India's passport has been ranked 78th in the **Henley Passport Index 2026**, slipping from its earlier **75th position**.

According to the latest ranking, Indian passport holders have access to **56 destinations** through visa-free entry, visa-on-arrival, or simplified visa procedures.

Despite the recent decline, India's passport ranking has improved over the long term:

85th rank in 2025

90th rank in 2021, which was its lowest position

The strongest passports in the 2026 rankings are:

Singapore – Rank 1 with access to 192 destinations

Japan – Rank 2

South Korea – Rank 3

Detailed Explanation:

India's passport has been ranked 78th in the **Henley Passport Index 2026**, slipping from its earlier **75th position**.

According to the latest ranking, Indian passport holders have access to **56 destinations** through visa-free entry, visa-on-arrival, or simplified visa procedures.

The **Henley Passport Index** is one of the world's most recognised passport rankings.

It ranks **199 passports globally** using data from the International Air Transport Association.

The ranking is based on the number of destinations a passport holder can access without requiring a prior visa.

A higher ranking indicates greater travel freedom, while a lower ranking reflects stricter visa restrictions.

India's current passport status includes:

Rank in 2026: 78

Previous rank: 75

Access to 56 destinations

Despite the recent decline, India's passport ranking has improved over the long term:

85th rank in 2025

90th rank in 2021, which was its lowest position

The strongest passports in the 2026 rankings are:

Singapore – Rank 1 with access to 192 destinations

Japan – Rank 2

South Korea – Rank 3

287. In 2026, the Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme was laid at which location?

A.Bengaluru, Karnataka

B.Hyderabad, Telangana

C.Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

D.Pune, Maharashtra

E.Kochi, Kerala

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stones** and presided over **grounding ceremonies** of **strategic aerospace and defence projects** at **Puttaparthi, Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh**.

The **foundation stone** was laid for the **Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** at **Puttaparthi**, aimed at accelerating the development of the **Fifth-Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** and other **indigenous aircraft platforms**.

Detailed Explanation:

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stones** and presided over **grounding ceremonies** of **strategic aerospace and defence projects** at **Puttaparthi, Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh**.

The **foundation stone** was laid for the **Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** at **Puttaparthi**, aimed at accelerating the development of the **Fifth-Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** and other **indigenous aircraft platforms**.

The **AMCA programme** has a total outlay of around **₹15,000 crore**, while the **Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** of the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under **DRDO** is being established at a cost of approximately **₹2,000 crore**.

The facility will enable **India** to join the select group of nations capable of **developing and testing fifth-generation fighter aircraft** domestically, strengthening **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in **defence aviation**.

The **Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility** at **T. Sirasapalli village, Anakapalli district**, is a **₹480 crore project** of **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** focused on **autonomous underwater vehicles**, **underwater counter-measure systems**, and **next-generation torpedoes**.

288. In 2026, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new spider species named Psechrus ntu and Psechrus phenshunyu in which state?

A.Assam

B.Nagaland

C.Meghalaya

D.Manipur

E.Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has discovered two new **spider species** named **Psechrus ntu** and **Psechrus phenshunyu** in **Nagaland**.

The findings were published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa**.

The newly identified spider species were named after **Ntu village** and **Phenshunyu village** in Nagaland, highlighting **Northeast India** as an important **biodiversity hotspot**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has discovered two new **spider species** named **Psechrus ntu** and **Psechrus phenshunyu** in **Nagaland**.

The findings were published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa**.

The newly identified spider species were named after **Ntu village** and **Phenshunyu village** in Nagaland, highlighting **Northeast India** as an important **biodiversity hotspot**.

Both newly discovered species belong to the **genus Psechrus** under the **family Psechridae**.

The species **Psechrus himalayanus** was also recorded in the region for the **first time**.

The **ZSI** also completed the first **comprehensive taxonomic revision** of **Indian whip scorpions (Thelyphonids)** in more than **100 years**.

Whip Scorpions, also known as **Vinegaroons**, are **non-venomous arachnids** that are different from true scorpions.

289. In 2026, which institute presented the SVAMITVA(Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme as a successful rural property mapping model to the World Bank?

A.IIM Ahmedabad

B.IIM Calcutta

C.IIM Bangalore

D.IIT Delhi

E.NITI Aayog

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)** presented the **SVAMITVA scheme** as a successful **governance and rural property mapping model** to the **World Bank**.

The presentation highlighted how the **SVAMITVA scheme** has strengthened **rural property ownership documentation** and significantly reduced **land-related disputes** across villages in India.

Under the scheme, **drone-based surveys** have been conducted in approximately **3.3 lakh villages**, out of a target of **3.44 lakh villages** across the country.

Launched in **April 2020**, **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** provides **legal ownership rights** of rural residential land using **drone-based mapping technology**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)** presented the **SVAMITVA**

scheme as a successful **governance and rural property mapping model** to the **World Bank**.

The presentation highlighted how the **SVAMITVA scheme** has strengthened **rural property ownership documentation** and significantly reduced **land-related disputes** across villages in India.

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Launched in **April 2020**, **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** provides **legal ownership rights** of rural residential land using **drone-based mapping technology**.

The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, with support from the **Survey of India** and **NICSI (National Informatics Centre Services Inc.)**.

The objective of the **SVAMITVA scheme** is to **empower rural citizens** through **property cards**, enabling access to **credit facilities**, **dispute resolution**, and improved **village-level planning**.

According to the study presented by **IIM Ahmedabad**, the scheme is a **landmark reform** in rural land governance in India and has the potential to become a **global model** for replication

290. In 2026, who was elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation?

A.Narinder Batra

B.Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

C.Gyan Singh

D.Sahdev Yadav

E.Rajeev Mehta

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Sahdev Yadav has been elected as the **President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation**.

His election is seen as a significant step in strengthening **India's leadership in South Asian sports governance** and promoting regional cooperation in weightlifting.

Sahdev Yadav, who currently heads the **Indian Weightlifting Federation**, was elected **unopposed** during the federation elections.

He was elected **unanimously** as President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation.

Detailed Explanation:

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Sahdev Yadav, who currently heads the **Indian Weightlifting Federation**, was elected **unopposed** during the federation elections.

He was elected **unanimously** as President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation.

His appointment reflects India's growing influence in regional sports organisations and is expected to enhance collaboration among South Asian countries.

Sahdev Yadav already holds several important positions in international sports administration, including:

Treasurer of the Indian Olympic Association

Vice President of the **Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation**

Assistant to the President of the **Asian Weightlifting Federation**

These roles highlight his extensive administrative experience and international exposure in sports governance.

Sabina Yadav has also been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation**.

291. In 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) widened the permissible use of fresh borrowings by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) with net debt exceeding 49% of asset value for which of the following purposes?

A.Foreign currency trading and equity investments

B.Capital expenditure, capacity expansion, and major maintenance

C.Dividend distribution to unit holders

D.Acquisition of non-infrastructure startups

E.Political contributions and sponsorships

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has widened the permissible use of **fresh borrowings** by **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** where **net debt exceeds 49% of asset value**, aiming to improve **operational efficiency** and **asset performance**.

SEBI has allowed **InvITs** to use **additional borrowings** for **capital expenditure**, **capacity expansion**, **major maintenance**, and **asset performance improvement**, particularly in **road infrastructure projects**.

The regulator permitted **refinancing of existing debt**, but only for the **principal amount** of the original borrowing used for approved purposes.

SEBI clarified that **interest, penalties, and other charges cannot be refinanced**, ensuring **borrowing discipline** and **financial prudence**.

SEBI has also relaxed norms for **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** linked to infrastructure projects whose **concession agreements** have expired or been terminated.

Detailed Explanation:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has widened the permissible use of **fresh borrowings** by **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** where **net debt exceeds 49% of asset value**, aiming to improve **operational efficiency** and **asset performance**.

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SEBI clarified that **interest, penalties, and other charges cannot be refinanced**, ensuring **borrowing discipline** and **financial prudence**.

SEBI has also relaxed norms for **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** linked to infrastructure projects whose **concession agreements** have expired or been terminated.

Under the **revised framework**, such **SPVs** can **retain their status** if the **InvIT exits the investment** or **acquires a new infrastructure project** within **one year**.

The **one-year timeline** will begin after completion of **litigation, tax assessments, defect liability period, or termination of concession agreements** (whichever is later).

SEBI mandated **additional disclosures** by **InvITs**, including details of **liabilities**, **pending claims**, **debt repayment schedules**, and **exit strategies** for SPVs.

InvITs must clearly disclose a **plan of action** for **exiting SPV investments** or **acquiring new infrastructure assets**, ensuring **greater transparency**.

292. In 2026, India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation reached a 42-month high of 8.3% in April. Which category has the highest weight in the WPI basket?

A.Fuel & Power

B.Primary Articles

C.Manufactured Products

D.Food Articles

E.Services

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** surged to **8.3% in April 2026**, marking a **42-month high**, compared to 3.88% in March.

On a **month-on-month basis**, **WPI inflation** rose to **3.86% in April** from 1.52% in March, indicating a rise in **input cost pressures** in the economy.

The **WPI** measures price changes at the **wholesale market level** and is compiled by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

The **base year of WPI is 2011–12**, and it includes a total of **697 items** classified into three major categories.

The **WPI basket** is dominated by **Manufactured Products (64.23%)**, followed by **Primary Articles (22.62%)** and **Fuel & Power (13.15%)**, reflecting trends in industrial, agricultural, and energy prices.

Detailed Explanation:

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The **WPI basket** is dominated by **Manufactured Products (64.23%)**, followed by **Primary Articles (22.62%)** and **Fuel & Power (13.15%)**, reflecting trends in industrial, agricultural, and energy prices.

The **sharp rise in inflation** was driven mainly by higher prices of **mineral oils, crude petroleum, natural gas, basic metals, manufactured products, and non-food articles**.

Inflation in the **Fuel & Power segment** rose sharply to **24.71% in April**, compared to 1.05% in March.

The **Primary Articles segment** recorded inflation of **9.17%**, up from 6.36% in March.

293. In 2026, how many State Benches of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) were operationalised across India under the new GST dispute resolution framework?

A.21

B.25

C.29

D.31

E.45

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) formally operationalised benches across India and introduced a structured framework for **categorisation, scrutiny, and listing of GST appeals**.

The move aims to strengthen India's **GST dispute resolution mechanism** and reduce the burden on **High Courts** through a dedicated appellate system for GST cases.

Division Bench scrutiny has been made **mandatory** before assigning any matter to a **Single Bench** to ensure consistency in handling significant legal issues.

Cases involving **tax liability below ₹50 lakh** and not involving **substantial questions of law** may be heard by a **Single Bench** after approval from the **President or Vice-President of GSTAT**.

GSTAT is a **statutory appellate body** established under the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act)**.

The tribunal consists of **31 State Benches** along with a **Principal Bench in New Delhi**, spread across **45 locations** to provide nationwide access for GST dispute resolution.

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The tribunal consists of **31 State Benches** along with a **Principal Bench in New Delhi**, spread across **45 locations** to provide nationwide access for GST dispute resolution.

Each **State Bench** comprises **two Judicial Members**, **one Technical Member (Centre)**, and **one Technical Member (State)**.

The **President, Judicial Members, and Technical Members** of GSTAT will hold office for **four years** or until attaining the age of **70 years for the President** and **67 years for members**.

GSTAT classified disputes into **three categories** for hearing purposes under the new framework.

Category I includes matters related to **classification, valuation, notifications, Input Tax Credit (ITC), taxability**, and proceedings under **Sections 73 and 74 of the CGST Act**.

Category II covers disputes relating to **registration, cancellation, assessment, recovery, refund, and provisional assessment**.

Category III includes matters related to **seizure, confiscation, rectification, provisional attachment, penalty, compounding, and residual issues**.

The order clarified that **Category III disputes** will ordinarily be heard by the **Bench handling the principal dispute**.

294. In 2026, which bank launched a USD-denominated debit card in partnership with Visa for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)?

A.HDFC Bank

B.State Bank of India

C.Axis Bank

D.ICICI Bank

E.Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

ICICI Bank has launched a **USD-denominated debit card** in partnership with **Visa**, aimed at helping **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** manage **offshore wealth** more efficiently.

The card enables users to **spend directly in US dollars**, eliminating the need for **currency**

conversion layers and avoiding **forex markup charges (2–3.5%)** and **GST** on international transactions.

The **debit card** is linked to a **USD Global Savings Account** maintained at the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City**, rather than a domestic INR-based account.

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The card enables users to **spend directly in US dollars**, eliminating the need for **currency conversion layers** and avoiding **forex markup charges (2–3.5%)** and **GST** on international transactions.

The **debit card** is linked to a **USD Global Savings Account** maintained at the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City**, rather than a domestic INR-based account.

The card offers **zero markup on USD transactions** at **Point of Sale (PoS)** and **e-commerce platforms** worldwide, ensuring **cost-efficient global usage**.

It is accepted across **domestic and international ATMs**, **PoS terminals**, and **e-commerce platforms**, enabling **multi-currency usability** for seamless global transactions.

The card is equipped with **EMV chip-enabled security technology**, ensuring compliance with **regulatory standards** and enhanced **transaction safety**.

Users can **enable or disable** ATM, PoS, e-commerce, and **contactless payments** via **GIFT City NetBanking**, along with setting **daily transaction limits** for better control.

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295. In Mar'26, which country emerged as the largest gold buyer among central banks, according to the World Gold Council (WGC)?

A.China

B.Kazakhstan

C.Türkiye

D.Uzbekistan

E.Poland

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **central banks** became **net sellers of gold** in **March 2026** for the first time in 10 months.

Central banks sold a **net 30 tonnes** of gold during **March 2026**, mainly led by **Türkiye and Russia**.

Türkiye sold **60 tonnes** of gold for **foreign exchange reserve management** and **liquidity purposes**.

The **Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye** additionally **swapped 80 tonnes** of gold to manage liquidity conditions.

Russia sold **6 tonnes** of gold, mainly to support **budget deficit financing** and inject **liquidity** into the economy.

Data from the **State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan** showed **net sales of 22 tonnes** during the first quarter of 2026.

The **National Bank of Poland** emerged as the **largest gold buyer** in **March 2026**, purchasing **11 tonnes**.

Detailed Explanation:

According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **central banks** became **net sellers of gold** in **March 2026** for the first time in 10 months.

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Russia sold **6 tonnes** of gold, mainly to support **budget deficit financing** and inject **liquidity** into the economy.

Data from the **State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan** showed **net sales of 22 tonnes** during the first quarter of 2026.

The **National Bank of Poland** emerged as the **largest gold buyer** in **March 2026**, purchasing **11 tonnes**.

Poland has remained a **consistent net purchaser** of gold for more than **three years** and significantly **accelerated purchases** during the last **12–18 months**.

The **National Bank of Poland** is currently regarded as the **world's leading central bank gold buyer**.

The **People's Bank of China** continued its gold buying streak for the **17th consecutive month**, adding **5 tonnes** in **March 2026**.

The **Central Bank of Uzbekistan** purchased **9 tonnes**, while the **National Bank of Kazakhstan** bought **6 tonnes** of gold during March.

Guatemala and the Czech Republic each purchased **2 tonnes** of gold in **March 2026**.

296. In 2026, what is the total outlay of the Mizoram Ginger Mission launched to promote Mizo ginger as a global agricultural brand?

A.₹189.79 crore

B.₹150.25 crore

C.₹175.00 crore

D.₹120.50 crore

E.₹210.40 crore

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** has launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform **Mizo ginger into a globally recognised agricultural brand**.

The initiative aims to improve **processing, branding, exports, farmer incomes, and international market access** for ginger farmers in Mizoram.

The mission is supported by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**.

It was launched virtually **by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** and **Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** has launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform **Mizo ginger into a globally recognised agricultural brand**.

The initiative aims to improve **processing, branding, exports, farmer incomes, and international market access** for ginger farmers in Mizoram.

The mission is supported by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**.

It was launched virtually **by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** and **Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma**.

The Mizoram Ginger Mission is a value-chain development initiative designed to strengthen every stage of ginger production, from cultivation to international exports.

The programme aims to address the issue of farmers producing high-value crops but receiving low market returns.

Mizo ginger is receiving global attention because of its **high oleoresin content of 6–8 percent**, compared to the global average of around 3 percent.

297. In 2026, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune launched a climate-tech startup incubation centre under which programme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences?

A.Mission Shakti

B.Mission Mausam

C.Mission Jalvardhan

D.Mission Vayu

E.Mission Green India

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**, has launched a dedicated **climate-tech startup incubation centre** focused on weather and climate innovation.

The launch took place alongside the **Weather and Climate Innovation Meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs 2026**.

The incubation centre will support startups working in:

Weather technology

Climate analytics

Forecasting applications

Artificial Intelligence-driven climate solutions

Disaster management tools

Climate resilience technologies

The centre is being developed under the **National Enterprise for Atmospheric Technology** initiative of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences Mission Mausam programme**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**, has launched a dedicated **climate-tech startup incubation centre** focused on weather and climate innovation.

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The incubation centre will support startups working in:

Weather technology

Climate analytics

Forecasting applications

Artificial Intelligence-driven climate solutions

Disaster management tools

Climate resilience technologies

The centre is being developed under the **National Enterprise for Atmospheric Technology** initiative of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences Mission Mausam programme**.

The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration among scientists, startups, entrepreneurs, public institutions, technology innovators, and sectoral users.

The **Weather and Climate Innovation Meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs 2026** acted as a national platform connecting climate science with commercial innovation.

The main theme of the event was converting **climate intelligence into actionable business intelligence**, enabling industries and communities to use weather and climate data effectively.

Mission Mausam is a **five-year programme** aimed at making India a **weather-ready and climate-smart nation**.

298. In 2026, Rajasthan launched its first Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in which city?

A.Jaipur

B.Kota

C.Bhiwadi

D.Udaipur

E.Jodhpur

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Rajasthan launched its first **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster** in **Bhiwadi**, marking a major industrial milestone for the state.

The cluster was inaugurated by **Bhajan Lal Sharma**.

The project marks Rajasthan's entry into India's rapidly growing **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Sector**.

According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Bhiwadi cluster has attracted investments worth around **₹1,200 Crore**.

Detailed Explanation:

Rajasthan launched its first **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster** in **Bhiwadi**, marking a major industrial milestone for the state.

The cluster was inaugurated by **Bhajan Lal Sharma**.

The project marks Rajasthan's entry into India's rapidly growing **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Sector**.

According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Bhiwadi cluster has attracted investments worth around **₹1,200 Crore**.

The project is expected to generate nearly **2,500 Jobs**.

Semiconductors are essential components used in:

Smartphones
Computers
Electric Vehicles
Defence Systems
Medical Equipment
Telecom Networks
Artificial Intelligence Hardware
Industrial Electronics
Bhiwadi was selected because of its strong industrial infrastructure and proximity to the **National Capital Region**.
The cluster is expected to strengthen Rajasthan's position in **Advanced Manufacturing** and **Technology-Driven Industries**.

299. In 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched Project Saksham in collaboration with which organisation?
A.NASSCOM Foundation
B.Pratham Foundation
C.Vertis Foundation
D.Tata Trusts
E.SEWA Foundation
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
National Highways Authority of India launched **Project Saksham** to promote **Inclusive Development** through skill development and employment opportunities.
The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with Vertis Foundation.
Project Saksham aims to empower **Rural Women** by providing industry-relevant skills and improving access to formal employment opportunities.
Detailed Explanation:
National Highways Authority of India launched **Project Saksham** to promote **Inclusive Development** through skill development and employment opportunities.
The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with Vertis Foundation.
Project Saksham aims to empower **Rural Women** by providing industry-relevant skills and improving access to formal employment opportunities.
Main objectives of the initiative:
Industry-Relevant Skill Development
Promotion of Financial Independence
Access to Formal Employment Opportunities
Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
The initiative operates through a structured skill development programme focused on underserved rural communities.
Key features of Project Saksham:
Skill Training Aligned with Industry Requirements
Career Guidance Support
Job Placement Assistance
Focus on **Practical Employability Skills**
The initiative connects infrastructure development with livelihood generation by supporting communities living near **National Highways**.

300. In news, India concluded the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in

Mumbai under its chairship. In 2026, India's chairship theme for the Kimberley Process was based on which three Cs?

A.Cooperation, Commitment, Certification

B.Credibility, Compliance, Consumer Confidence

C.Commerce, Connectivity, Competitiveness

D.Certification, Coordination, Consumer Care

E.Credibility, Coordination, Control

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India concluded the **Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026** in **Mumbai** under its chairship.

The meeting was led by Piyush Goyal.

The event focused on:

Transparency in Diamond Trade

Governance Reforms

Responsible Sourcing

Consumer Trust in Natural Diamonds

Kimberley Process (KP) is an international initiative launched in **2000**.

KP operates through the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**.

India's chairship theme was based on the **3Cs**:

Credibility

Compliance

Consumer Confidence

Detailed Explanation:

India concluded the **Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026** in **Mumbai** under its chairship.

The meeting was led by Piyush Goyal.

The event focused on:

Transparency in Diamond Trade

Governance Reforms

Responsible Sourcing

Consumer Trust in Natural Diamonds

Kimberley Process (KP) is an international initiative launched in **2000**.

Objective of KP:

Prevent **Conflict Diamonds** from entering global markets

Promote **Ethical Diamond Trade**

Ensure **Transparency in Diamond Supply Chain**

KP operates through the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**.

Participants in the Mumbai meeting included:

KP Member Countries

World Diamond Council

Civil Society Organisations

Industry Representatives

India's chairship theme was based on the **3Cs**:

Credibility

Compliance

Consumer Confidence

India is the world's largest **Diamond Cutting and Polishing Hub**.

301. As of 2026, who received a one-year extension as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

A.Tapan Kumar Deka

B.Ajay Kumar Mishra

C.Praveen Sood

D.Sanjay Arora

E.Vivek Srivastava

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** has extended the tenure of **Praveen Sood** as **Director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** by **one more year**.

The extension was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on **24 May 2026**, based on the recommendation of the **selection committee**.

Praveen Sood originally assumed charge as **CBI Director** on **25 May 2023** for a **two-year term** and has now received his **second tenure extension**.

This marks his **second extension** in office since becoming the head of India's **premier investigative agency**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** has extended the tenure of **Praveen Sood** as **Director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** by **one more year**.

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Praveen Sood originally assumed charge as **CBI Director** on **25 May 2023** for a **two-year term** and has now received his **second tenure extension**.

This marks his **second extension** in office since becoming the head of India's **premier investigative agency**.

The **CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation)** is India's **apex investigative agency** responsible for handling **corruption cases**, **economic offences**, and **major criminal investigations**.

The extension has been granted under provisions of the **2021 amended law** relating to the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**, which governs the functioning of the **CBI**.

The decision was taken after a meeting of the **selection committee** headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, along with the **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** and **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi**.

302. In 2026, Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani completed a successful engagement with the Royal Malaysian Navy at which port?

A.Singapore Port

B.Port Klang

C.Colombo Port

D.Chittagong Port

E.Jakarta Port

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel **INS Sagardhwani** departed **Port Klang, Malaysia** after completing a successful engagement with the **Royal Malaysian Navy**.

The **port call** strengthened **India–Malaysia maritime relations** through a series of **professional and scientific interactions** between the two navies.

Personnel from both sides exchanged knowledge on **modern hydrographic practices**, **marine environmental research**, and **advanced oceanographic technologies**.

A delegation from the **Hydrographic Department of the Royal Malaysian Navy** visited **INS Sagardhwani** and was briefed on the ship's **onboard oceanographic systems**.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel **INS Sagardhwani** departed **Port Klang, Malaysia** after completing a successful engagement with the **Royal Malaysian Navy**.

The **port call** strengthened **India–Malaysia maritime relations** through a series of **professional and scientific interactions** between the two navies.

Personnel from both sides exchanged knowledge on **modern hydrographic practices**, **marine environmental research**, and **advanced oceanographic technologies**.

A delegation from the **Hydrographic Department of the Royal Malaysian Navy** visited **INS Sagardhwani** and was briefed on the ship's **onboard oceanographic systems**.

A **Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)** was conducted between specialist officers focusing on **data-centric maintenance approaches**, **trend assessment methods**, **navigation safety tools**, and **technology-enabled decision-support systems**.

During the visit, the **Commanding Officer of INS Sagardhwani** met the **High Commissioner of India to Malaysia** in **Kuala Lumpur**.

Discussions during the meeting focused on the ship's **ongoing oceanographic mission** and enhancing **scientific cooperation** between India and Malaysia.

The deployment reaffirmed the **shared commitment** of the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Malaysian Navy** towards **regional engagement**, **knowledge sharing**, and **stronger professional ties**.

303. In 2026, what is the name of the first Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine commissioned by the Pakistani Navy?

A.PNS Khalid

B.PNS Hamza

C.PNS Saad

D.PNS Hangor

E.PNS Ghazi

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Pakistani Navy** has commissioned its first **Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine** at **Sanya** on China's **Hainan Island**, a major naval facility.

The submarine, named **PNS Hangor**, is the first of **eight submarines** that **China** is scheduled to deliver to **Pakistan by 2028**.

The **Hangor-class submarine** is based on the **Chinese Type-039A** design and is equipped with an **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)**

system, enabling it to remain **submerged for 2–3 weeks** without surfacing.

Pakistan's fleet of **AIP-equipped submarines** has increased to **four** and is expected to expand to **eleven submarines by 2028**, including upgraded **Agosta-90B submarines**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Pakistani Navy** has commissioned its first **Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine** at **Sanya** on China's **Hainan Island**, a major naval facility.

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Pakistan's fleet of **AIP-equipped submarines** has increased to **four** and is expected to expand to **eleven submarines by 2028**, including upgraded **Agosta-90B submarines**.

In comparison, the **Indian Navy** currently operates around **18–19 submarines**, including **Kalvari-class, Sindhughosh-class, Shishumar-class**, and **nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)**.

The **Indian submarine fleet** includes approximately **16 conventional diesel-electric (SSK) submarines** and **2–3 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)**.

China maintains the world's **largest and fastest-expanding navy**, with its **submarine fleet** projected to reach **65 units in 2026** and further increase to around **80 submarines by 2035**.

304. In 2026, which scheme was launched by the Government of India to accelerate private sector participation in research and development (R&D) and strengthen the deep-tech ecosystem?

A.Startup India Innovation Scheme

B.National Deep Tech Mission

C.Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund Scheme

D.Digital India Research Programme

E.Technology Advancement Initiative

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, stated that **Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sovereignty** along with **indigenous ecosystems** will define India's next-generation growth.

The Government launched the **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund Scheme** to accelerate **private sector participation** in **research and development (R&D)** and strengthen India's **deep-tech ecosystem**.

The programme was organised by the **Technology Development Board**

(TDB) under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**.

Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, stated that **Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sovereignty** along with **indigenous ecosystems** will define India's next-generation growth.

The Government launched the **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund Scheme** to accelerate **private sector participation** in **research and development (R&D)** and strengthen India's **deep-tech ecosystem**.

The programme was organised by the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**.

During the event, agreements for **five projects** under the RDI Fund Scheme were signed, the **first electronic fund disbursement** was released, and the report titled **"Quantum-Safe Ecosystem in India"** was launched.

M/s e-TRNL Energy Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra signed an agreement for manufacturing advanced **Lithium-ion battery cells** using patented **3-Dimensional Electrode Architecture (3DEA) technology** to strengthen India's battery manufacturing ecosystem.

M/s Dhruva Space Private Limited, Hyderabad signed an agreement for **Project Garud**, an indigenous **500 kg-class modular satellite platform** designed for mass production and constellation-scale deployment.

M/s Eyestem Research Private Limited, Bengaluru signed an agreement for developing **cell therapies** targeting **Geographic Atrophy** linked to Age-related Macular Degeneration and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, both globally incurable diseases.

305. In 2026, which team won the category "Clinical Document Classification and Compliance with Standard Treatment Guidelines" at the AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase?

A.Team BiltIQ AI

B.Team Sopa Claims

C.Team MedVision

D.Team HealthSync

E.Team Nirnaya

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

National Health Authority (NHA) under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in collaboration with the **IndiaAI Mission** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, concluded the **AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026**.

The hackathon focused on improving **health claims adjudication** under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-**

JAY) using **AI-driven solutions** for greater **speed, transparency, and accuracy**.
In the category **"Clinical Document Classification and Compliance with Standard Treatment Guidelines"**, **Team Nirnaya** led by **Vinay Babu Ulli** won for its **AI-based healthcare claims interpretation** and **compliance assessment solution**.
Detailed Explanation:
National Health Authority (NHA) under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in collaboration with the **IndiaAI Mission** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, concluded the **AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026**.
The hackathon focused on improving **health claims adjudication** under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** using **AI-driven solutions** for greater **speed, transparency, and accuracy**.
In the category **"Clinical Document Classification and Compliance with Standard Treatment Guidelines"**, **Team Nirnaya** led by **Vinay Babu Ulli** won for its **AI-based healthcare claims interpretation** and **compliance assessment solution**.
In the category **"Radiological Image-Based Condition Detection and Report Correlation"**, **Team BiltIQ AI** led by **Harish Kumar** secured first place for its **AI-powered radiology interpretation** and **report correlation system**.
Under **"Document Forgery / Deepfake Detection"**, **Team Sopa Claims** led by **Praveen Sridhar and Snehal Joshi** won for its **AI-enabled fraud detection solution** targeting **forged documents and fake insurance claims**.
Winning teams received **cash prizes** of:
₹5 lakh for **Winner**
₹3 lakh for **Runner-up**
₹2 lakh for **Second Runner-up**

306. In 2026, India's first Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility was inaugurated at which institution?
A.IIT Bombay
B.IIT Madras
C.IIT Delhi
D.IISc Bengaluru
E.IIT Kanpur
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE), inaugurated India's first **Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** field laboratory facility under **"Bharat Innovates 2026"** at **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
The facility is India's first **end-to-end pilot-scale platform** integrating **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)** with **Geological Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Sequestration (GCS)** in **basalt formations**.

It also includes the country's first **pilot-scale scientific drilling** initiative to evaluate **CO_2 storage potential** in the **Deccan Traps**.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE), inaugurated India's first **Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** field laboratory facility under **"Bharat Innovates 2026"** at **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The facility is India's first **end-to-end pilot-scale platform** integrating **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)** with **Geological Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Sequestration (GCS)** in **basalt formations**.

It also includes the country's first **pilot-scale scientific drilling** initiative to evaluate **CO_2 storage potential** in the **Deccan Traps**.

The project is being scaled up by **UrjanovaC**, a **deep-tech venture** incubated at the **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)**, IIT Bombay, and is featured under **Bharat Innovates 2026**.

The facility uses **advanced aqueous-based CO_2 capture technology** capable of capturing carbon dioxide from **ambient air** and **industrial emissions**.

It utilises **non-potable water sources** such as **industrial effluents** and **seawater** for the carbon capture process, making it **more sustainable**.

307. In 2026, under the Strategic Petroleum Reserve cooperation agreement, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company may store up to how many barrels of crude oil in India?

A.10 million barrels

B.15 million barrels

C.20 million barrels

D.25 million barrels

E.30 million barrels

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the **United Arab Emirates**.

During the visit, India and the United Arab Emirates signed major agreements related to:

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Cooperation

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Supply

Long-Term Energy Security

The agreements are considered an important step towards strengthening India's **Energy Security** amid rising global geopolitical uncertainties.

One of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the agreement under India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Framework**.

Under the proposed arrangement, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company may store up to **30 Million Barrels of Crude Oil** in India.

Detailed Explanation:

Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the **United Arab Emirates**.

During the visit, India and the United Arab Emirates signed major agreements related to:

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Cooperation

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Supply

Long-Term Energy Security

The agreements are considered an important step towards strengthening India's **Energy Security** amid rising global geopolitical uncertainties.

One of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the agreement under India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Framework**.

Under the proposed arrangement, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company may store up to **30 Million Barrels of Crude Oil** in India.

A **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** is a stockpile of crude oil maintained by governments for emergency situations.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves help countries protect themselves from:

War-Related Supply Disruptions

Geopolitical Crises

Crude Oil Price Shocks

Shipping Bottlenecks

Global Energy Market Volatility

308. In 2026, how many total medals did India win at the Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships?

A.21

B.24

C.27

D.30

E.33

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India delivered an impressive performance at the **Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026**, winning a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**.

The achievement highlights the emergence of strong young boxing talent at the international level.

The **Under-15 girls team** emerged as the best-performing category for India.

Detailed Explanation:

India delivered an impressive performance at the **Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026**, winning a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**.

The achievement highlights the emergence of strong young boxing talent at the international level.

The **Under-15 girls team** emerged as the best-performing category for India.

Medal tally of the Under-15 girls team:

7 Gold Medals

2 Silver Medals

5 Bronze Medals

Gold medal winners in the girls category were:

Anzee – 37 kilogram category

Soniya – 40 kilogram category

Tanvi – 43 kilogram category

Hanshika Attri – 46 kilogram category

Sunaina – 58 kilogram category

Bhumika – 61 kilogram category

Angel – 70 kilogram category

The **Under-15 boys team** also contributed significantly to India's success.

Medal tally of the Under-15 boys team:

2 Gold Medals
4 Silver Medals
7 Bronze Medals
Gold medal winners in the boys category were:
Yash Kumar – 33 kilogram category
Mohd Yasser – 58 kilogram category
India finished the championship with the following overall medal tally:
9 Gold Medals
6 Silver Medals
12 Bronze Medals
Total: 27 Medals

309. As of 2026, World Hypertension Day is observed annually on which date?
A.7 April
B.12 May
C.1 December
D.21 June
E.17 May
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
World Hypertension Day 2026 is observed annually on **17 May** to create awareness about **Hypertension**, high blood pressure, and related health complications.
The observance is promoted by the World Hypertension League, which is an umbrella organisation representing **85 National Hypertension Societies and Leagues** across the world.
Detailed Explanation:
World Hypertension Day 2026 is observed annually on **17 May** to create awareness about **Hypertension**, high blood pressure, and related health complications.
The observance is promoted by the World Hypertension League, which is an umbrella organisation representing **85 National Hypertension Societies and Leagues** across the world.
The World Hypertension League was launched on **14 May 2005**, and World Hypertension Day has been officially observed every year since **2006**.
High Blood Pressure is considered the primary risk factor for **Hypertension**, which is one of the leading causes of **Cardiovascular Diseases**, **Heart Disease**, **Chronic Kidney Disease**, and **Premature Death**.

310. As of 2025, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed annually on which date to commemorate the foundation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?
A.1 May
B.8 May
C.10 May
D.17 May
E.31 May
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 is observed annually on **17 May** to highlight the importance of **Telecommunication**, **Information**

Technology, and **Digital Connectivity** in global development.

The United Nations General Assembly declared **17 May** as **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**.

Detailed Explanation:

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 is observed annually on **17 May** to highlight the importance of **Telecommunication**, **Information Technology**, and **Digital Connectivity** in global development.

The United Nations General Assembly declared **17 May** as **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**.

The observance has been celebrated annually since **1969** to commemorate the foundation of the International Telecommunication Union.

The International Telecommunication Union was established on **17 May 1865** and is a specialised agency responsible for global telecommunication and information communication technologies.

311. In 2026, International Museum Day is observed annually on which date?

A.15 May

B.18 May

C.17 May

D.19 May

E.20 May

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

International Museum Day 2026 is observed annually on **18 May** to raise awareness about the importance of museums in society and their role in preserving cultural heritage.

The first official **International Museum Day** was celebrated in **1977**.

Detailed Explanation:

International Museum Day 2026 is observed annually on **18 May** to raise awareness about the importance of museums in society and their role in preserving cultural heritage.

The observance is promoted by the International Council of Museums, which has organised the day every year since **1977**.

The decision to **establish International Museum Day** was adopted during a general meeting of the **International Council of Museums** held in **Moscow, Russia**.

The first official **International Museum Day** was celebrated in **1977**.

The concept of an annual theme for International Museum Day was introduced in **1992**.

312. In 2026, World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on which date?

A.1 December

B.7 April

C.15 May

D.18 May

E.21 June

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026 is observed annually on **18 May** and is also known as **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine Awareness Day**.

Detailed Explanation:

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026 is observed annually on **18 May** and is also known as **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine Awareness Day**.

The day is observed to create awareness about the need for an effective **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine** and to highlight the importance of research in preventing **acquired immunodeficiency syndrome**.

World AIDS Vaccine Day was first observed in **1998**.

The concept of the observance was first introduced in **1997** by Bill Clinton at Morgan State University.

313. In 2021, which two ginger varieties from Mizoram received Geographical Indication (GI) tags?

A.Sikkim Ginger and Khasi Ginger

B.Thingpui Ginger and Thinglaidum Ginger

C.Naga Ginger and Mizo Gold Ginger

D.Lakadong Ginger and Thingpui Ginger

E.Thinglaidum Ginger and Coorg Ginger

Answer: B

Mizoram already possesses a strong branding advantage through **Geographical Indication status**.

Two ginger varieties from the state received Geographical Indication tags in 2021:

Thingpui Ginger

Thinglaidum Ginger

314. In 2026, which state launched the Industrial Park Promotion Policy to attract investment and develop world-class industrial parks?

A.Gujarat

B.Maharashtra

C.Rajasthan

D.Tamil Nadu

E.Karnataka

Answer: C

Rajasthan state government has launched the Industrial Park Promotion Policy for the year 2026 to attract investment and create jobs. It will be led Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and the policy aims to develop the world-class industrial parks.

315. As of 2026, China's submarine fleet is projected to reach how many units, making it the world's largest and fastest-expanding navy?

A.45

B.65

C.55

D.75

E.80

Answer: B

In comparison, the **Indian Navy** currently operates around **18–19 submarines**,

including **Kalvari-class, Sindhughosh-class, Shishumar-class**, and **nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)**.
The **Indian submarine fleet** includes approximately **16 conventional diesel-electric (SSK) submarines** and **2–3 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)**.
China maintains the world's **largest and fastest-expanding navy**, with its **submarine fleet** projected to reach **65 units in 2026** and further increase to around **80 submarines by 2035**.

316. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹3.10 lakh on which NBFC for failing to return surplus amount after auction of pledged gold articles to borrowers, under the NBFC Scale Based Regulation Directions, 2023?
A.Bajaj Finance Limited
B.IIFL Finance Limited
C.Muthoot Finance Limited
D.Manappuram Finance Limited
E.L&T Finance Limited
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **IIFL Finance Limited** for violating the **NBFC Scale Based Regulation Directions, 2023**.
RBI found that IIFL Finance **failed to return the surplus amount** received from auction of pledged gold articles to certain borrowers after recovery of loan dues.
The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** following RBI's statutory inspection of the company's financial position as on **31 March 2025**.
Detailed Explanation:
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **IIFL Finance Limited** for violating the **NBFC Scale Based Regulation Directions, 2023**.
RBI found that IIFL Finance **failed to return the surplus amount** received from auction of pledged gold articles to certain borrowers after recovery of loan dues.
The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** following RBI's statutory inspection of the company's financial position as on **31 March 2025**.
RBI also imposed a penalty of **₹5.80 lakh** on **Appnit Technologies Private Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC)** and **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** guidelines.
The company allowed **Aadhaar OTP-based e-KYC PPI accounts** to continue beyond one year without completing the mandatory **full KYC verification**.
Appnit Technologies Private Limited also failed to establish a proper system for **periodic review of customer risk categorisation**, as required under RBI regulations.

317. In 2026, the 33rd meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC) was held at RBI, Mumbai. Who chaired this meeting?

A.Finance Minister of India

B.Governor of Reserve Bank of India

C.Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

D.Chairman, SEBI

E.Deputy Governor, RBI

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **33rd meeting** of the **Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)** was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

The committee reviewed key **global and domestic macroeconomic and financial sector developments** and assessed their implications for **financial stability and systemic risk management**.

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted by **Government of India notification dated 30 December 2010**, following the recommendations of the **Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008)** on financial sector reforms.

Detailed Explanation:

The **33rd meeting** of the **Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)** was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

The committee reviewed key **global and domestic macroeconomic and financial sector developments** and assessed their implications for **financial stability and systemic risk management**.

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted by **Government of India notification dated 30 December 2010**, following the recommendations of the **Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008)** on financial sector reforms.

The **FSDC-SC (Sub-Committee)** operates under the **chairmanship of the RBI Governor** and meets more frequently than the full council to ensure continuous monitoring of financial stability.

The Sub-Committee discussed key **inter-regulatory issues**, including **simplification of KYC processes** and **regulatory impact assessment** to enhance transparency, accountability, and regulatory quality.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening **financial sector resilience** through **enhanced inter-regulatory coordination** among financial regulators.

It emphasized **monitoring of emerging risks**, particularly those arising from **global uncertainties and heightened geopolitical tensions**.

318. In 2026, Emirates NBD received approvals for a strategic investment in RBL

Bank. After completion of the deal, Emirates NBD is expected to hold what approximate stake in RBL Bank, subject to RBI regulations?

A.10%–25%

B.25%–40%

C.41%–50%

D.51%–74%

E.75%–90%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

RBL Bank has received all required regulatory and government approvals for the proposed strategic investment of around **USD 3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** by Dubai-based **Emirates NBD**. The investment was first announced in **October 2025** and is regarded as **one of the largest foreign investments** in India's banking sector.

After completion of the transaction, Emirates NBD's shareholding in RBL Bank is expected to range between **51% and 74%**, subject to RBI regulations and completion of the mandatory open offer process.

Following the transaction, **Emirates NBD will become the promoter** of RBL Bank.

Detailed Explanation:

RBL Bank has received all required regulatory and government approvals for the proposed strategic investment of around **USD 3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** by Dubai-based **Emirates NBD**. The investment was first announced in **October 2025** and is regarded as **one of the largest foreign investments** in India's banking sector.

After completion of the transaction, Emirates NBD's shareholding in RBL Bank is expected to range between **51% and 74%**, subject to RBI regulations and completion of the mandatory open offer process.

Following the transaction, **Emirates NBD will become the promoter** of RBL Bank.

RBL Bank will operate as a **foreign bank subsidiary** under the framework prescribed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

The deal may also lead to the **merger of Emirates NBD's India branch operations** located in Mumbai, Chennai, and Gurugram with RBL Bank, subject to additional approvals.

319. In 2026, Xflow launched a pilot programme to enable Indian businesses to receive international payments in stablecoins (USDC and USDT). Under this framework, how are funds ultimately remitted into India?

A.Direct transfer of USDC/USDT into Indian bank accounts

B.Conversion of stablecoins into INR within India by crypto exchanges

C.Only fiat currency is routed into India through an Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I bank

D.Payments are settled entirely outside India without INR conversion

E.RBI directly settles stablecoin transactions in INR

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Xflow has launched a pilot programme enabling Indian businesses to **accept international payments in stablecoins (USDC and USDT)** and convert them compliantly into **Indian Rupees (INR)**.

Under the framework, the **stablecoin transaction is processed outside India**, while only **fiat currency is routed into India** through an **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I bank** in full compliance with regulations.

Detailed Explanation:

Xflow has launched a pilot programme enabling Indian businesses to **accept international payments in stablecoins (USDC and USDT)** and convert them compliantly into **Indian Rupees (INR)**.

Under the framework, the **stablecoin transaction is processed outside India**, while only **fiat currency is routed into India** through an **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I bank** in full compliance with regulations.

The solution allows **stablecoin-native platforms** and cross-border payment providers to facilitate payments **without requiring businesses to directly hold or manage cryptocurrencies**.

The initiative aims to support **Indian MSMEs, SaaS companies, and service exporters** who were losing global clients due to the lack of a regulated stablecoin payment infrastructure.

320. In 2026, SEBI introduced a framework for classification of "Significant Indices." As per the rules, an index will be classified as a Significant Index if its daily average cumulative AUM tracked by mutual fund schemes exceeds which threshold for each of the preceding six months?

A.₹10,000 crore

B.₹15,000 crore

C.₹20,000 crore

D.₹25,000 crore

E.₹50,000 crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a regulatory framework classifying certain market benchmarks as **"Significant Indices"** based on **Assets Under Management (AUM)** tracked by mutual fund schemes.

An index will be classified as a **Significant Index** if the daily average cumulative **AUM tracking or benchmarking exceeds ₹20,000 crore** for each of the preceding **six months**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a regulatory framework classifying certain market benchmarks as **"Significant Indices"** based on **Assets Under Management (AUM)** tracked by mutual fund schemes.

An index will be classified as a **Significant Index** if the daily average cumulative **AUM tracking or benchmarking exceeds ₹20,000 crore** for each of the preceding **six months**.

The **threshold assessment** will be conducted on a **half-yearly basis**, ending on **June 30 and December 31** every year.

Once classified as significant, an index will continue in the category unless its tracked AUM falls below the threshold for **three consecutive years**.

The framework operationalises the **SEBI (Index Providers) Regulations, 2024**, aimed at improving **transparency, governance, and oversight** in index administration.

The regulations apply only to providers administering **Significant Indices** comprising securities listed on **recognized stock exchanges** in India.

SEBI identified **48 Significant Indices** based on AUM data for **July–December 2025**.

321. In 2026, UPI completed 10 years and became the world's largest real-time payments platform. Which of the following correctly represents India's share in global real-time payment transactions?

A.25%

B.35%

C.42%

D.49%

E.60%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched on **11 April 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has completed **10 years** and emerged as the **world's largest real-time payments platform**, becoming a backbone of **India's digital economy**.

India now contributes nearly **49% of global real-time payment transactions**, with **UPI expanding internationally** to countries such as the **UAE, Singapore, France, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Qatar**, strengthening India's **global digital footprint**.

Detailed Explanation:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched on **11 April 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has completed **10 years** and emerged as the **world's largest real-time payments platform**, becoming a backbone of **India's digital economy**.

From just **373 transactions** in its first month, **UPI** has scaled to around **24,162 crore transactions** worth nearly **₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025–26**, reflecting an almost **12,000-fold increase in volume** and massive **nationwide adoption**.

UPI now processes about **66 crore transactions daily** with a **daily value** of around **₹0.86 lakh crore**, while **monthly transactions crossed 2,264 crore in March 2026**, showing its **high-frequency usage** in **retail payments**.

The platform accounts for nearly **85% of India's digital payment volume** and has onboarded **over 703 banks**, ensuring **seamless interoperability** across public, private, cooperative, and payment banks.

In **usage patterns**, **Person-to-Merchant (P2M)** transactions contribute **63% of volume**, while **Person-to-Person (P2P)** transfers account for **71% of value**, highlighting **strong adoption** in both **retail and high-value payments**.

India now contributes nearly **49% of global real-time payment transactions**, with **UPI expanding internationally** to countries such as the **UAE, Singapore, France, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Qatar**, strengthening India's **global digital footprint**.

322. In 2026, the Supreme Court of India's sanctioned judge strength was increased through an ordinance approved by the President of India. What is the revised judge strength of the Supreme Court?

A.34

B.36

C.37

D.35

E.38

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Honorable President Droupadi Murmu approved the **increase in the judge** strength of the **Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 Judges** through an ordinance.

The decision aims to improve judicial efficiency, strengthen the functioning of the Supreme Court, and reduce the growing backlog of pending cases.

After the amendment, the total strength of the Supreme Court will now be:

1 Chief Justice of India

37 Other Judges

Total: **38 Judges**

Detailed Explanation:

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The decision aims to improve judicial efficiency, strengthen the functioning of the Supreme Court, and reduce the growing backlog of pending cases.

After the amendment, the total strength of the Supreme Court will now be:

1 Chief Justice of India

37 Other Judges

Total: **38 Judges**

Respectable Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal confirmed the development.

The increase has been implemented through **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**.

The ordinance amends the existing **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.

Earlier, on **5 May 2026**, the Union Cabinet chaired by Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal to increase the judge strength.

The Cabinet had earlier cleared the introduction of **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026** in Parliament.

323. In 2026, Andhra Pradesh announced a new population policy to address declining fertility rates. Under this policy, what incentive is proposed for the birth of a third child?

A.₹20,000
B.₹25,000
C.₹30,000
D.₹35,000
E.₹40,000
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Respectable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a new population policy in **Andhra Pradesh to address declining population growth and falling fertility rates in the state**.
Under the proposed policy:
Families will receive **₹30,000** for the birth of a **Third Child**
Families will receive **₹40,000** for the birth of a **Fourth Child**
Detailed Explanation:
Respectable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a new population policy in **Andhra Pradesh to address declining population growth and falling fertility rates in the state**.
Under the proposed policy:
Families will receive **₹30,000** for the birth of a **Third Child**
Families will receive **₹40,000** for the birth of a **Fourth Child**
The Andhra Pradesh Government is expected to announce detailed implementation guidelines for the scheme within the next month.
Earlier, the state government had also proposed an incentive of around **₹25,000** for the birth of a **Second Child**.
The policy marks a major shift from earlier population control approaches followed by many Indian states for several decades.
According to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a gradual decline in fertility rates due to:
Rising Income Levels
Changing Family Preferences
Increasing preference for **Smaller Families**

324. In 2026, which event was inaugurated in Puri under the Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 Initiative to promote Odia culture, youth participation, and public awareness activities?

A.Konark Dance Festival
B.Rath Yatra Mahotsav
C.Puri Cultural Conclave
D.Odisha Heritage Festival
E.Nimapara Patha Utsav
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Respectable Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated **Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026** in Puri under the **Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 Initiative**.
The festival was organised to combine **Traditional Odia Culture**, **Youth**

Participation, **Public Awareness Campaigns**, **Sports Activities**, and **Regional Development** into a community-focused programme.

Detailed Explanation:

R**espectable Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida** inaugurated **Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026** in Puri under the **Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 Initiative**.

The festival was organised to combine **Traditional Odia Culture**, **Youth Participation**, **Public Awareness Campaigns**, **Sports Activities**, and **Regional Development** into a community-focused programme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, students, artists, youth groups, and community organisations.

One of the major attractions of the festival was the promotion of Odisha's rich cultural heritage through traditional folk performances.

Cultural programmes organised during the event included **Tribal Dances**, **Horse Dances**, **Sankirtan**, **Pala**, **Dasakathia**, **Street Theatre**, and **Solo Acting Performances**.

These performances were not organised only for entertainment purposes but were also used to spread awareness regarding social issues, development programmes, and community participation.

Students and local artists delivered awareness messages through **Street Plays**, **Folk Storytelling**, **Dramatic Performances**, and cultural narratives to connect public campaigns directly with local communities.

325. In 2026, which Indian state will implement the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from 1 June 2026, allowing Sikh couples to directly register marriages conducted through the Anand Karaj ceremony?

A.Punjab

B.Haryana

C.Himachal Pradesh

D.Sikkim

E.Uttarakhand

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Sikkim will implement the **Anand Marriage Act, 1909** from **1 June 2026**, allowing Sikh couples to directly register marriages conducted through the traditional **Anand Karaj Ceremony**.

The implementation provides separate legal recognition to Sikh marriages under their own legal framework within the state.

Earlier, due to the absence of state-level registration rules, many Sikh couples in Sikkim had to register marriages under the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955** despite following Sikh religious customs.

Detailed Explanation:

Sikkim will implement the **Anand Marriage Act, 1909** from **1 June 2026**, allowing Sikh couples to directly register marriages conducted through the traditional **Anand Karaj Ceremony**.

The implementation provides separate legal recognition to Sikh marriages under their own legal framework within the state.

Earlier, due to the absence of state-level registration rules, many Sikh couples in Sikkim had to register marriages under the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955** despite following Sikh religious customs.

The **Union Law Ministry** officially notified that the Anand Marriage Act will become operational in Sikkim from June 2026.

The implementation became possible after the framing of the **Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026**, which establish the legal registration mechanism for Sikh marriages in the state.

The **Anand Marriage Act, 1909** is a law that legally recognises Sikh marriages performed through the **Anand Karaj Ceremony**.

Anand Karaj is the traditional Sikh marriage ceremony conducted according to Sikh religious customs in the presence of the **Guru Granth Sahib**.

326. In 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross. What is the Latin motto associated with this honour?

A.Veni Vidi Vici

B.Satyameva Jayate

C.Nescit Occasum

D.Ad Astra Per Aspera

E.Lux in Tenebris

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Sweden's prestigious Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross, one of the country's highest honours awarded to foreign Heads of Government.

The award carries the Latin motto **"Nescit Occasum"**, meaning **"It Knows No Decline,"** symbolising enduring excellence and dedicated service.

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Sweden's prestigious Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross, one of the country's highest honours awarded to foreign Heads of Government.

The award was presented during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Sweden, where he held bilateral talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson to strengthen India–Sweden relations.

The honour recognises Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution towards **International Diplomacy, Bilateral Cooperation, Public Leadership, and Global Partnerships**.

The **Royal Order of the Polar Star** was established in **1748** by Frederick I of Sweden to recognise exceptional achievements in **Civil Service, Scientific Contributions, Public Welfare, and Cultural Development**.

The award carries the Latin motto **"Nescit Occasum"**, meaning **"It Knows No Decline,"** symbolising enduring excellence and dedicated service.

327. In 2026, who became the first Indian woman to be elected as a Fellow of The Meteoritical Society?

A.Dr. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas

B.Tessy Thomas

C.Ritu Karidhal

D.Muthayya Vanitha

E.Nandini Harinath

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Dr. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas has become the **first Indian woman** to be elected as a **Fellow of The Meteoritical Society**, a prestigious global organisation in planetary science and meteoritics.

Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas has become the **first Indian woman** to be elected as a **Fellow of The Meteoritical Society**, a prestigious global organisation in planetary science and meteoritics.

She is only the **third Indian scientist** to receive this honour after **Devendra Lal and J.N. Goswami**, marking a significant milestone for India's space and planetary research community.

Dr. Marhas is a professor at the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad**, which is associated with **ISRO**, strengthening India's link with advanced space science research.

328. In 2026, the Indian Navy inaugurated its premier Naval Sailing Node at Upper Lake (Bhojtal), Bhopal. Who presided over the inauguration ceremony?

A.General Anil Chauhan

B.Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

C.Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

D.Rajnath Singh

E.Ajit Doval

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The Indian Navy inaugurated its premier **Naval Sailing Node** at **Upper Lake (Bhojtal), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**, in the presence of senior defence officials, civil administration representatives, NCC cadets, and students.

More than **30 naval personnel** from the **Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Visakhapatnam**, along with Navy Rowing, Kayaking, and Canoeing teams, showcased a **Sail Parade** and water sports demonstrations during the event.

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Navy inaugurated its premier **Naval Sailing Node** at **Upper Lake (Bhojtal), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**, in the presence of senior defence officials, civil administration representatives, NCC cadets, and students.

More than **30 naval personnel** from the **Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Visakhapatnam**, along with Navy Rowing, Kayaking, and Canoeing teams, showcased a **Sail Parade** and water sports demonstrations during the event.

Watermanship training is an integral part of the Indian Navy's training and development process, promoting **camaraderie, teamwork, and competitive spirit** among naval personnel.

The Naval Sailing Node has been developed as a **state-of-the-art facility** for training in **sailing, rowing, canoeing, and kayaking**.

329. In 2026, the Ministry of Defence issued revised debarment guidelines for defence suppliers. Under the new framework, what is the maximum period of debarment for suppliers involved in corruption, bribery, or Integrity Pact violations?

A.3 years

B.5 years

C.7 years

D.10 years

E.12 years

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Defence** issued revised guidelines imposing **stricter penalties** on **defence suppliers** for **non-performance** and **ethical misconduct**.

The new policy replaces the **2016 debarment framework** and adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** toward **corruption** and **unethical practices** in **defence procurement**.

Defence vendors failing to meet **contractual obligations** or supplying **substandard/underperforming equipment** can face **debarment** from government contracts for up to **5 years**.

Suppliers involved in **corruption, bribery, illegal commissions, fraudulent activities**, or **Integrity Pact (IP) violations** may face **bans** of up to **10 years**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Defence** issued revised guidelines imposing **stricter penalties** on **defence suppliers** for **non-performance** and **ethical misconduct**.

The new policy replaces the **2016 debarment framework** and adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** toward **corruption** and **unethical practices** in **defence procurement**.

Defence vendors failing to meet **contractual obligations** or supplying **substandard/underperforming equipment** can face **debarment** from government contracts for up to **5 years**.

Suppliers involved in **corruption, bribery, illegal commissions, fraudulent activities**, or **Integrity Pact (IP) violations** may face **bans** of up to **10 years**.

Serious ethical violations will initially attract a **1-year debarment**, which may later be extended by a **high-level review committee**, subject to a **maximum cap of 10 years**.

In cases of **non-performance**, vendors may initially face a **6-month ban**, extendable up to **5 years** depending on:**Delivery schedules, System reliability, Downtime, Failure rates**
The revised framework introduces clearer **blacklisting criteria** and a more structured **financial penalty mechanism**.

330. In 2026, MeitY organized a national conference titled "From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT" in New Delhi. Which initiative and digital platform were launched during the event?

A.Digital India Stack – india.gov.in
B.IP Catalyst initiative – cipie.in
C.Startup India Fund – startupindia.gov.in
D.Bharat Innovation Hub – techindia.in
E.National IP Mission – ipindia.gov.in

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** organized a one-day national conference titled **"From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT"** at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi** to strengthen India's innovation and intellectual property ecosystem.
During the inaugural session, the **IP Catalyst initiative** and its digital platform **cipie.in** were formally launched by **Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY**, along with senior officials and stakeholders.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** organized a one-day national conference titled **"From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT"** at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi** to strengthen India's innovation and intellectual property ecosystem.
The conference brought together **policymakers, industry leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, researchers, and R&D institutions** to discuss ways to accelerate **IP commercialization** in the Electronics and IT sector.
During the inaugural session, the **IP Catalyst initiative** and its digital platform **cipie.in** were formally launched by **Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY**, along with senior officials and stakeholders.
The initiative aims to strengthen the **end-to-end innovation lifecycle**, from research and development to product commercialization and market deployment.
The programme is implemented by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** with support from MeitY, focusing on improving **lab-to-market conversion** of technologies.

331. In 2026, India released its first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle into Kaziranga National Park. Which organization implemented this project?

A.Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
B.Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
C.National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

D.Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
E.Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
India released its first **satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle (Nilssonia gangetica)** into **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**, marking a major milestone in wildlife conservation on **Endangered Species Day (**May 15, 2026**)**.
This is the **first-ever satellite tagging** of a Ganges soft-shell turtle in India, aimed at tracking its **seasonal movement, home range, and breeding/nesting habitats** in the **Brahmaputra river basin**.
The project was implemented by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in collaboration with the **Assam Forest Department**, with funding support from the **National Geographic Society**.
Detailed Explanation:
India released its first **satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle (Nilssonia gangetica)** into **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**, marking a major milestone in wildlife conservation on **Endangered Species Day (**May 15, 2026**)**.
This is the **first-ever satellite tagging** of a Ganges soft-shell turtle in India, aimed at tracking its **seasonal movement, home range, and breeding/nesting habitats** in the **Brahmaputra river basin**.
The project was implemented by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in collaboration with the **Assam Forest Department**, with funding support from the **National Geographic Society**.
The Ganges soft-shell turtle is an **endangered freshwater reptile**, protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, listed as **Endangered in the IUCN Red List**, and included in **CITES Appendix I**.
It is identified by its distinctive **arrowhead-shaped markings** on the head and primarily inhabits large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
Assam is a key hub for freshwater turtle conservation in Asia, hosting **21 turtle species**, including five of India's eight soft-shell turtle species in the Kaziranga landscape.

332. In 2026, which organization commissioned the 200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line dedicated to the nation under India's clean energy initiative?
A.Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
B.Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
C.Central Electronics Limited (CEL)
D.NTPC Renewable Energy Limited
E.Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, dedicated the **200 MW Solar**

Module Manufacturing Line of **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** to the nation.
The initiative is aligned with India's **clean energy vision**, focusing on **renewable energy expansion** and **sustainable development**.
India has set a target of achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**, and is expanding capabilities in **solar, wind, nuclear, and ocean-based energy systems**.
Detailed Explanation:
Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, dedicated the **200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line** of **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** to the nation.
The initiative is aligned with India's **clean energy vision**, focusing on **renewable energy expansion** and **sustainable development**.
India has set a target of achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**, and is expanding capabilities in **solar, wind, nuclear, and ocean-based energy systems**.
The Minister highlighted that India is following an **integrated approach** towards clean energy development, where all renewable sources play a crucial role.
The commissioning of the **200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line** marks a major milestone in strengthening India's **indigenous clean energy manufacturing ecosystem**.
Central Electronics Limited (CEL) has a historic role, having manufactured the **first solar cell in 1977** and established the **first solar plant in 1979**.
CEL has transformed from a disinvestment-bound entity into a **profit-making Mini Ratna PSU**, reflecting a successful **institutional revival**.

333. In IPL 2026, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created a record for most sixes by an Indian batter in a single season. How many sixes did he hit in that season?
A.43
B.42
C.46
D.44
E.45
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created history in the **Indian Premier League 2026** by becoming the Indian batter with the **highest number of sixes in a single season.**
The milestone was achieved during **Rajasthan Royals match against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium.**
His tally reached **43 Sixes in 12 Matches**, making the achievement even more remarkable.
Detailed Explanation:
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created history in the **Indian Premier League 2026** by becoming the Indian batter with the **highest number of sixes in a single season.**
The milestone was achieved during **Rajasthan Royals match against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium.**

Before the match, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi required only three sixes to surpass Abhishek Sharma record of **42 Sixes** in a single Indian Premier League season.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi completed the feat by smashing his third six off Tripurana Vijay.

With this achievement, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the Indian player with the highest number of sixes in a single Indian Premier League season.

His tally reached **43 Sixes in 12 Matches**, making the achievement even more remarkable.

334. In 2026, which Indian company signed a strategic partnership with ASML to support India's first commercial 300 mm semiconductor fabrication facility in Dholera?

A.Infosys

B.Wipro

C.HCL Technologies

D.Tata Electronics

E.Larsen & Toubro

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

T**ata Electronics signed a strategic partnership agreement with ASML** (**Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography**) to support India's first commercial **300 Millimetre Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Dholera.**

The agreement was signed in the presence **of Shri Narendra Modi and representatives from the Netherlands government.**

The partnership is considered a major step towards strengthening India's **Semiconductor Manufacturing Ecosystem** and reducing dependence on imported semiconductor chips.

Detailed Explanation:

T**ata Electronics signed a strategic partnership agreement with ASML** (**Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography**) to support India's first commercial **300 Millimetre Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Dholera.**

The agreement was signed in the presence **of Shri Narendra Modi and representatives from the Netherlands government.**

The partnership is considered a major step towards strengthening India's **Semiconductor Manufacturing Ecosystem** and reducing dependence on imported semiconductor chips.

Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography is one of the world's leading semiconductor equipment manufacturers and is globally known for its advanced **Lithography Technology** used in semiconductor fabrication.

Under the agreement, Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography will provide:

Advanced Lithography Systems

Semiconductor Manufacturing Solutions

Technical Expertise for Fabrication Operations

Supply Chain Resilience Support

Skill Development Initiatives

Research and Development Infrastructure Support

335. In IPL 2026, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi required how many more sixes to surpass the record of which Indian batter's 42 sixes in a single IPL season?

A.Virat Kohli

B.Rohit Sharma

C.KL Rahul

D.Abhishek Sharma

E.Suryakumar Yadav

Answer: D

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created history in the **Indian Premier League 2026** by becoming the Indian batter with the **highest number of sixes in a single season.**

The milestone was achieved during **Rajasthan Royals match against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium.**

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Vaibhav Sooryavanshi completed the feat by smashing his third six off Tripurana Vijay.

336. In 2026, India's 1st AI-powered "phygital" banking branch was inaugurated in Guwahati by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. The branch belongs to which bank?

A.AU Small Finance Bank

B.Slice Small Finance Bank

C.Jana Small Finance Bank

D.Equitas Small Finance Bank

E.Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated India's **1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered "phygital" banking branch** of **Slice Small Finance Bank** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

The launch marks a major step towards **financial inclusion** by building a more inclusive financial ecosystem for both urban and underserved communities.

Detailed Explanation:

Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated India's **1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered "phygital" banking branch** of **Slice Small Finance Bank** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

The launch marks a major step towards **financial inclusion** by building a more inclusive financial ecosystem for both urban and underserved communities.

The banking model is a **"phygital" model**, which **combines physical banking infrastructure with advanced digital technologies** to deliver seamless, faster, and customer-friendly services.

The branch provides **AI-enabled services**, including **automated banking solutions, digital onboarding, AI-based customer support**, and **smart service systems** to improve efficiency and customer experience.

337. As of 2026, which bank launched the 'FD-backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit

Card' for founders, entrepreneurs, startups, and MSMEs?

A.HDFC Bank

B.ICICI Bank

C.IDFC FIRST Bank

D.Axis Bank

E.Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the **'FD-backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card'** for founders, entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, and business owners in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

The card offers a dedicated business credit solution with assured credit limits linked to **Fixed Deposits (FDs)**, starting from a minimum FD of **₹50,000**.

The premium **metal credit card** displays both the **business name and cardholder's name**, enabling a professional business identity.

Detailed Explanation:

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the **'FD-backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card'** for founders, entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, and business owners in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

The card offers a dedicated business credit solution with assured credit limits linked to **Fixed Deposits (FDs)**, starting from a minimum FD of **₹50,000**.

The premium **metal credit card** displays both the **business name and cardholder's name**, enabling a professional business identity.

The primary objective of the card is to support **business expense management, cash flow optimisation, credit profile building**, and **separation of personal and business spending** for startups,Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), entrepreneurs, and self-employed professionals.

It provides a dedicated credit limit for operational expenses, including **SaaS subscriptions, UPI payments, real-time spending visibility**, and **employee cards with spending controls**.

Key benefits include **FD-backed credit security**, up to **45 days interest-free credit period**, and **zero (0%) forex markup** on international transactions.

338. In 2026, Morgan Stanley revised India's real GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) upward to what percentage in its Mid-Year Outlook report?

A.6.2%

B.6.4%

C.6.5%

D.6.7%

E.7.0%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Morgan Stanley, the American brokerage firm, released its latest **Mid-Year Outlook for India**, revising India's real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) upward by 50 basis points (bps) to 6.7%**, compared to the earlier estimate of **6.2% (April 2026)**.

The report projects India's GDP growth for **FY28 at 7%**, indicating continued strong economic expansion.

Detailed Explanation:

Morgan Stanley, the American brokerage firm, released its latest **Mid-Year Outlook for India**, revising India's real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) upward by 50 basis points (bps) to 6.7%**, compared to the earlier estimate of **6.2% (April 2026)**.

The report projects India's GDP growth for **FY28 at 7%**, indicating continued strong economic expansion.

For the **first quarter (Q1: April–June) of FY27**, India's GDP growth is projected at **6.5% year-on-year (Y-o-Y)**.

The report estimates India's **average inflation for FY27 at 4.7%**, driven by **higher production costs, weaker rupee, and spillover effects on core inflation**.

On the global front, **global economic growth is expected to moderate to 3.2% in 2026**, down from **3.5% in 2025**, reflecting a slowdown in major global economies.

339. In 2026, the Union Ministry of Education launched a pilot programme to reintegrate out-of-school adolescents through which institution's flexible learning system?

A.National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

B.CBSE

C.NCERT

D.Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)

E.National Testing Agency (NTA)

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Union Ministry of Education** unveiled a new pilot programme as a targeted intervention to reintegrate over **2 crore out-of-school adolescents aged 14–18 years** back into the education system through flexible learning pathways.

The initiative was chaired by **Sanjay Kumar**, Secretary of the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**.

The programme shifts the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** from a passive voluntary framework to a proactive and state-supported outreach mechanism.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Union Ministry of Education** unveiled a new pilot programme as a targeted intervention to reintegrate over **2 crore out-of-school adolescents aged 14–18 years** back into the education system through flexible learning pathways.

The initiative was chaired by **Sanjay Kumar**, Secretary of the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**.

The programme shifts the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** from a passive voluntary framework to a proactive and state-supported outreach mechanism.

The pilot initiative will be implemented in **10 high-concentration districts across 9 States and Union Territories**:

Bihar

Chhattisgarh
Delhi
Gujarat
Karnataka
Madhya Pradesh
Maharashtra
Odisha

Ground teams will:
Map out-of-school children
Digitally track their learning progress
Dedicated **NIOS facilitators** will:
Conduct community mobilisation
Provide student counselling
Assist in enrolment support

The initiative aims to tackle the critical dropout trend in secondary education across India.

According to current Ministry data, only **62 out of every 100 students entering Class I manage to reach Class XII**.

340. In 2026, who unveiled "Abhay", the AI-based helpbot launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to verify the authenticity of CBI notices?

A.Justice B.R. Gavai
B.Justice Surya Kant
C.Justice Sanjiv Khanna
D.Amit Shah
E.Sanjay Kumar Mishra

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Central Bureau of Investigation** launched **"Abhay"**, an **Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot** developed to verify the authenticity of notices issued in the name of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The initiative was unveiled by **Justice Surya Kant** to help citizens protect themselves from the increasing cases of:

Cyber Fraud
Digital Arrest Scams
Fake Investigation Threats
Online Financial Extortion

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Bureau of Investigation** launched **"Abhay"**, an **Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot** developed to verify the authenticity of notices issued in the name of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The initiative was unveiled by **Justice Surya Kant** to help citizens protect themselves from the increasing cases of:

Cyber Fraud
Digital Arrest Scams
Fake Investigation Threats
Online Financial Extortion

"Abhay" has been developed internally by the Central Bureau of Investigation as part of efforts to strengthen cybercrime awareness and improve public safety.

The helpbot provides **Real-Time Verification** of notices claiming to be issued by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Through the platform, citizens can check whether a document or notice is:

Genuine
Officially Issued
Potentially Fraudulent

The system works by cross-checking notice details with the official database of the Central Bureau of Investigation and instantly informing users about the authenticity of the document.

341. As of 2026, which state introduced two new digital monitoring systems to strengthen drug safety, public health protection, and regulatory transparency in the pharmaceutical sector?

A.Tamil Nadu

B.Maharashtra

C.Gujarat

D.Karnataka

E.Telangana

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Karnataka introduced **Two New Digital Monitoring Systems** through the State Food Safety and Drug Administration to strengthen **Drug Safety, Public Health Protection, and Regulatory Transparency** in the pharmaceutical sector.

The first digital system has been developed to automatically block the sale of medicines identified as **Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)**.

Once a drug batch is declared substandard, its details will be uploaded into the portal and the batch will immediately be locked, preventing any further sale or distribution within the state.

Detailed Explanation:

Karnataka introduced **Two New Digital Monitoring Systems** through the State Food Safety and Drug Administration to strengthen **Drug Safety, Public Health Protection, and Regulatory Transparency** in the pharmaceutical sector.

The first digital system has been developed to automatically block the sale of medicines identified as **Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)**.

Once a drug batch is declared substandard, its details will be uploaded into the portal and the batch will immediately be locked, preventing any further sale or distribution within the state.

The system will instantly send alerts to **Wholesalers, Distributors, and Drug Suppliers**, helping authorities quickly remove unsafe medicines from the market and improve recall efficiency.

The portal will also provide **Real-Time Information** related to:

Stock Availability

Stock-in-Hand

Quantity Returned to Suppliers

Karnataka also launched a second digital portal to monitor medicines covered under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act**.

These medicines are highly sensitive because they are vulnerable to misuse, illegal diversion, and unauthorized consumption.

Under the new system, retailers selling medicines regulated under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act** must compulsorily upload and verify:

Patient Details

Doctor Details

Prescription Information

342. In 2026, which state became the first in India to complete all Priority Areas under Deregulation Phase-II of the national Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative?

A.Assam

B.Gujarat

C.Karnataka

D.Odisha

E.Tripura

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Tripura became the **First State in India** to complete all Priority Areas under **Deregulation Phase-II** of the national **Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative** led by the Cabinet Secretariat.

With this achievement, Tripura also became the **First State in India** to complete all **51 Priority Areas** under both Phase-I and Phase-II of the reform programme.

The state completed **23 Priority Areas under Phase-I** and **28 Priority Areas under Phase-II**.

Detailed Explanation:

Tripura became the **First State in India** to complete all Priority Areas under **Deregulation Phase-II** of the national **Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative** led by the Cabinet Secretariat.

With this achievement, Tripura also became the **First State in India** to complete all **51 Priority Areas** under both Phase-I and Phase-II of the reform programme.

The state completed **23 Priority Areas under Phase-I** and **28 Priority Areas under Phase-II**.

The reform programme was launched in **January 2026** with the objective of reducing compliance burdens, simplifying administrative procedures, improving ease of doing business, and creating a more transparent and investor-friendly governance system.

As part of its digital governance initiatives, Tripura launched a **Centralised e-Gazette System** to provide unified digital access to:

Acts

Rules

Regulations

Government Notifications

The state also introduced an **Auto-Appeal Mechanism** under the **Right to Services Framework**. This mechanism aims to improve accountability and ensure timely delivery of government services to citizens.

343. In 2026, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the "Coffees of Nagaland Mission" with a total outlay of how much?

A.₹100 crore

B.₹125 crore

C.₹150 crore

D.₹175 crore

E.₹200 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission** to develop **Nagaland** as a premium

specialty coffee destination in India and global markets.

The mission has been launched under the **Cluster-Based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission** and aims to create a complete coffee ecosystem instead of focusing only on coffee cultivation.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission** to develop **Nagaland** as a premium specialty coffee destination in India and global markets.

The mission has been launched under the **Cluster-Based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission** and aims to create a complete coffee ecosystem instead of focusing only on coffee cultivation.

The initiative will cover the entire coffee value chain including:

Plantation Development
Coffee Processing
Branding and Marketing
Exports
Traceability Systems
Tourism Promotion
Farmer Capacity Building

The main objective of the mission is to help coffee growers earn higher income by promoting value-added coffee products instead of selling only raw coffee beans.

The programme follows a **Cluster-Based Development Approach**, where selected regions will be developed as organised coffee production and processing hubs.

Two pilot coffee clusters have been identified under the mission:

Tuophema in Kohima district for **Arabica Coffee**
Ghotovi in Niuland district for **Robusta Coffee**

344. In 2026, India's first-ever satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle was released into the Brahmaputra River at which national park and tiger reserve?

A.Manas National Park
B.Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve
C.Jim Corbett National Park
D.Ranthambore National Park
E.Sundarbans National Park

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India achieved a major milestone in wildlife conservation by releasing the country's **first-ever satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle** into the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**.

The historic release coincided with **Endangered Species Day**, observed.

The development was announced by **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

The satellite telemetry exercise was conducted under a programme of the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

Detailed Explanation:

India achieved a major milestone in wildlife conservation by releasing the country's **first-ever satellite-tagged Ganges softshell**

turtle into the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**.

The historic release coincided with **Endangered Species Day**, observed.

The development was announced by **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

The satellite telemetry exercise was conducted under a programme of the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

The project involved:

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

Assam Forest Department

Kaziranga National Park Authorities

National Geographic Society

The **Ganges softshell turtle (Nilssonia gangetica)** is a large freshwater turtle native to the:

Indus River system

Ganga River system

Mahanadi River system

Brahmaputra River system

The species belongs to the **Trionychidae family**.

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has listed the **Ganges softshell turtle** as **Endangered** in the **IUCN Red List**.

Assam is globally recognised as a critical habitat for freshwater biodiversity.

The state is home to **21 turtle species found in India**.

345. As of 2026, how many international honours and awards from foreign nations has Prime Minister Narendra Modi received after being awarded Norway's highest civilian honour?

A.28

B.30

C.31

D.35

E.32

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Norway's **highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**, during his official visit to **Norway.**

With this recognition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now received **32 international honours and awards** from foreign nations, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.

The award ceremony took place during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Oslo and marked an important milestone in India–Norway bilateral relations.

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Norway's **highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**, during his official visit to **Norway.**

With this recognition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now received **32 international honours and awards** from foreign nations, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.

The award ceremony took place during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Oslo

and marked an important milestone in India–Norway bilateral relations.

The visit is historically significant because it is:

The **First Visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Norway**

The **First Visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 Years**

The visit highlighted expanding cooperation between India and Norway in areas such as:

Trade and Investment

Green Energy

Maritime Cooperation

Technology and Innovation

Climate Action

Arctic Research

Blue Economy

346. In 2026, the United Nations released the "Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026" during which session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)?

A.18th session

B.19th session

C.20th session

D.21st session

E.22nd session

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **United Nations (UN)** released its latest assessment on global forests titled the **"Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026"** during the **21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** at the **UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America**.

The report highlighted that the **rising demand for fuelwood (woodfuel and charcoal)** is the **key driver of global forest loss**, especially in **sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia**, despite ongoing afforestation and forest restoration programmes.

Detailed Explanation:

The **United Nations (UN)** released its latest assessment on global forests titled the **"Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026"** during the **21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** at the **UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America**.

The report highlighted that the **rising demand for fuelwood (woodfuel and charcoal)** is the **key driver of global forest loss**, especially in **sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia**, despite ongoing afforestation and forest restoration programmes.

Along with fuelwood demand, the report identified **agricultural expansion** as the **major cause of global deforestation**.

The report was jointly prepared by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** and the **UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat**.

It revealed that the global forest cover **declined from 4.18 billion hectares (2015) to 4.14 billion hectares (2025)**, indicating an **annual net loss of 4.12 million hectares**.

Regionally, **South America and Africa** recorded the **steepest forest decline**, losing about **4.1 million hectares and nearly 3 million hectares per year** respectively.

347. In 2026, who assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?

A.Amit Agrawal

B.Saurabh Garg

C.Shri Saurabh Vijay

D.Rajesh Kumar Singh

E.Sanjeev Chopra

Answer: C

Shri Saurabh Vijay, an **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **1998 Maharashtra cadre**, has assumed charge as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.

348. In 2026, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited Vietnam and the Republic of Korea primarily to strengthen cooperation in which sector?

A.Agriculture and Trade

B.Space Research

C.Education and Skill Development

D.Tourism and Culture

E.Defence and Strategic Partnerships

Answer: E

Short Explanation:'

Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** is undertaking an official visit to **Vietnam (May 18–19, 2026)** followed by the **Republic of Korea (May 19–21, 2026)** to strengthen India's defence and strategic partnerships in Asia.

The visit aims to expand bilateral engagement, with a focus on **strategic military cooperation, defence industrial partnerships**, and **maritime collaboration**, supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Detailed Explanation:

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The visit aims to expand bilateral engagement, with a focus on **strategic military cooperation, defence industrial partnerships**, and **maritime collaboration**, supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

India–Vietnam Relations

The visit marks 10 years of the **India–Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, which was further upgraded to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** during the Vietnam President's State Visit to India (**May 5–7, 2026**).

Rajnath Singh will hold bilateral talks with Vietnam's Minister of National Defence **General Phan Van Giang**.

A key milestone is the **Joint Vision Statement of India–Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030**, signed during the 2022 visit (June 8–10, 2022), which provides a roadmap for future defence cooperation.

The relationship reflects **shared democratic values** and mutual interest in regional peace and prosperity.

The visit coincides with the **136th birth anniversary of Ho Chi Minh (May 19, 2026)**,

where Raksha Mantri will lay a wreath at the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** as a mark of respect.

India–Republic of Korea Relations

In the Republic of Korea visit (May 19–21, 2026), Rajnath Singh will hold bilateral talks with Defence Minister **Ahn Gyu-back** to review and strengthen defence cooperation.

He will also meet Minister of Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) **Lee Yong-cheol** and chair the **India–Korea Business Roundtable**.

Both sides will discuss new defence initiatives, **regional security issues**, and **global strategic cooperation**.

A joint inauguration of the **Indian War Memorial** will take place on **May 21, 2026**, with Minister **Kwon Oh-eul**, honouring shared historical ties.

349. In 2026, Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) announced that its AI-powered UCAV "Kaal Bhairava" will be manufactured at its first international production facility in which country?

A.Portugal

B.Germany

C.France

D.Italy

E.Spain

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA), a deep tech defence company, announced that its flagship Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) **"Kaal Bhairava"** will be manufactured at its **first international production facility in Portugal**.

The initiative is part of **"Operation 777"**, which aims to establish **7 global headquarters across 77 countries** to expand international defence presence.

The project is being developed in collaboration with **SKETCHPIXEL**, a European company specializing in **advanced fighter jet simulation systems**, including those used for the **F-16 aircraft**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The initiative is part of **"Operation 777"**, which aims to establish **7 global headquarters across 77 countries** to expand international defence presence.

The project is being developed in collaboration with **SKETCHPIXEL**, a European company specializing in **advanced fighter jet simulation systems**, including those used for the **F-16 aircraft**.

Under the partnership, SKETCHPIXEL will provide **simulation, AI integration, communication, and interoperability**

technologies, strengthening the platform's advanced operational capabilities.

FWDA will retain **full intellectual property rights (IPR)** over the core autonomous systems and airframe design, ensuring **indigenous control of critical technologies**.

The "Kaal Bhairava" UCAV is an **indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured** platform, built as a **Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE)** autonomous combat aircraft.

350. In 2026, Prudential plc announced the acquisition of a 75% stake in which insurance company for an initial value of ₹3,500 crore?

A.SBI Life Insurance

B.HDFC Life Insurance

C.Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited

D.Max Life Insurance

E.ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Prudential plc has announced the acquisition of a **75% stake** in **Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited** for an initial value of **Rs 3,500 crore (around USD 389 million)**.

The acquisition deal is subject to **regulatory approvals** and other **customary conditions**.

Under the transaction arrangement, Prudential plc will acquire a **60% stake** from **Bharti Life Ventures Pvt. Ltd.** and a **15% stake** from funds managed by **360 ONE Asset Management**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The acquisition deal is subject to **regulatory approvals** and other **customary conditions**.

Under the transaction arrangement, Prudential plc will acquire a **60% stake** from **Bharti Life Ventures Pvt. Ltd.** and a **15% stake** from funds managed by **360 ONE Asset Management**.

After completion of the acquisition, Prudential's India operations will include majority-owned **Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited** and **Prudential HCL Health Insurance Limited**.

Prudential will continue to hold minority stakes in two listed entities: a **35% stake** in **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited** and a **22% stake** in **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited**.

351. In 2026, CSIR signed a 2026–2029 Collaboration Agreement with which Norwegian organization to promote circular economy and sustainability transition research?

A.Equinor

B.Nordic Energy Research

C.SINTEF

D.Innovation Norway

E.Norwegian Institute of Technology

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

During the visit of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to Norway, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, Government of India signed a series of key agreements with Norwegian institutions in **Oslo** to strengthen **science, technology, innovation and sustainable development** cooperation.

The collaboration targets global challenges and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially in **climate change, clean energy, oceans and health** sectors.

CSIR signed a **2026–2029 Collaboration Agreement** with **SINTEF** to promote **circular economy and sustainability transition** research in areas like bio-based materials, offshore wind energy, ocean energy, carbon capture, waste valorization and innovation hubs.

Detailed Explanation:

During the visit of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to Norway, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, Government of India signed a series of key agreements with Norwegian institutions in **Oslo** to strengthen **science, technology, innovation and sustainable development** cooperation.

A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between CSIR/DSIR and the **Research Council of Norway** focuses on **research cooperation, innovation, capacity building and technology development** through joint workshops, collaborative R&D projects, scientist exchange programmes and periodic reviews.

The collaboration targets global challenges and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially in **climate change, clean energy, oceans and health** sectors.

CSIR signed a **2026–2029 Collaboration Agreement** with **SINTEF** to promote **circular economy and sustainability transition** research in areas like bio-based materials, offshore wind energy, ocean energy, carbon capture, waste valorization and innovation hubs.

A **Project-Specific Agreement on Ocean Energy and Offshore Wind Energy** was signed between multiple CSIR institutes (**CSIR-SERC, CSIR-NAL, CSIR-NIO, CSIR-4PI**) and **SINTEF bodies** including SINTEF Ocean, SINTEF Digital, FME NorthWind and SINTEF Community to strengthen India's renewable energy capabilities.

The collaboration focuses on **floating offshore wind technology**, reduction of **Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE)**, sustainability, ESG standards, pilot demonstrations, skill development and industrial growth.

The CSIR funding support for this project is approximately **₹341 lakhs**, contributing to clean energy and carbon neutrality goals.

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352. In 2026, discussions on private investment and industry collaboration in

India's nuclear sector were held with a U.S. delegation led by representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and which organization?

A.USAID

B.U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

C.Brookings Institution

D.National Science Foundation

E.U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

A high-level **United States (U.S.) industry delegation**, comprising representatives from the **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)** and the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, held discussions with **Dr. Jitendra Singh** on **private investment and industry collaboration** in India's nuclear sector.

The visit, facilitated by **USISPF**, brought together **U.S. nuclear industry leaders**, business stakeholders, and Indian officials engaged in **civil nuclear energy and advanced technology cooperation**.

The discussions focused on **India's Nuclear Energy Mission**, recent **policy reforms enabling private sector participation**, and expanding **India–U.S. cooperation** in clean energy and critical technologies.

Detailed Explanation:

A high-level **United States (U.S.) industry delegation**, comprising representatives from the **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)** and the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, held discussions with **Dr. Jitendra Singh** on **private investment and industry collaboration** in India's nuclear sector.

The visit, facilitated by **USISPF**, brought together **U.S. nuclear industry leaders**, business stakeholders, and Indian officials engaged in **civil nuclear energy and advanced technology cooperation**.

The discussions focused on **India's Nuclear Energy Mission**, recent **policy reforms enabling private sector participation**, and expanding **India–U.S. cooperation** in clean energy and critical technologies.

Senior officials including Secretary, Department of Science & Technology **Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale**, along with representatives from the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and DST, participated in the meeting.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that India and the United States share a strong future-oriented partnership in science, technology, clean energy, and emerging sectors, with **civil nuclear cooperation** gaining strategic importance.

He noted that the **U.S.-India TRUST Initiative**, launched on **13 February 2025** during the meeting between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **U.S. President Donald Trump**, has opened new avenues for collaboration in critical and emerging technologies.

353. In 2026, scientists discovered the oldest directly dated ice and air sample on Earth from which region of Antarctica?

A.Allan Hills
B.McMurdo Dry Valleys
C.Ross Ice Shelf
D.Palmer Land
E.Queen Maud Land
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
Scientists working in **Antarctica** have discovered the **oldest directly dated ice and air sample on Earth** from the **Allan Hills region of East Antarctica**.
The sample contains tiny air bubbles trapped in **6-million-year-old ice**, making it the **oldest directly dated atmospheric sample** ever found.
The age of the ice was determined using **argon isotope analysis** of trapped air, providing accurate geological dating of ancient atmospheric composition.
Detailed Explanation:
Scientists working in **Antarctica** have discovered the **oldest directly dated ice and air sample on Earth** from the **Allan Hills region of East Antarctica**.
The sample contains tiny air bubbles trapped in **6-million-year-old ice**, making it the **oldest directly dated atmospheric sample** ever found.
The age of the ice was determined using **argon isotope analysis** of trapped air, providing accurate geological dating of ancient atmospheric composition.
The **Allan Hills site in East Antarctica** is known for **ancient blue ice exposures** that preserve long-term climate and atmospheric records.
The study revealed evidence of approximately **12°C long-term cooling in Antarctica** over the last 6 million years, highlighting major climate change over geological time.
The discovery was made by researchers associated with the **National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Center for Oldest Ice Exploration (COLDEX)**.
The study was led by **Sarah Shackleton (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)** and **John Higgins (Princeton University)**.
The findings were published in the **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in October 2025**.

354. In 2026, the Central Information Commission (CIC) ruled that which organization does not fall under the scope of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005?
A.Sports Authority of India
B.Indian Olympic Association
C.Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
D.National Cricket Academy
E.Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
The **Central Information Commission ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket** in India does not fall under the scope of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.

The decision reverses the Commission's earlier 2018 ruling, which had declared the Board of Control for Cricket in India as a **public authority under the Right to Information Act.**

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Information Commission ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket** in India does not fall under the scope of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.

The decision reverses the Commission's earlier 2018 ruling, which had declared the Board of Control for Cricket in India as a **public authority under the Right to Information Act.**

The ruling came while reconsidering an appeal filed in 2017 before the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeking information regarding:

Rules for Selection of Indian Cricket Players

Authority Granted to the Board of Control for Cricket in India by the Government

After fresh examination of the case, the Central Information Commission dismissed the appeal and stated that the Board of Control for Cricket in India cannot legally be classified as a public authority.

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355. In 2026, who won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the Italian Open?

A.Novak Djokovic and Iga Świątek

B.Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka

C.Casper Ruud and Coco Gauff

D.Jannik Sinner and Elina Svitolina

E.Daniil Medvedev and Elena Rybakina

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Elina Svitolina of Ukraine won the **women's singles title** at the **Italian Open 2026** by defeating **Coco Gauff of the United States**.

It was **Elina Svitolina's third Italian Open title**.

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the **men's singles title** after defeating **Casper Ruud of Norway**.

Detailed Explanation:

Elina Svitolina of Ukraine won the **women's singles title** at the **Italian Open 2026** by defeating **Coco Gauff of the United States**.

It was **Elina Svitolina's third Italian Open title**.

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the **men's singles title** after defeating **Casper Ruud of Norway**.

With this victory, **Jannik Sinner** became the **first Italian man in 50 years** to win the tournament.

Jannik Sinner also completed his **Career Golden Masters** achievement.

In the **men's doubles category**, **Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori** won the title.

They became the **first all-Italian duo in the Open Era** to win the men's doubles trophy at the Italian Open.

356. In 2026, veteran CPI(M) leader and former Member of Parliament Sudhanshu Sil (Seal), who passed away at the age of 81, represented which constituency in the 14th Lok Sabha?

A.Kolkata South

B.Dum Dum

C.Calcutta North West

D.Howrah

E.Barrackpore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Veteran **Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]** leader and former **Member of Parliament (MP) Sudhanshu Sil (Seal)** died at the age of 81 in **Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)**.

Sudhanshu Sil was born on **27 March 1945** in Calcutta, Bengal Province, British India (now Kolkata, West Bengal).

He later served as a **Member of Parliament (MP)** in the **14th Lok Sabha (2004–2009)** representing the **Calcutta North West constituency**, West Bengal.

Detailed Explanation:

Veteran **Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]** leader and former **Member of Parliament (MP) Sudhanshu Sil (Seal)** died at the age of 81 in **Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)**.

Sudhanshu Sil was born on **27 March 1945** in Calcutta, Bengal Province, British India (now Kolkata, West Bengal).

He had a long political career associated with the **CPI(M)** and played an important role in local governance, state politics, and parliamentary affairs.

He served as a **Councillor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** for five terms from **1990 to 2015**.

Sudhanshu Sil also served as a **Member of the Mayor-in-Council** in charge of the **Roads Department** from **1990 to 2005**.

He was elected as a **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)** from the **Jorabagan constituency**, West Bengal, serving from **2001 to 2004**.

He later served as a **Member of Parliament (MP)** in the **14th Lok Sabha (2004–2009)** representing the **Calcutta North West constituency**, West Bengal.

357. In 2026, World Metrology Day was observed on which date every year to highlight the importance of measurement science?

A.19 May

B.20 May

C.21 May

D.22 May

E.25 May

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

World Metrology Day is observed annually on **20 May** to raise awareness about the importance of metrology and measurement science.

The day commemorates the signing of the **Metre Convention** in **Paris, France, in 1875** by representatives of 17 nations.

Detailed Explanation:

World Metrology Day is observed annually on **20 May** to raise awareness about the importance of metrology and measurement science.

The day commemorates the signing of the **Metre Convention** in **Paris, France, in 1875** by representatives of 17 nations.

The observance highlights the importance of accurate measurements in science, industry, trade, health, and safety.

Metrology refers to the science of measurement.

The first **World Metrology Day** was celebrated in **1961**.

358. In 2026, which pair won the men's doubles title at the Italian Open, becoming the first all-Italian duo in the Open Era to achieve the feat?

A.Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos

B.Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden

C.Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury

D.Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić

E.Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

In the **men's doubles category**, **Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori** won the title.

They became the **first all-Italian duo in the Open Era** to win the men's doubles trophy at the Italian Open.

The Italian pair defeated:

Marcel Granollers of Spain

Horacio Zeballos of Argentina

Detailed Explanation:

In the **men's doubles category**, **Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori** won the title.

They became the **first all-Italian duo in the Open Era** to win the men's doubles trophy at the Italian Open.

The Italian pair defeated:

Marcel Granollers of Spain

Horacio Zeballos of Argentina

In the **women's doubles category**, the title was won by the Russian duo:

Mirra Andreeva

Diana Shnaider

They defeated:

Cristina Bucșa

Nicole Melichar-Martinez of the United States

359. As of 2026, the currency of Norway is_____

A.Euro

B.Dollar

C.Krone

D.Franc

E.Krona

Answer: C

About Norway :

Prime Minister : Jonas Gahr Støre

Capital : Oslo

Currency : Norwegian krone

360. In 2026, what is the name of the AI-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) developed by Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA)?

A.Garuda Astra

B.Vajra Hawk

C.Trinetra UAV

D.Agni Drone

E.Kaal Bhairava

Answer: E

The "Kaal Bhairava" UCAV is an **indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured** platform, built as a **Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE)** autonomous combat aircraft.

The UCAV features a **range of 3,000 km** and an **endurance capability of over 30 hours**, making it suitable for long-duration combat and surveillance missions.

361. Which macro-prudential regulatory tool requires banks to build additional capital buffers during periods of strong credit growth and favourable economic conditions?

A.Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)

B.Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

C.Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)

D.Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)

E.Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided **not to activate** the **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** at present, stating that current economic and banking conditions do not require its implementation.

The decision was taken after **RBI** reviewed key **CCyB indicators**, especially the **credit-to-GDP gap**, which is the **primary indicator** for assessing **systemic credit risk** in the economy.

The **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** is a **macro-prudential regulatory tool** used in the banking system.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided **not to activate** the **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** at present, stating that current economic and banking conditions do not require its implementation.

The decision was taken after **RBI** reviewed key **CCyB indicators**, especially the **credit-to-GDP gap**, which is the **primary indicator** for assessing **systemic credit risk** in the economy.

The **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** is a **macro-prudential regulatory tool** used in the banking system.

CCyB requires banks to **build additional capital buffers** during periods of **strong credit growth** and favourable economic conditions.

The **main objective** of CCyB is to ensure banks **accumulate sufficient capital** during good economic times so that they can **continue lending** during financial stress or economic downturns.

Another **key objective** is to **prevent excessive and indiscriminate lending** during periods of rapid credit expansion, thereby helping to **reduce system-wide financial risks**.

RBI stated that **CCyB** can be activated as a **pre-announced measure** whenever warranted by economic conditions.

After review and **empirical analysis of indicators**, **RBI** concluded that it is **not**

necessary to activate CCyB at this point in time..

362. In 2026, the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance recently organised a workshop on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026. Who chaired this workshop?

A.Shri Sanjay Malhotra
B.Shri M. Nagaraju
C.Shri T. V. Somanathan
D.Shri Ajay Seth
E.Shri Rajiv Gauba
Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance** organised a half-day workshop on the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026** in **New Delhi**.

The workshop was chaired by **Shri M. Nagaraju**, Secretary, DFS, and attended by senior officials from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, legal experts, and representatives of public sector banks and financial institutions including **NARCL**, **IDRCL**, and **ASREC (India) Limited**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance** organised a half-day workshop on the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026** in **New Delhi**.

The workshop was chaired by **Shri M. Nagaraju**, Secretary, DFS, and attended by senior officials from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, legal experts, and representatives of public sector banks and financial institutions including **NARCL**, **IDRCL**, and **ASREC (India) Limited**.

The **main objective** of the workshop was to deliberate on the impact of recent amendments to the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** on the **banking sector** and to strengthen stakeholder understanding of its **implementation framework**.

It was highlighted that till **December 2025**, more than **8,800 Corporate Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIRPs)** had been admitted under the IBC, reflecting large-scale use of the insolvency resolution system.

363. Who has been selected as the fund manager for the ₹20,000-crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) to promote investment in India's maritime sector?

A.SEBI Ventures
B.IIFCL
C.SBI Ventures
D.Climate Fund Managers
E.NITI Aayog
Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The Government of India selected **SBI Ventures** as the fund manager for the **₹20,000-**

crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) to promote investment in India's maritime sector.
The Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) is a major component of the **₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund** approved by the Union Cabinet.
The Central Government will contribute **₹9,800 crore (49%)** through budgetary support for the fund.
Detailed Explanation:
The Government of India selected **SBI Ventures** as the fund manager for the **₹20,000-crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF)** to promote investment in India's maritime sector.
The Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) is a major component of the **₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund** approved by the Union Cabinet.
The Central Government will contribute **₹9,800 crore (49%)** through budgetary support for the fund.
The remaining **51% of the corpus** will be mobilised from private investors, sovereign wealth funds, institutional investors, CPSEs, PSUs and major port authorities through a **blended finance model**.
The fund will be registered as a closed-end **Category I/II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** under the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
The Maritime Investment Fund may establish **multiple sub-funds** focusing on different segments of the maritime industry.
SBI Ventures was selected through a **competitive bidding process**, defeating a consortium of Indian Infrastructure Finance Company Limited and Climate Fund Managers.

364. As of 2026, Mahindra & Mahindra and which bank signed an MoU to launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme in the automotive sector?
A.HDFC Bank
B.ICICI Bank
C.SBI
D.Axis Bank
E.DBS Bank
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Mahindra & Mahindra and **DBS Bank India** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch India's **first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme** in the automotive sector on **19 May 2026**.
The programme links **loan interest rates** for authorised Mahindra dealers to their **environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance** along with **sales targets**.
Dealers will be assessed under **Mahindra's Green Dealership Programme** based on key **ESG parameters** such as **greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, renewable energy usage, rainwater harvesting, waste management, EV charging infrastructure**, and **eSUV sales volume**.
Detailed Explanation:

Mahindra & Mahindra and **DBS Bank India** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch India's **first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme** in the automotive sector on **19 May 2026**.

The programme links **loan interest rates** for authorised Mahindra dealers to their **environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance** along with **sales targets**.

Dealers will be assessed under **Mahindra's Green Dealership Programme** based on key **ESG parameters** such as **greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, renewable energy usage, rainwater harvesting, waste management, EV charging infrastructure**, and **eSUV sales volume**.

Dealers meeting defined **sustainability thresholds** will receive **preferential interest rates** on loans used for purchasing passenger and commercial vehicles.

The **ESG metrics** for the programme were **jointly designed** by Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India to ensure a structured **sustainable financing framework**.

The initiative focuses on addressing **Scope 3 emissions**, which are indirect emissions across the value chain including dealers and distributors, supporting overall **decarbonisation efforts**.

365. In 2026, the ₹450 crore ropeway project recently approved by the Government of Uttarakhand connects Rishikesh to which pilgrimage site?

A.Neelkanth Mahadev Temple

B.Badrinath Temple

C.Kedarnath Temple

D.Gangotri Temple

E.Yamunotri Temple

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The Government of **Uttarakhand** has planned a **₹450 crore ropeway project** connecting **Rishikesh** to the famous **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple**.

The proposed ropeway will cover a distance of around **6.5 kilometres** and is expected to reduce travel time from nearly **three hours to just 15 minutes**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of **Uttarakhand** has planned a **₹450 crore ropeway project** connecting **Rishikesh** to the famous **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple**.

The proposed ropeway will cover a distance of around **6.5 kilometres** and is expected to reduce travel time from nearly **three hours to just 15 minutes**.

The ropeway alignment will begin from the **Tapovan area in Rishikesh** and connect directly to the Neelkanth Mahadev Temple, which is an important pilgrimage site dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.

At present, pilgrims either travel through a winding **30-kilometre mountain road route** or trek around **9 kilometres through forest terrain** to reach the temple.

The project is considered important because **religious tourism** plays a major **role in Uttarakhand's economy.** The temple attracts thousands of devotees every year, especially during:

Shravan month

Mahashivratri

366. Consider the following statements regarding Central Government infrastructure projects in India:

1. **Maharashtra ranks first in the country with 215 projects worth around ₹5.5 trillion.**
2. **Uttar Pradesh ranks second with 180 projects valued at approximately ₹4.3 trillion.**
3. **Gujarat ranks third with 141 projects worth around ₹2.1 trillion.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.1 and 3 only

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

India is witnessing rapid infrastructure expansion through major **Central Government projects** across sectors such as **highways, railways, airports, industrial corridors, ports, energy, and urban development**.

According to recent data, **Maharashtra ranks first in the country** in terms of the number of Central Government projects.

The state currently has **215 projects** with an estimated investment of around **₹5.5 trillion**.

Uttar Pradesh ranks second with **180 projects** worth approximately **₹4.3 trillion**.

Major infrastructure growth in the state includes **expressways, railway expansion, and defence corridor projects**.

Gujarat ranks fourth with **127 projects** and investment value of nearly **₹4.3 trillion**. The state remains a major hub for **manufacturing, petrochemicals, logistics, and port-led development**.

Detailed Explanation:

India is witnessing rapid infrastructure expansion through major **Central Government projects** across sectors such as **highways, railways, airports, industrial corridors, ports, energy, and urban development**.

According to recent data, **Maharashtra ranks first in the country** in terms of the number of Central Government projects.

The state currently has **215 projects** with an estimated investment of around **₹5.5 trillion**.

Uttar Pradesh ranks second with **180 projects** worth approximately **₹4.3 trillion**.

Major infrastructure growth in the state includes **expressways, railway expansion, and defence corridor projects**.

Andhra Pradesh holds the third position with **141 projects** valued at around **₹2.1 trillion**.

Gujarat ranks fourth with **127 projects** and investment value of nearly **₹4.3 trillion**. The state remains a major hub for **manufacturing, petrochemicals, logistics, and port-led development**.

Madhya Pradesh and **Bihar** each have **125 projects**, reflecting rising infrastructure development in central and eastern India.

Karnataka has **121 projects** worth around **₹2 trillion**, while **Odisha** and **Jharkhand** are witnessing major investments in **mining, railways, energy, and industrial infrastructure**.

Among northeastern states, **Assam** leads with **89 projects** worth around **₹1.2 trillion**.

367. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Automated People Mover (APM) system at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi:

1. **The APM system is expected to be operational by 2029.**
2. **It will be developed by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) with an estimated cost of ₹3,000–₹4,000 crore.**
3. **The system will connect Terminal 1, Terminal 2, Terminal 3, Aerocity, and Cargo City over a 7.7 km corridor.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.All are correct

E.2 only

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport), New Delhi is set to launch its first automated air train system by **2029** to improve passenger movement across the airport.

The project will be developed by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** with an estimated investment of around **₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore**.

The Automated People Mover (APM) system will connect major airport locations including:

Terminal 1

Terminal 2

Terminal 3

Aerocity

Cargo City

The complete air train corridor will cover around **7.7 kilometres** and is aimed at providing faster, smoother, and seamless terminal transfers for passengers.

Detailed Explanation:

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport), New Delhi is set to launch its first automated air train system by **2029** to improve passenger movement across the airport.

The project will be developed by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** with an estimated investment of around **₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore**.

The Automated People Mover (APM) system will connect major airport locations including:

Terminal 1

Terminal 2

Terminal 3

Aerocity

Cargo City

The complete air train corridor will cover around **7.7 kilometres** and is aimed at providing faster, smoother, and seamless terminal transfers for passengers.

Initially, DIAL had planned to implement the project through a concessionaire model by appointing a private operator. However, after limited response from bidders, DIAL decided to directly fund the project through its own resources.

368. As of 2026, the Cabinet meeting approving the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission in West Bengal was chaired by_____

A.Mamata Banerjee

B.Suvendu Adhikari

C.Jagdeep Dhankhar

D.Dilip Ghosh

E.Amit Shah

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The Government of **West Bengal** has approved the implementation of the **7th Pay Commission** for state government employees and pensioners. The decision was taken during a **Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari.**

During the previous pay revision, West Bengal had used a **2.57 fitment factor** under the 6th Pay Commission. This time, discussions suggest a possible range between **2.0 and 2.5**, but the final figure has not yet been officially announced.

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of **West Bengal** has approved the implementation of the **7th Pay Commission** for state government employees and pensioners. The decision was taken during a **Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari.**

The revised pay structure is expected to benefit lakhs of employees working in state government departments, boards, corporations, aided institutions, and educational bodies.

Pensioners are also likely to receive revised pension benefits under the new pay structure.

The most important factor still awaited is the **fitment factor**, which will determine the actual increase in salaries and pensions. A fitment factor is the multiplier used to revise the existing basic pay of employees.

For example, if an employee's current basic salary is ₹20,000:

With a **2.0 fitment factor**, revised salary becomes ₹40,000.

With a **2.25 fitment factor**, revised salary becomes ₹45,000.

With a **2.5 fitment factor**, revised salary becomes ₹50,000.

During the previous pay revision, West Bengal had used a **2.57 fitment factor** under the 6th Pay Commission. This time, discussions suggest a possible range between **2.0 and 2.5**, but the final figure has not yet been officially announced.

369. In 2026, India has recently notified new fuel standards for higher ethanol-blended petrol (E22, E25, E27 and E30). Which organisation has issued these standards?

A.NITI Aayog

B.Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

C.Bureau of Indian Standards

D.Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

E.Indian Oil Corporation

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India has officially notified new fuel standards for higher ethanol-blended petrol, including **E22, E25, E27, and E30**, marking a major step in the country's clean energy and biofuel transition.

The new standards have been notified by the **Bureau of Indian Standards** for petrol blended with up to **30% ethanol** for use in petrol engine vehicles.

Detailed Explanation:

India has officially notified new fuel standards for higher ethanol-blended petrol, including **E22, E25, E27, and E30**, marking a major step in the country's clean energy and biofuel transition.

The new standards have been notified by the **Bureau of Indian Standards** for petrol blended with up to **30% ethanol** for use in petrol engine vehicles.

E30 fuel means petrol containing **30% ethanol and 70% conventional gasoline**.

Similarly, **E20** contains 20% ethanol blended with petrol.

Ethanol is an alcohol-based biofuel generally produced from agricultural feedstocks such as **sugarcane, maize, and biomass materials**.

The notification is currently a preparatory regulatory step and does not mean that E30 petrol will be immediately launched across fuel stations in India.

The move signals the Government of India's long-term roadmap beyond the existing **E20 ethanol blending programme** and reflects confidence in expanding biofuel adoption further.

370. As of 2026, Indian Railways has approved a ₹238 crore infrastructure and safety upgrade project for which railway section under the Northern Railway Zone?

A.Delhi–Amritsar section

B.Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra section

C.Lucknow–Varanasi section

D.Mumbai–Ahmedabad section

E.Howrah–Patna section

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Indian Railways has approved a **₹238 crore** infrastructure and safety upgrade project

for the **Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section** under the **Northern Railway Zone**. The project aims to improve **passenger safety, operational reliability, and long-term infrastructure resilience** on this strategically important railway route in **Jammu and Kashmir**. The approved works include **slope stabilisation**, **tunnel rehabilitation**, **seepage treatment**, and **bridge protection measures** in vulnerable sections of the route.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian Railways has approved a **₹238 crore** infrastructure and safety upgrade project for the **Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section** under the **Northern Railway Zone**. The project aims to improve **passenger safety, operational reliability, and long-term infrastructure resilience** on this strategically important railway route in **Jammu and Kashmir**. The approved works include **slope stabilisation**, **tunnel rehabilitation**, **seepage treatment**, and **bridge protection measures** in vulnerable sections of the route.

Additional safety interventions will also be implemented at identified high-risk locations to strengthen railway operations in difficult mountainous terrain.

The Jammu–Katra railway section passes through challenging geological regions with unstable slopes, harsh weather conditions, and difficult rock formations, which can impact railway safety and infrastructure durability.

The project is expected to reduce risks related to landslides, tunnel damage, seepage issues, and environmental threats affecting train movement and railway infrastructure.

371. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently appointed Shri Gunveer Singh as Executive Director (ED). He was earlier associated with which department as Chief General Manager-in-Charge?

A.Department of Banking Regulation

B.Department of Financial Inclusion

C.Department of Currency Management

D.Department of Economic Policy Research

E.Department of Payment and Settlement Systems

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Shri Gunveer Singh** as **Executive Director (ED)** with effect from **18 May 2026**, marking a key leadership change in the central bank.

Prior to his promotion, Shri Gunveer Singh served as **Chief General Manager-in-Charge** of the **Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS)** at RBI.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Shri Gunveer Singh** as **Executive Director (ED)** with effect from **18 May 2026**, marking a key leadership change in the central bank.

Prior to his promotion, Shri Gunveer Singh served as **Chief General Manager-in-**

Charge of the **Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS)** at RBI.
He has **over three decades of experience** in RBI, working in areas such as **payment and settlement systems, banking supervision, non-banking supervision, risk monitoring and government banking**.
Shri Singh has also served internationally as a **payment systems expert at the Central Bank of Oman**, providing him exposure to **cross-border payment frameworks and regulatory practices**.
As Executive Director, he will be responsible for overseeing the **Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS)**.

372. Who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Iraq and became the youngest Prime Minister in the country's modern history?
A.Mohammed Shia al-Sudani
B.Haibet al-Halbousi
C.Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi
D.Nouri al-Maliki
E.Barham Salih
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister (PM)** of Iraq and **Commander-in-Chief** of Iraq's Armed Forces.
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi was nominated by the **Coordination Framework** political alliance.
At the age of **40 years**, al-Zaidi became the **youngest Prime Minister** in Iraq's modern history.
Detailed Explanation:
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister (PM)** of Iraq and **Commander-in-Chief** of Iraq's Armed Forces.
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi was nominated by the **Coordination Framework** political alliance.
At the age of **40 years**, al-Zaidi became the **youngest Prime Minister** in Iraq's modern history.
The official swearing-in ceremony was held in **Baghdad, Iraq**.
Outgoing Prime Minister **Mohammed Shia al-Sudani** formally **transferred power** to the new administration.
The Iraqi Parliament session was chaired by **Haibet al-Halbousi**.
The Parliament approved **14 out of 23 ministerial positions** along with the **government program**.

373. Under the ADITI 3.0 innovation framework, which company secured a contract from the Indian Navy for integration and commissioning of a High Power Microwave (HPM) system?
A.Tonbo Imaging
B.DRDO
C.BEL
D.HAL
E.L&T Defence

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Tonbo Imaging, a Bengaluru-based defence technology company, has secured a contract from the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** innovation framework on **19 May 2026**.

The contract involves integration and commissioning of a **High Power Microwave (HPM) system** for naval platforms, strengthening India's indigenous defence capabilities.

The project is supported under the Ministry of Defence's **iDEX initiative (Innovations for Defence Excellence)** and the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** framework.

Detailed Explanation:

Tonbo Imaging, a Bengaluru-based defence technology company, has secured a contract from the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** innovation framework on **19 May 2026**.

The contract involves integration and commissioning of a **High Power Microwave (HPM) system** for naval platforms, strengthening India's indigenous defence capabilities.

The project is supported under the Ministry of Defence's **iDEX initiative (Innovations for Defence Excellence)** and the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** framework.

High Power Microwave (HPM) systems are **directed-energy weapons** that use electromagnetic energy to disable or degrade electronic systems, sensors and unmanned platforms, especially useful in **counter-drone and maritime threat scenarios**.

The selection of Tonbo Imaging under ADITI 3.0 highlights India's focus on developing **indigenous strategic defence technologies** aligned with naval modernisation needs.

374. Which air defence system, also known as the "Sudarshan Chakra", is being inducted by India under a $5.43 billion agreement signed with Russia in 2018?

A.Iron Dome

B.Akash Missile System

C.Patriot System

D.Barak-8

E.S-400 Triumf

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India is set to receive the **fourth squadron** of the Russian-origin **S-400 Triumf**, strengthening its air defence capabilities.

The S-400 system is part of a **$5.43 billion agreement signed in 2018** between India and Russia for the procurement of **five S-400 squadrons**.

The S-400 Triumf is a **long-range surface-to-air missile system** designed to intercept and destroy aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles at multiple ranges and altitudes.

The system is operated by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** for strategic air defence deployment across key regions.

Detailed Explanation:

India is set to receive the **fourth squadron** of the Russian-origin **S-400 Triumf**, strengthening its air defence capabilities.

The S-400 system is part of a **$5.43 billion agreement signed in 2018** between India and Russia for the procurement of **five S-400 squadrons**.

The S-400 Triumf is a **long-range surface-to-air missile system** designed to intercept and destroy aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles at multiple ranges and altitudes.

The system is operated by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** for strategic air defence deployment across key regions.

The delivery schedule was originally targeted for completion by 2023, but faced **delays due to the Russia–Ukraine conflict** and global supply chain disruptions.

The fourth S-400 unit was **inspected by Indian Air Force personnel in Russia by mid-April 2026** before being transported to India via sea and air routes.

The fourth squadron is expected to be **deployed in Rajasthan**, providing long-range air defence coverage along the **western frontier**.

The **fifth and final squadron** under the original contract is expected by **November 2026** and is likely to be deployed along the **northern border with China**.

The system is also popularly referred to as the **"Sudarshan Chakra"**, highlighting its role in India's multi-layered air defence network.

375. As of 2026, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has partnered with which France-based company to develop Unmanned Mine Countermeasure (MCM) systems for the Indian Navy?

A.Dassault Aviation

B.Safran

C.Naval Group

D.Exail Technologies

E.Thales Group

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) has entered into a strategic partnership with France-based **Exail Technologies** to deliver advanced **Unmanned Mine Countermeasure (MCM)** systems for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

The collaboration will provide an **Unmanned MCM Suite** featuring autonomous and remotely operated systems for the safe **detection, identification, and neutralisation of naval mines**.

Detailed Explanation:

Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) has entered into a strategic partnership with France-based **Exail Technologies** to deliver advanced **Unmanned Mine Countermeasure (MCM)** systems for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

The collaboration will provide an **Unmanned MCM Suite** featuring autonomous and remotely operated systems for the safe **detection, identification, and neutralisation of naval mines**.

Under the agreement, **L&T will act as the Prime Contractor** and will offer the Unmanned

MCM Suite to shipyards involved in the Indian Navy's proposed programme for **12 Mine Counter Measure Vessels**.

Exail Technologies will serve as the Technology Partner, contributing its expertise in advanced unmanned maritime systems.

The partnership will ensure the deployment of Exail's globally proven **MCM technologies**, which are already operational with several navies worldwide.

376. In 2026, Researchers from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali enhanced pyroelectric performance by adding a small amount of which material into a ferroelectric polymer?

A.Nanogold

B.Copper oxide

C.Silver nanoparticles

D.Graphene oxide

E.Silicon carbide

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Researchers have developed a new **ultrathin flexible film** capable of efficiently converting **tiny temperature fluctuations into electrical signals**, enabling applications in **smart photodetectors, low-grade heat harvesters**, and flexible electronic systems.

The innovation supports growing demand for **lightweight, flexible, and low-power materials** for next-generation **wearable devices** and **autonomous sensors** used in healthcare, environmental monitoring, and energy-efficient electronics.

Scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, demonstrated that adding a **small amount of nanogold** into a ferroelectric polymer significantly **enhances pyroelectric performance**.

Detailed Explanation:

Researchers have developed a new **ultrathin flexible film** capable of efficiently converting **tiny temperature fluctuations into electrical signals**, enabling applications in **smart photodetectors, low-grade heat harvesters**, and flexible electronic systems.

The innovation supports growing demand for **lightweight, flexible, and low-power materials** for next-generation **wearable devices** and **autonomous sensors** used in healthcare, environmental monitoring, and energy-efficient electronics.

Earlier systems based on **plasmonic-pyroelectric and PVDF composites** improved thermal-to-electrical conversion, but relied on **micron-thick structures** and less controlled interfaces, limiting use in ultrathin flexible electronics.

There is increasing research focus on **combining plasmonic effects with pyroelectric polymers** to develop **self-powered, high-speed devices** that respond to both thermal and optical stimuli.

Scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, demonstrated that adding a **small amount of nanogold** into a ferroelectric polymer significantly **enhances pyroelectric performance**.

377. In 2026, Scientists from CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad recently discovered an ancient underground river channel (palaeo-channel) between which two cities in Uttar Pradesh?

A.Lucknow–Varanasi

B.Prayagraj–Kanpur

C.Agra–Gorakhpur

D.Meerut–Bareilly

E.Ayodhya–Sultanpur

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Scientists from the **CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad** have identified an **ancient underground river channel (palaeo-channel)** beneath the **Prayagraj–Kanpur stretch in Uttar Pradesh**.

A **palaeo-channel** is defined as an **abandoned or buried river course** that is preserved below the surface and filled with materials such as sand, silt, or groundwater.

Detailed Explanation:

Scientists from the **CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad** have identified an **ancient underground river channel (palaeo-channel)** beneath the **Prayagraj–Kanpur stretch in Uttar Pradesh**.

A **palaeo-channel** is defined as an **abandoned or buried river course** that is preserved below the surface and filled with materials such as sand, silt, or groundwater.

The identified buried river channel lies **10–15 metres below the ground surface** and extends for approximately **200 kilometres from Prayagraj to Kanpur**.

The discovery was made using **airborne geophysical surveys** conducted via helicopters, followed by **confirmatory drilling** at multiple sites including **Sarai Akil, Sirathu, Manjhanpur, Fatehpur, and Balwant Tola**.

The drilling operations revealed **sandy deposits** consistent with ancient riverbed sediments, confirming the presence of a **palaeo-fluvial system**.

The buried river system is part of a **groundwater aquifer system** and continues to contain **significant subsurface water reserves**.

378. In 2026, Liberty Mutual Insurance recently increased its stake in Liberty General Insurance Limited (LGI) to 74%. In which year Liberty General Insurance Limited was established?

A.2008

B.2010

C.2012

D.2013

E.2015

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Liberty Mutual Insurance increased its stake in **Liberty General Insurance Limited (LGI)** to **74%** from **55.40%**, strengthening its presence in **India's insurance market**.

The stake increase follows **Liberty Mutual's** earlier rise in shareholding from **49%** to **55.40%** in **September 2025**, reflecting growing **foreign investment** in **India's insurance sector**.

Liberty General Insurance Limited was established in **2013** and provides **retail, commercial, and industrial insurance products**.

Detailed Explanation:

Liberty Mutual Insurance increased its stake in **Liberty General Insurance Limited (LGI)** to **74%** from **55.40%**, strengthening its presence in **India's insurance market**.

The stake increase follows **Liberty Mutual's** earlier rise in shareholding from **49%** to **55.40%** in **September 2025**, reflecting growing **foreign investment** in **India's insurance sector**.

Liberty General Insurance Limited was established in **2013** and provides **retail, commercial, and industrial insurance products**.

The company offers a wide range of insurance solutions including **health, motor, property, marine, engineering, and liability insurance**.

After the transaction, the **shareholding structure** of Liberty General Insurance consists of **74%** held by **Summit Asia Investments Holdings Pte. Ltd.** (a group entity of Liberty Mutual Insurance) and **26%** held by **Enam Securities**.

379. Who launched the Ayush Anudan Portal at Kartavya Bhawan to strengthen digital governance in the Ayush sector?

A.Narendra Modi

B.Prataprao Jadhav

C.Mansukh Mandaviya

D.Amit Shah

E.Rajnath Singh

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Prataprao Jadhav launched the **Ayush Anudan Portal** at Kartavya Bhawan to strengthen digital governance and transparency in the Ayush sector.

The portal was developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** under the **Ayush Grid** initiative to streamline the submission, processing, approval and monitoring of funding proposals under various **Central Sector Schemes**.

Detailed Explanation:

Prataprao Jadhav launched the **Ayush Anudan Portal** at Kartavya Bhawan to strengthen digital governance and transparency in the Ayush sector.

The portal was developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** under the **Ayush Grid** initiative to streamline the submission, processing, approval

and monitoring of funding proposals under various **Central Sector Schemes**.

Ayush Grid is a flagship digital initiative of the Government of India aimed at creating an **integrated, transparent and citizen-centric digital ecosystem** for the Ayush sector using modern technology.

The initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **"Ease of Doing Business"** and **"Ease of Living"**.

The Ayush Anudan Portal has been designed as a comprehensive digital platform to ensure **100% transparency, efficiency, accountability and easy accessibility** in grant management processes.

380. As of 2026, Google and Blackstone have launched a $5 billion Artificial Intelligence cloud infrastructure venture based on which Google-developed chips?

A.GPU

B.ASIC

C.Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)

D.Quantum Processors

E.Neural Engines

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Google and **Blackstone** have launched a new **$5 billion Artificial Intelligence cloud infrastructure venture** aimed at strengthening Artificial Intelligence computing capabilities and challenging the dominance of **Nvidia** in the global Artificial Intelligence chip market.

The new venture will be built around Google's custom-designed **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**, which are specialised chips developed specifically for Artificial Intelligence and machine learning workloads.

Detailed Explanation:

Google and **Blackstone** have launched a new **$5 billion Artificial Intelligence cloud infrastructure venture** aimed at strengthening Artificial Intelligence computing capabilities and challenging the dominance of **Nvidia** in the global Artificial Intelligence chip market.

The new venture will be built around Google's custom-designed **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**, which are specialised chips developed specifically for Artificial Intelligence and machine learning workloads.

The project will provide **Compute-as-a-Service**, allowing businesses to rent powerful Artificial Intelligence computing infrastructure through cloud platforms instead of building expensive hardware systems themselves.

Blackstone is investing around **$5 billion** into the venture, making it one of the largest recent investments in Artificial Intelligence infrastructure and cloud computing.

The first phase of the project is expected to include nearly **500 megawatts of data centre capacity**, reflecting the large-scale infrastructure requirements of Artificial Intelligence systems.

381. As of 2026, Bharat Forge Limited has signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish India's first

private-sector Marine Gas Turbine facility in which city?

A.Visakhapatnam

B.Tirupati

C.Vijayawada

D.Kurnool

E.Guntur

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Bharat Forge Limited has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to establish **India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine facility** in **Visakhapatnam**.

The project was announced during the **Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Conclave** held in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by **Guru Biswal, Chief Executive Officer-Aerospace, Bharat Forge Limited**, and defence scientist **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**, former Chairman of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation**.

Detailed Explanation:

Bharat Forge Limited has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to establish **India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine facility** in **Visakhapatnam**.

The project was announced during the **Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Conclave** held in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by **Guru Biswal, Chief Executive Officer-Aerospace, Bharat Forge Limited**, and defence scientist **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**, former Chairman of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation**.

The event was attended by **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu**, and senior government and defence officials.

The upcoming facility will become the **first private-sector unit in India** with complete capabilities for **Marine Gas Turbine repair, servicing, and overhaul**.

The facility will provide advanced services including **blade restoration, rotor balancing, combustor liner repairs, component manufacturing, testing infrastructure, and round-the-clock operational support**.

382. In 2026, Anti-Terrorism Day in India is observed every year on 21 May to mark the death anniversary of which former Prime Minister?

A.Indira Gandhi

B.Rajiv Gandhi

C.Jawaharlal Nehru

D.Lal Bahadur Shastri

E.Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on 21 May in India to spread awareness about

the dangers of terrorism, violence, and extremism.

The day is observed to promote **peace, unity, harmony, and national integration** among citizens.

Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991 during an election campaign.

Detailed Explanation:

Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on 21 May in India to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism, violence, and extremism.

The day is observed to promote **peace, unity, harmony, and national integration** among citizens.

Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991 during an election campaign.

Rajiv Gandhi served as the **6th Prime Minister of India** from 1984 to 1989.

After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the Government of India decided to observe **21 May as Anti-Terrorism Day** to educate people about the harmful effects of terrorism on society.

383. The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, observed on 21 May, was officially declared by which organisation?

A.UNESCO

B.World Bank

C.United Nations General Assembly

D.WHO

E.UNDP

Answer: C

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed every year on **21 May** to raise awareness about the importance of **cultural diversity, dialogue, inclusion, and sustainable development**.

The day was adopted by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in **2001**.

In **2002**, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** officially declared **21 May** as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

384. In 2015, a resolution related to cultural diversity and sustainable development was adopted by which committee of the United Nations General Assembly?

A.First Committee

B.Second Committee

C.Third Committee

D.Fourth Committee

E.Sixth Committee

Answer: B

In **2015**, the **Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution related to cultural diversity and sustainable development.

The **United Nations** recognises that cultural diversity plays an important role in achieving

the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

385. What is the currency of Iraq?

A.Riyal

B.Dirham

C.Dollar

D.Pound

E.Dinar

Answer: E

About Iraq :

Capital : Baghdad

Currency : Iraqi dinar

386. In 2026, the United Nations revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2026 downward from 6.6% to_____

A.5.8%

B.6.0%

C.6.2%

D.6.4%

E.6.8%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The United Nations revised India's **Gross Domestic Product growth forecast** for 2026 downward to **6.4 percent** from the earlier estimate of **6.6 percent**.

The revised projection was released by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

Detailed Explanation:

The United Nations revised India's **Gross Domestic Product growth forecast** for 2026 downward to **6.4 percent** from the earlier estimate of **6.6 percent**.

The revised projection was released by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

Despite the downgrade, India is expected to remain among the **fastest-growing major economies in the world**.

The United Nations projected that India's economic growth may improve to **6.6 percent in 2027**, indicating that the slowdown could be temporary.

The downgrade was mainly attributed to:

Rising tensions in West Asia

Increase in crude oil prices

Global economic uncertainty

Tighter global financial conditions

387. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India announced a USD–INR buy/sell swap auction to inject long-term liquidity into the banking system. What is the size of the swap auction?

A.2 billion US dollars

B.3 billion US dollars

C.5 billion US dollars

D.7 billion US dollars

E.10 billion US dollars

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a **5 billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee buy/sell swap auction** to **inject long-term liquidity into the banking system.**

The swap auction will be conducted with a tenor of **three years**.

Under the swap mechanism, the Reserve Bank of India will:

Buy United States dollars from banks in exchange for Indian rupees

Sell back the same amount of United States dollars after three years

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a **5 billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee buy/sell swap auction** to **inject long-term liquidity into the banking system.**

The swap auction will be conducted with a tenor of **three years**.

Under the swap mechanism, the Reserve Bank of India will:

Buy United States dollars from banks in exchange for Indian rupees

Sell back the same amount of United States dollars after three years

The operation aims to provide **durable liquidity support** to the banking system and improve overall financial market stability.

The move comes amid:

Weakness in the Indian rupee

Global financial uncertainty

Volatility in capital flows

Stronger United States dollar trends

Geopolitical tensions

388. In 2026, India assumed the chairmanship of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) under which international organisation?

A.World Bank

B.International Atomic Energy Agency

C.United Nations Development Programme

D.World Trade Organization

E.Asian Development Bank

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India officially assumed the chairmanship of the **Regional Cooperative Agreement** for the year **2026** under the **International Atomic Energy Agency.**

The announcement was made during the **48th Meeting of National Representatives** being held in **Navi Mumbai.**

The meeting is being organized by the Department of Atomic Energy and brings together delegates from Asia-Pacific and African countries.

Detailed Explanation:

India officially assumed the chairmanship of the **Regional Cooperative Agreement** for the year **2026** under the **International Atomic Energy Agency.**

The announcement was made during the **48th Meeting of National Representatives** being held in **Navi Mumbai.**

The meeting is being organized by the Department of Atomic Energy and brings together delegates from Asia-Pacific and African countries.

A total of **29 delegates from 17 Asia-Pacific countries** are participating in the meeting along

with delegates from African nations under the **African Regional Cooperative Agreement** framework.

Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the **Regional Cooperative Agreement Regional Office** are also attending the event.

The **Regional Cooperative Agreement** is an intergovernmental framework operating under the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote the **peaceful use of nuclear science and technology**.

389. In 2026, observers from which countries participated in the 68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization held in New Delhi?

A.Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives

B.Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Bhutan

C.China, Japan and South Korea

D.Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia

E.Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India is hosting the **68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization** in New Delhi.

The high-level meeting is being held at Bharat Mandapam and brings together more than **60 senior delegates** from **20 member economies** of the Asia-Pacific region.

India is hosting the meeting as the **current Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization.**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to participate in the inaugural session of the summit.

Senior officials, policymakers, diplomatic representatives and observers from **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Bhutan** are also participating in the discussions along with representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute.

Detailed Explanation:

India is hosting the **68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization** in New Delhi.

The high-level meeting is being held at Bharat Mandapam and brings together more than **60 senior delegates** from **20 member economies** of the Asia-Pacific region.

India is hosting the meeting as the **current Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization.**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to participate in the inaugural session of the summit.

Senior officials, policymakers, diplomatic representatives and observers from **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Bhutan** are also participating in the discussions along with representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute.

The **Governing Body** Meeting serves as the **highest decision-making platform** of the **Asian Productivity Organization** where major policy, governance and strategic matters related to regional productivity development are discussed.

One of the major agenda items is the review of **Asian Productivity Organization Vision 2030**, which focuses on **productivity-driven economic transformation, sustainable growth and innovation** across member economies.

Delegates are also discussing the **preliminary budget planning for 2027–28** to strengthen future regional productivity programmes and institutional activities.

390. In 2026, what was the official theme of World Metrology Day?

A.Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making

B.Precision for Global Development

C.Metrology for Sustainable Trade

D.Smart Measurements for Smart Nations

E.Measuring Innovation for the Future

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

India observed **World Metrology Day 2026** with a major focus on strengthening **legal metrology, digital compliance systems, precision standards and consumer protection mechanisms**.

World Metrology Day is observed every year on **20 May** to commemorate the signing of the **Metre Convention** in Paris in 1875, which established the foundation for a globally uniform measurement system.

The official theme of **World Metrology Day 2026** was **"Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making"**, highlighting the importance of accurate measurements in governance, trade, healthcare, industrial regulation and scientific decision-making.

Detailed Explanation:

India observed **World Metrology Day 2026** with a major focus on strengthening **legal metrology, digital compliance systems, precision standards and consumer protection mechanisms**.

World Metrology Day is observed every year on **20 May** to commemorate the signing of the **Metre Convention** in Paris in 1875, which established the foundation for a globally uniform measurement system.

The official theme of **World Metrology Day 2026** was **"Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making"**, highlighting the importance of accurate measurements in governance, trade, healthcare, industrial regulation and scientific decision-making.

India issued **40 Government Approved Test Centre certificates** to eligible private entities to expand the country's testing and verification infrastructure for weighing and measuring instruments.

391. In 2026, the Government of India launched the Arunachal Kiwi Mission with a financial outlay of_____

A.₹100 crore

B.₹125 crore

C.₹150 crore

D.₹167 crore

E.₹200 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The Government of India launched the **Arunachal Kiwi Mission** with a financial outlay of **₹167 crore** to **transform Arunachal Pradesh** into a premium organic kiwi production and **export hub with strong domestic and international market presence.**

The mission titled **"Arunachal Kiwi: The Unique Selling Proposition of Arunachal Pradesh"** was launched by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and is being implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region as part of the broader **Viksit North East** development vision.

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of India launched the **Arunachal Kiwi Mission** with a financial outlay of **₹167 crore** to **transform Arunachal Pradesh** into a premium organic kiwi production and **export hub with strong domestic and international market presence.**

The mission titled **"Arunachal Kiwi: The Unique Selling Proposition of Arunachal Pradesh"** was launched by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and is being implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region as part of the broader **Viksit North East** development vision.

Arunachal Pradesh is India's largest kiwi-producing state and contributes more than **50 percent of the country's total kiwi production**, with annual production estimated at more than **7,000 metric tonnes**.

Kiwi cultivation has become an important cash crop in the high-altitude regions of the state and is also considered a sustainable alternative to traditional shifting cultivation practices.

392. In 2026, which state became the first in India to create a dedicated Artificial Intelligence portfolio at the cabinet level?

A.Karnataka

B.Tamil Nadu

C.Maharashtra

D.Kerala

E.Telangana

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Kerala became the first Indian state to create a dedicated **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** at the cabinet level under the **new United Democratic Front government.**

The newly created **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** has been **assigned to P. K. Kunhalikutty as part of the cabinet restructuring.**

The Artificial Intelligence portfolio has been placed under the **Industries and Commerce Department** along with Information Technology, startups, mining and geology, and handlooms and textiles.

Detailed Explanation:

Kerala became the first Indian state to create a dedicated **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** at the cabinet level under the **new United Democratic Front government.**

The newly created **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** has been **assigned to P. K. Kunhalikutty as part of the cabinet restructuring.**

The Artificial Intelligence portfolio has been placed under the **Industries and Commerce Department** along with Information Technology, startups, mining and geology, and handlooms and textiles.

The move reflects the Kerala government's increased focus on **digital innovation, technology-driven governance and economic development**.

The government aims to promote the use of **Artificial Intelligence** in sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, manufacturing, public administration and business automation.

The creation of a separate Artificial Intelligence portfolio highlights the importance of **startup ecosystem growth, industrial modernization and expansion of the Information Technology sector** in the state

393. In 2026, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, India accounted for what percentage of Bangladesh's total external trade?

A.6.25%

B.7.14%

C.8.47%

D.9.32%

E.10.18%

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

I**ndia has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner**, reflecting **changing trade dynamics in South Asia**.

According to the latest trade data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, India accounted for **8.47 percent** of Bangladesh's total external trade by February 2026.

The United States accounted for **8.46 percent** of Bangladesh's total trade, placing it slightly behind India in the overall trade rankings.

Detailed Explanation:

I**ndia has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner**, reflecting **changing trade dynamics in South Asia**.

According to the latest trade data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, India accounted for **8.47 percent** of Bangladesh's total external trade by February 2026.

The United States accounted for **8.46 percent** of Bangladesh's total trade, placing it slightly behind India in the overall trade rankings.

Although the margin between **India and the United States remains very narrow**, the development highlights India's growing economic influence and expanding trade relationship with Bangladesh.

China continues to remain Bangladesh's **largest trading partner**, accounting for approximately **21.21 percent** of Bangladesh's total trade.

China's dominance in Bangladesh's trade sector is mainly driven by exports of:
Industrial raw materials
Capital machinery
Electronics
Textile inputs
Chemicals
Consumer goods

394. In 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Agricola Medal from which international organisation?
A.World Bank
B.International Fund for Agricultural Development
C.Food and Agriculture Organization
D.United Nations Development Programme
E.World Food Programme
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious **Food and Agriculture Organization Agricola Medal** in **Rome, Italy**.
The award was presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization for contributions towards **sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development**.
The recognition highlights India's progress in **agricultural modernization, climate-resilient farming and farmer welfare initiatives**.
Detailed Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious **Food and Agriculture Organization Agricola Medal** in **Rome, Italy**.
The award was presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization for contributions towards **sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development**.
The recognition highlights India's progress in **agricultural modernization, climate-resilient farming and farmer welfare initiatives**.
The Food and Agriculture Organization acknowledged India's efforts in strengthening **sustainable rural development and innovation-driven agriculture**.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the award to India's farmers, livestock rearers, fishers, agricultural scientists and rural workers.
The **Food and Agriculture Organization Agricola Medal** is an international honour awarded for exceptional contribution towards:
Agriculture development
Food security
Sustainable farming systems
Rural livelihoods
Global development cooperation

395. In 2026, India and Italy set a target to increase bilateral trade to what amount by 2029 under their Special Strategic Partnership?
A.€10 billion
B.€15 billion
C.€30 billion

D.€25 billion

E.€20 billion

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India and Italy upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Shri Narendra Modi to Italy.**

A **Foreign Ministers-led review mechanism** will monitor implementation of the **India–Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029**, creating a structured long-term framework for bilateral cooperation.

India and Italy set a target to increase bilateral trade to **€20 billion by 2029** through stronger investment and industrial cooperation.

Detailed Explanation:

India and Italy upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Shri Narendra Modi to Italy.**

The partnership announcement was made jointly by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Giorgia Meloni** and reflects growing political trust, strategic alignment and expanding economic cooperation **between New Delhi and Rome.**

Both countries agreed to institutionalize **annual leadership-level meetings** during bilateral and multilateral engagements to maintain regular high-level diplomatic coordination.

A **Foreign Ministers-led review mechanism** will monitor implementation of the **India–Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029**, creating a structured long-term framework for bilateral cooperation.

India and Italy set a target to increase bilateral trade to **€20 billion by 2029** through stronger investment and industrial cooperation.

396. In 2026, Madhya Pradesh partnered with which company to introduce Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions for Simhastha Kumbh 2028 in Ujjain?

A.Google Cloud India

B.IBM

C.Microsoft

D.Amazon Web Services

E.Oracle

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Madhya Pradesh partnered **with Google Cloud India** to introduce **Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions** for the management of **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** in **Ujjain**.

The partnership aims to improve crowd management, traffic control, emergency response and pilgrim assistance during one of India's largest religious gatherings.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav held discussions with **Google Cloud India officials in Bhopal** regarding the implementation of **Artificial Intelligence-driven systems for Simhastha 2028**.

Detailed Explanation:

Madhya Pradesh partnered **with Google Cloud India** to introduce **Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions** for the management of **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** in **Ujjain**.

The partnership aims to improve crowd management, traffic control, emergency response and pilgrim assistance during one of India's largest religious gatherings.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav held discussions with **Google Cloud India officials in Bhopal** regarding the implementation of **Artificial Intelligence-driven systems for Simhastha 2028**.

A formal **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Madhya Pradesh government and Google Cloud India is expected to be signed soon.

The proposed Artificial Intelligence system will help authorities monitor **crowd density in real time**, identify congestion zones early and support faster administrative action during peak pilgrimage periods.

The partnership also includes the development of an **Artificial Intelligence-based traffic management system** to predict traffic movement, reduce bottlenecks and improve transport flow during the event.

Authorities are planning to integrate **real-time navigation and traffic advisory support** for pilgrims visiting Simhastha 2028.

397. In 2026, the multilateral military exercise PRAGATI(Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region) was launched at which military station in India?

A.Wellington Military Station

B.Umroi Military Station

C.Mhow Military Station

D.Jaisalmer Military Station

E.Secunderabad Military Station

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India launched the multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 at the **Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya** with participation from armed forces of 12 friendly nations.

The exercise is being hosted by the Indian Army and focuses on **counter-terror operations, jungle warfare, tactical coordination and joint military preparedness** in challenging terrain conditions.

PRAGATI stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**, reflecting India's strategic vision of strengthening regional defence cooperation and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Detailed Explanation:

India launched the multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 at the **Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya** with participation from armed forces of 12 friendly nations.

The exercise is being hosted by the Indian Army and focuses on **counter-terror operations, jungle warfare, tactical coordination and joint military preparedness** in challenging terrain conditions.

PRAGATI stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**, reflecting India's strategic vision of strengthening regional

defence cooperation and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Participating countries in the exercise include:

Bhutan

Cambodia

Indonesia

Laos

Malaysia

Maldives

Myanmar

Nepal

Philippines

Seychelles

Sri Lanka

Vietnam

The exercise aims to strengthen **defence cooperation, interoperability and operational coordination** among participating armed forces while improving mutual trust and collective security mechanisms

398. In 2026, which state launched the "ShramMitra" application to connect workers and employers directly through a digital employment platform?

A.Punjab

B.Rajasthan

C.Gujarat

D.Uttar Pradesh

E.Haryana

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Haryana launched the **ShramMitra application**, a digital employment platform designed to **connect workers and employers directly across the state**.

The application was launched by Anil Vij to modernize the labour hiring process and reduce dependence on the traditional labour chowk system.

The **ShramMitra application** has been **developed by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.**

The platform functions as an **Electronic Employment Exchange** for daily wage workers, skilled workers and self-employed workers.

Detailed Explanation:

Haryana launched the **ShramMitra application**, a digital employment platform designed to **connect workers and employers directly across the state**.

The application was launched by Anil Vij to modernize the labour hiring process and reduce dependence on the traditional labour chowk system.

The **ShramMitra application** has been **developed by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.**

The platform functions as an **Electronic Employment Exchange** for daily wage workers, skilled workers and self-employed workers.

Through the application, workers can search for employment opportunities directly from their smartphones instead of waiting at labour chowks for work.

The platform enables **direct digital job matching** between employers and workers,

improving transparency and reducing delays in hiring.

399. In 2026, what was the official theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity?

A.Nature for Sustainable Future

B.Protect Biodiversity, Protect Life

C.Acting Locally for Global Impact

D.Ecosystems for Humanity

E.Biodiversity and Climate Action

Answer: C

The **International Day for Biological Diversity 2026** is observed on **22 May** every year to raise awareness about the importance of **biological diversity and environmental conservation**.

The official theme for **International Day for Biological Diversity 2026** is **"Acting Locally for Global Impact."**

400. In 2026, India and Italy announced that which year would be celebrated as the "Year of Culture and Tourism" between the two countries?

A.2031

B.2027

C.2028

D.2029

E.2030

Answer: B

India and Italy upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Shri Narendra Modi to Italy.**

Both countries announced that **2027 will be celebrated as the Year of Culture and Tourism** between India and Italy to strengthen cultural diplomacy and people-to-people ties.

Key cultural initiatives include:

India's participation in the **Venice Art Biennale**

Cooperation at the **National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal**

UNESCO heritage site twinning programmes

Film and audiovisual collaboration

401. As of 2026, which of the following statements about the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Performance (FY 2025–26) is correct?

A.APY crossed 5 crore gross enrolments with AUM of ₹25,000 crore

B.Women participation under APY reached 45.14% during FY 2025–26

C.APY recorded its highest-ever annual enrolment of 1.35 crore subscribers during FY 2025–26

D.APY is implemented only in selected States and Union Territories

E.SBI achieved less than 100% of its annual APY target

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** organised the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Felicitation Programme** in **New Delhi**.

During the programme, **53 APY Service Providers (SPs), 10 State Level Bankers'**

Committees (SLBCs), and top 5 branches and Lead District Managers (LDMs) were awarded for outstanding performance in achieving APY targets during **FY 2025-26**.

He highlighted that **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed **9 crore gross enrolments** with **Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeding ₹54,000 crore**.

A record **1.35 crore subscribers** were added under APY during **FY 2025-26**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** organised the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Felicitation Programme** in **New Delhi**.

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He highlighted that **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed **9 crore gross enrolments** with **Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeding ₹54,000 crore**.

A record **1.35 crore subscribers** were added under APY during **FY 2025-26**.

Shri S. Ramann, Chairperson of PFRDA, stated that APY recorded its **highest-ever annual enrolment** during FY 2025-26.

He highlighted the increase in enrolments among the **18–25 years age group**, reflecting rising awareness about long-term financial security among youth.

Smt. Mamta Shankar, Whole Time Member (Economics), PFRDA, noted that **women participation** under APY reached a record **55.14%** during FY 2025-26.

APY has been implemented across **all States and Union Territories** of India.

Total gross enrolments under APY crossed **9.10 crore as of 18 May 2026**.

Among **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, **State Bank of India (116%), Union Bank of India (105%)**, and **UCO Bank (105%)** emerged as top performers in achieving annual APY targets.

Other strong-performing PSBs included **Indian Bank (104%)** and **Bank of Maharashtra (103%)**.

About Ministry of Finance:

Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

About PFRDA:

Established: 2003 (Statutory status from PFRDA Act, 2013)

Under which Ministry: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann

Purpose: To promote, develop, and regulate the pension sector in India, especially the National Pension System (NPS) and other old-age income security schemes.

402. Which company launched the 'My Health Care Plan Edge+ (MHCP EDGE+)' health insurance plan?

A.HDFC ERGO General Insurance

B.ICICI Lombard General Insurance
C.Bajaj General Insurance Limited
D.New India Assurance Company Limited
E.SBI General Insurance
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
Bajaj General Insurance Limited (BGIL) launched **'My Health Care Plan Edge+ (MHCP EDGE+)'**, a next-generation **health indemnity insurance plan** for individuals and families.
The plan offers health insurance coverage ranging from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 5 crore**.
MHCP EDGE+ provides **unlimited reinstatement benefits, modular add-ons, global treatment coverage**, and **wellness-linked healthcare services**.
Detailed Explanation:
Bajaj General Insurance Limited (BGIL) launched **'My Health Care Plan Edge+ (MHCP EDGE+)'**, a next-generation **health indemnity insurance plan** for individuals and families.
The plan offers health insurance coverage ranging from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 5 crore**.
MHCP EDGE+ provides **unlimited reinstatement benefits, modular add-ons, global treatment coverage**, and **wellness-linked healthcare services**.
The main objective of the plan is to **reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses** through flexible, customisable, and long-term health protection solutions.
The policy covers **hospitalisation, surgeries, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) charges, AYUSH treatments, organ donor treatments, global treatments**, and **preventive healthcare services**.
AYUSH includes **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy** treatments.

403. Which of the following is the name of India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract launched by National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)?
A.RAINDELHI
B.WEATHEREX
C.MONSOONHEDGE
D.RAINMUMBAI
E.CLIMATRADE
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) launched India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named **'RAINMUMBAI'**.
The launch of RAINMUMBAI marks India's entry into a **regulated weather-risk trading market**.
The RAINMUMBAI contract is scheduled to be implemented from **01 June 2026**.
Detailed Explanation:
National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) launched India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named **'RAINMUMBAI'**.

The launch of RAINMUMBAI marks India's entry into a **regulated weather-risk trading market**.

The RAINMUMBAI contract is scheduled to be implemented from **01 June 2026**.

The main purpose of the contract is to **hedge against the financial risks** arising from **rainfall extremes and rainfall variability** in Mumbai, Maharashtra, and surrounding regions.

The weather derivative contract was developed in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B)**.

The contract is based on official rainfall data provided by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.

The contract uses a **tick size of 1 millimeter (mm)** with a **lot multiplier of Rs 50 per mm**.

The **maximum order size** permitted under the contract is **50 lots**.

The RAINMUMBAI contract will follow a **cash-settlement process**.

404. As per ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) revised projections, what is India's GDP growth forecast for FY27?

A.6.2%

B.6.8%

C.6.1%

D.7.0%

E.7.5%

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

ICRA Limited (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) revised down India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for** Financial Year 2026-27 **(FY27) to 6.2%** from its earlier estimate of 6.5%.

The GDP forecast was reduced by **30 basis points (bps)** by ICRA.

The agency stated that the downward revision in India's economic growth outlook was mainly due to **elevated crude oil prices** caused by the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.

Detailed Explanation:

ICRA Limited (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) revised down India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for** Financial Year 2026-27 **(FY27) to 6.2%** from its earlier estimate of 6.5%.

The GDP forecast was reduced by **30 basis points (bps)** by ICRA.

The agency stated that the downward revision in India's economic growth outlook was mainly due to **elevated crude oil prices** caused by the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.

ICRA projected India's **GDP growth at 7.5% for FY26**.

The FY26 GDP estimate of 7.5% is **10 bps lower** than the **National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Second Advance Estimate (SAE) of 7.6%**.

According to ICRA, India's GDP growth in the **fourth quarter (Q4: January–March) of FY26** is expected to moderate to a three-quarter low of **7%**.

India's GDP growth had stood at **7.8% in Q3FY26**, which is higher than the projected 7% growth in Q4FY26.

405. Recently in news, the JEEVAN mobile application and SHATAYU dashboard are being launched by which ministry?

A.Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
B.Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
C.Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
D.Ministry of Home Affairs
E.Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Virendra Kumar will launch the **JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) mobile application** and the **SHATAYU (**Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility**) dashboard**.

The initiative is aimed at improving elderly care services through technology, policy support and community participation.

The launch is being organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during a virtual programme themed **"Creating a Well-Functioning Care Economy."**

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Virendra Kumar will launch the **JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) mobile application** and the **SHATAYU (**Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility**) dashboard**.

The initiative is aimed at improving elderly care services through technology, policy support and community participation.

The launch is being organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during a virtual programme themed **"Creating a Well-Functioning Care Economy."**

The government's initiative reflects increasing focus on senior citizen welfare and strengthening India's eldercare infrastructure.

The two major digital platforms being launched are:

JEEVAN mobile app for senior citizens
SHATAYU dashboard for geriatric caregivers

The **JEEVAN app** is designed specifically for senior citizens to improve access to elderly care services, support systems and important information.

The app is expected to function as a technology-driven support platform aimed at improving convenience and accessibility for elderly citizens.

The broader objective of the **JEEVAN app is to integrate senior citizens into a more connected and efficient care ecosystem**.

The **SHATAYU dashboard** is designed for geriatric caregivers and elderly care stakeholders.

406. As of 2026, the Delhi government has proposed increasing the annual income eligibility limit for ration cards to_____

A.₹1.0 lakh
B.₹1.2 lakh
C.₹2.0 lakh
D.₹2.5 lakh
E.₹3.0 lakh
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Delhi government has announced plans to increase the annual income eligibility limit** for ration cards from **₹1.2 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh**.
The move is expected to expand access to subsidized food benefits for many lower middle-income households in Delhi.
Currently, residents with annual income above **₹1.2 lakh** are not eligible for ration cards under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
Detailed Explanation:
The **Delhi government has announced plans to increase the annual income eligibility limit** for ration cards from **₹1.2 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh**.
The move is expected to expand access to subsidized food benefits for many lower middle-income households in Delhi.
Currently, residents with annual income above **₹1.2 lakh** are not eligible for ration cards under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
The proposed increase reflects changing economic conditions, including rising inflation and higher urban living costs.
The government believes many families earning slightly above the earlier limit still face financial pressure due to increasing expenses.
Rising costs of:
Rent
Transport
Food
Education
Healthcare
have increased the need for broader welfare coverage in the national capital.
Along with the eligibility expansion, the Delhi government has also cancelled around **7.72 lakh ration cards** during a major verification and clean-up drive.
The cancellation exercise was aimed at improving transparency and accuracy in welfare distribution.

407. Which of the following is the correct cost of the Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel Project approved by India?
A.₹1,500 crore
B.₹2,100 crore
C.₹2,352 crore
D.₹2,600 crore
E.₹3,000 crore
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
India has approved major infrastructure and hydropower projects linked to the **Chenab River**, with a total investment of nearly **₹2,600 crore**.
The projects are expected to be implemented by **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).**

The decision comes shortly after India placed engagement under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** framework in abeyance following heightened tensions with Pakistan after the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

The biggest project approved is the **₹2,352 crore Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project**.

Detailed Explanation:

India has approved major infrastructure and hydropower projects linked to the **Chenab River**, with a total investment of nearly **₹2,600 crore**.

The projects are expected to be implemented by **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).**

The decision comes shortly after India placed engagement under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** framework in abeyance following heightened tensions with Pakistan after the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

The projects aim to improve India's utilization of river waters and expand hydropower generation capacity in the Chenab basin.

The biggest project approved is the **₹2,352 crore Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project**.

The project is planned in the **Lahaul-Spiti region of Himachal Pradesh** and involves the construction of an **8.7-kilometre tunnel**.

408. Which of the following is the name of the interactive biodiversity space being developed by the Delhi Forest Department?

A.Van Raksha

B.Eco Vatika

C.Biodiversity Ark

D.Green Corridor Park

E.Vaman Van

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The Delhi Forest Department is planning to develop **'Vaman Van'**, a unique interactive biodiversity space aimed at promoting **environmental awareness, ecological education and nature conservation**.

The project will focus on showcasing **dwarf and miniature plant species** to create an engaging and compact biodiversity zone for children, students and visitors.

Vaman Van is designed as an interactive ecological learning space where visitors can directly observe plant diversity and understand forest ecosystems through practical experience.

Detailed Explanation:

The Delhi Forest Department is planning to develop **'Vaman Van'**, a unique interactive biodiversity space aimed at promoting **environmental awareness, ecological education and nature conservation**.

The project will focus on showcasing **dwarf and miniature plant species** to create an engaging and compact biodiversity zone for children, students and visitors.

Vaman Van is designed as an interactive ecological learning space where visitors can directly observe plant diversity and understand forest ecosystems through practical experience.

The initiative aims to improve public awareness about:

Forest ecosystems

Plant diversity

Ecological balance

Environmental conservation

Sustainable living practices

According to officials, the project is especially intended to make environmental education more engaging for **school students and younger generations**.

The proposed biodiversity zone is expected to be developed in Delhi's **western forest range**.

Unlike traditional parks, Vaman Van will function as a **living environmental classroom** where visitors can closely study miniature plant varieties and biodiversity concepts.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta

Lieutenant Governor: Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Capital: New Delhi

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Aravalli Biodiversity Park

409. From which countries were the initial cheetahs translocated under India's Project Cheetah?

A.Kenya and Ethiopia

B.Namibia and South Africa

C.Botswana and Zimbabwe

D.Tanzania and Mozambique

E.Namibia and Botswana

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India's flagship wildlife restoration programme Project Cheetah has achieved a major milestone as the country's cheetah population increased to **53**, including **33 cubs born in India**.

The progress reflects successful adaptation, breeding and survival of cheetahs reintroduced under one of the world's most ambitious wildlife conservation programmes.

Project Cheetah was launched to reintroduce cheetahs into India after the species was officially declared extinct in the country in **1952** due to hunting and habitat loss.

The programme initially began with the translocation of **20 cheetahs** from Namibia and South Africa.

Detailed Explanation:

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Project Cheetah was launched to reintroduce cheetahs into India after the species was officially declared extinct in the country in **1952** due to hunting and habitat loss.

The programme initially began with the translocation of **20 cheetahs** from Namibia and South Africa.

In early 2026, an additional **nine cheetahs from Botswana** were introduced to strengthen genetic diversity and improve long-term sustainability of the population.

A high-level review meeting chaired by **Bhupender Yadav assessed** the progress of **Project Cheetah** and discussed expansion plans for the next phase of the mission.

Project Cheetah is considered the **world's first intercontinental translocation project involving large wild carnivores**.

410. Which of the following works won the International Booker Prize 2026?

A.The Book of Form and Emptiness

B.Heaven

C.Taipei Elegy

D.Taiwan Travelogue

E.The Shadow of the Wind

Answer:D

Short Explanation:

Taiwan Travelogue has won the **International Booker Prize 2026**, bringing global recognition to Taiwan's literary culture and storytelling tradition.

The novel was written by **Yang Shuang-zi and translated into English by Lin King.**

The victory is historically significant as it marks the **first work translated from Mandarin Chinese** to win the International Booker Prize.

Detailed Explanation:

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The victory is historically significant as it marks the **first work translated from Mandarin Chinese** to win the International Booker Prize.

The International Booker Prize recognises both the author and translator equally, highlighting the growing importance of **literary translation in global publishing**.

The novel was originally published in Taiwan in **2020**.

The story is set in **1938**, during the period when Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule.

The novel follows a fictional Japanese writer named **Aoyama Chizuko**, whose memoir forms the central narrative of the book.

411. Who is the Kantha embroidery artist awarded the Padma Shri for preserving and promoting traditional Kantha stitching?

A.Anjali Sharma

B.Tripti Mukherjee

C.Sunita Devi

D.Rekha Nair

E.Meena Kumari

Answer:B

Short Explanation:

Kantha embroidery artist Tripti Mukherjee will receive the **Padma Shri** on for her contribution to preserving and **promoting the traditional Kantha stitching art of West Bengal.**

The award will be presented **by President Droupadi Murmu**.

Detailed Explanation:

Kantha embroidery artist Tripti Mukherjee will receive the **Padma Shri** on for her contribution to preserving and **promoting the traditional Kantha stitching art of West Bengal.**

The award will be presented **by President Droupadi Murmu**.

She is being honoured for her contribution to traditional Indian handicrafts and women empowerment through artisan training and skill development.

Tripti Mukherjee is a renowned artisan from West Bengal with nearly **37 years of experience** in Kantha embroidery.

She developed an interest in embroidery at an early age after learning the craft from her mother.

Kantha stitch is one of the oldest traditional embroidery styles associated with West Bengal and Bangladesh.

412. Who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) for contributions to public health and infectious disease research?

A.Gagandeep Kang

B.K. Sivan

C.Soumya Swaminathan

D.Tessy Thomas

E.Sunita Narain

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Dr Soumya Swaminathan has been elected as a **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)**, one of the world's most prestigious scientific honours.

The recognition honours her decades-long contribution to **public health, infectious disease research and global healthcare leadership**.

The **Royal Society** is among the oldest and most respected scientific institutions in the world.

Detailed Explanation:

Dr Soumya Swaminathan has been elected as a **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)**, one of the world's most prestigious scientific honours.

The recognition honours her decades-long contribution to **public health, infectious disease research and global healthcare leadership**.

The **Royal Society** is among the oldest and most respected scientific institutions in the world.

Election as a Fellow of the Royal Society is considered one of the **highest recognitions in global science** and is reserved for individuals with exceptional contributions to science, medicine and innovation.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan and her father M S Swaminathan are believed to be the **first Indian father-daughter duo** to both become Fellows of the Royal Society.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan is also only the **second Indian woman scientist** to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The first Indian woman scientist to receive this honour was Gagandeep Kang.

413. Where was the Indian War Memorial inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?

A.Seoul War Memorial, Seoul

B.Imjingak Peace Park

C.Busan Memorial Park

D.DMZ Peace Zone

E.Jeju Peace Garden

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **Indian War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park**, marking an important milestone **in relations between India and South Korea.**

The memorial honours Indian military personnel who served during the **Korean War (1950–53)**, especially those involved in **humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping duties**.

Detailed Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **Indian War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park**, marking an important milestone **in relations between India and South Korea.**

The memorial honours Indian military personnel who served during the **Korean War (1950–53)**, especially those involved in **humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping duties**.

The inauguration ceremony was jointly conducted with Kwon Oh-eul.

During the ceremony, **Rajnath Singh** laid a wreath, observed a **two-minute silence** and paid tribute to Indian soldiers whose contributions remain an important chapter in military history.

The occasion has been described as both a **symbolic and strategic milestone** in India–South Korea bilateral relations.

India was not a direct combatant in the Korean War, but it played a major **humanitarian and peacekeeping role** during the conflict.

One of India's most important contributions came from the **60 Parachute Field Ambulance Unit**, popularly known as the **"Maroon Angels."**

414. Which ship was launched by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited as the first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) for the Indian Navy?

A.INS Vikrant

B.INS Nilgiri

C.INS Arnala

D.INS Vikramaditya

E.INS Sanghmitra

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited launched **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sanghmitra (Yard 3039)**, the **first of four Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)** for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

The launch ceremony of INS Sanghmitra was held at **GRSE Yard, Kolkata, West Bengal**, on **20 May 2026**.

INS Sanghmitra belongs to the **Shachi-class NGOPV** category.

The vessel is being built under the **Buy (Indian-IDDM – Indigenous Design, Development and Manufacturing)** category.

Detailed Explanation:

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INS Sanghmitra belongs to the **Shachi-class NGOPV** category.

The vessel is being built under the **Buy (Indian-IDDM – Indigenous Design, Development and Manufacturing)** category.

The project supports the Government of India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives aimed at strengthening indigenous naval and defence manufacturing capabilities.

INS Sanghmitra is named after **Sanghmitra**, the **daughter of Emperor Ashoka**, who spread the teachings of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka.

The ship's crest features the **constellation Ursa Major** along with a **red-and-white lighthouse**.

INS Sanghmitra measures around **113 metres in length** with a **beam of 14.6 metres**.

415. Who signed the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation between the Indian Army and the Indian Navy?

A.General Anil Chauhan and Admiral R. Hari Kumar

B.Lt Gen VPS Kaushik and Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh

C.Lt Gen Manoj Pande and Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

D.Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi

E.Defence Secretary and Chief of Defence Staff

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Indian Navy (IN)** signed a **Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to enhance **inter-service cooperation, operational cohesion, and jointness** among the armed forces.

The MoA was signed by **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) VPS Kaushik, Adjutant General of the Indian Army**, and **Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Indian Navy (IN)** signed a **Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to enhance **inter-service cooperation, operational cohesion, and jointness** among the armed forces.

The MoA was signed by **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) VPS Kaushik, Adjutant General of the Indian Army**, and **Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy**.

The main objective of the agreement is to institutionalise **structured professional**

exchanges, operational familiarisation, joint activities, and **coordinated multi-domain operations** between the two services.

The initiative supports **future-ready multi-domain operations**, enabling **rapid decision-making, cross-domain coordination**, and **enhanced protection of territorial and maritime interests**.

The cooperation will also facilitate **future inter-service affiliations** and establish **broad guidelines for affiliation activities** between the Indian Army and Indian Navy.

416. Which programme was dedicated to the nation for the management of inherited and rare genetic disorders?

A.Ayushman Bharat Programme

B.Genome India Mission

C.National Health Mission

D.UMMID Programme

E.PM Jan Arogya Yojana

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, dedicated the **UMMID (Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders) Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders/Diseases** to the nation.

The event was organised by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi**.

UMMID Programme aims to strengthen India's healthcare system through **genome-based, precision-driven, and individualized medical care** based on patients' genetic profiles.

Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, dedicated the **UMMID (Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders) Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders/Diseases** to the nation.

The event was organised by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi**.

UMMID Programme aims to strengthen India's healthcare system through **genome-based, precision-driven, and individualized medical care** based on patients' genetic profiles.

The initiative focuses on making the **diagnosis and management of inherited and rare genetic disorders** more feasible, affordable, and accessible.

The programme is designed to prepare India's healthcare ecosystem for the **next generation of gene-based and genome-based medical care**.

During the event, the Minister released the **UMMID Compendium** and launched the **UMMID Dashboard**.

The **UMMID Dashboard** aims to improve nationwide access to **diagnostics, counselling, outreach services**, and **programme monitoring** for inherited disorders.

The UMMID Programme integrates **genetic diagnostics, prenatal screening, newborn screening, genetic counselling, clinician**

capacity-building, and **community outreach** under a unified public health framework

417. As of 2026, the procurement order for the 'Suryastra' Universal Rocket Launcher System, placed under the Emergency Procurement window in January 2026, is valued at____

A.₹193 crore

B.₹293 crore

C.₹393 crore

D.₹493 crore

E.₹593 crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India successfully conducted consecutive trials of the **'Suryastra' Universal Rocket Launcher System**, achieving precise strikes on targets up to **300 kilometres (km)**.

The trials successfully met **all mission objectives** during the testing phase.

The high-precision trials were conducted by **NIBE Limited** from the **Integrated Test Range**.

The **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** is located at **Chandipur, Balasore**, off the coast of **Odisha**.

Suryastra is a **long-range guided rocket artillery system** designed to carry out precision strikes deep inside hostile territory.

Suryastra was developed by Pune-based **NIBE Limited** in collaboration with **Elbit Systems, Israel**.

The firing demonstration was conducted under a **₹293 crore procurement order** of the **Indian Army**.

Detailed Explanation:

India successfully conducted consecutive trials of the **'Suryastra' Universal Rocket Launcher System**, achieving precise strikes on targets up to **300 kilometres (km)**.

The trials successfully met **all mission objectives** during the testing phase.

The high-precision trials were conducted by **NIBE Limited** from the **Integrated Test Range**.

The **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** is located at **Chandipur, Balasore**, off the coast of **Odisha**.

Suryastra is a **long-range guided rocket artillery system** designed to carry out precision strikes deep inside hostile territory.

The system is capable of targeting **enemy command centres, radar installations, logistics hubs**, and **strategic military targets**.

Suryastra was developed by Pune-based **NIBE Limited** in collaboration with **Elbit Systems, Israel**.

The firing demonstration was conducted under a **₹293 crore procurement order** of the **Indian Army**.

The procurement order for Suryastra was placed in **January 2026** under the **Emergency Procurement window**.

The **Tactical Variant** of Suryastra has a strike range of **150 km**.

The 150 km Tactical Variant achieved a **Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 1.5 metres (m)**.

The **Tactical Variant** is designed for **precise battlefield support** and **neutralisation of nearby enemy targets**.

418. In 2026, the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) signed an agreement with which company for the project titled "Commercialization of Electronics and IT based STEM Activity Kit"?

A.M/s Bharat Electronics Limited

B.M/s HCL Technologies

C.M/s Tata Elxsi Limited

D.M/s Infosys Technologies

E.M/s Ansoz Creations Private Limited

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **M/s Ansoz Creations Private. Limited., Bhopal**.

The agreement was signed for the project titled **"Commercialization of Electronics and IT based STEM Activity Kit."**

The initiative aims to strengthen India's **indigenous educational technology** and **experiential learning ecosystem**.

M/s Ansoz Creations Pvt. Ltd. will work on **scaling up the manufacturing** of advanced **STEM activity kits**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **M/s Ansoz Creations Private. Limited., Bhopal**.

The agreement was signed for the project titled **"Commercialization of Electronics and IT based STEM Activity Kit."**

The initiative aims to strengthen India's **indigenous educational technology** and **experiential learning ecosystem**.

M/s Ansoz Creations Pvt. Ltd. will work on **scaling up the manufacturing** of advanced **STEM activity kits**.

The STEM kits are designed to support **adaptive, experiential, and personalized cognitive learning** for different age groups.

The company stated that the support from TDB would enhance its **manufacturing and innovation capabilities** in the education technology sector.

The initiative is expected to contribute towards building a **future-ready learning ecosystem** in India.

419. In 2026, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has selected how many Convergence Research Centres of

Excellence (CoEs) under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence Programme?

A.5

B.7

C.10

D.12

E.15

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** announced the selection of **10 Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence Programme.

The initiative aims to promote the integration of **Scientific Knowledge, Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Technology** through a multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary research approach.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** announced the selection of **10 Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence Programme.

The initiative aims to promote the integration of **Scientific Knowledge, Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Technology** through a multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary research approach.

The programme focuses on addressing complex **societal and systemic challenges** through collaborative and integrated research.

The initiative is aligned with the vision of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which promotes multidisciplinary education and research integration.

The programme also supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, aimed at transforming India into a developed, innovative, inclusive, and self-reliant nation.

The programme received **945 proposals** from academic and research institutions across the country, reflecting its national importance.

420. Recently the RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) has the capacity to carry up to how many independently targeted nuclear warheads?

A.12

B.16

C.15

D.18

E.20

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Russia successfully conducted the test of the **RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome** in northern Russia.

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** described the newly tested Sarmat missile system as the **“world’s most powerful missile system.”**

The RS-28 Sarmat, also known by NATO designation **"Satan II"**, is designed to replace the Soviet-era **R-36M2 Voyevoda** missiles.
The missile is approximately **35 metres long** and weighs over **208 tonnes**, making it one of the heaviest and most powerful ICBMs in the world.
It has a payload capacity to carry up to **16 independently targeted smaller nuclear warheads** or **10 large nuclear warheads**.
Detailed Explanation:
Russia successfully conducted the test of the **RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome** in northern Russia.
Russian President **Vladimir Putin** described the newly tested Sarmat missile system as the **"world's most powerful missile system."**
The RS-28 Sarmat, also known by NATO designation **"Satan II"**, is designed to replace the Soviet-era **R-36M2 Voyevoda** missiles.
The missile is approximately **35 metres long** and weighs over **208 tonnes**, making it one of the heaviest and most powerful ICBMs in the world.
It has a payload capacity to carry up to **16 independently targeted smaller nuclear warheads** or **10 large nuclear warheads**.
The system is equipped with **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs)**, allowing a single missile to strike multiple targets simultaneously.
It can also carry the **Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle**, which is designed to **evade missile defence systems** by changing direction at extremely high speeds during flight.
The estimated strike range of the RS-28 Sarmat is **over 10,000 km**, while Russia claims it can **exceed 35,000 km**.

421. As of 2026, the newly discovered giant dinosaur species *Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis* was found in which country?
A.Thailand
B.Laos
C.Vietnam
D.Myanmar
E.Cambodia
Answer: A
Short Explanation:
Researchers have discovered a new giant dinosaur species named **Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis** in **Thailand**, which is considered the **largest dinosaur ever found in Southeast Asia**.
The fossils were discovered in **Chaiyaphum province**, located in **northeastern Thailand**, marking an important breakthrough in paleontological research.
The recovered fossils include key skeletal parts such as **spine, ribs, pelvis and leg bones**, indicating a well-preserved large dinosaur specimen.
A **humerus bone** measuring about **1.78 metres** was also found, highlighting the massive size of the species.
Detailed Explanation:

Researchers have discovered a new giant dinosaur species named **Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis** in **Thailand**, which is considered the **largest dinosaur ever found in Southeast Asia**.

The fossils were discovered in **Chaiyaphum province**, located in **northeastern Thailand**, marking an important breakthrough in paleontological research.

The recovered fossils include key skeletal parts such as **spine, ribs, pelvis and leg bones**, indicating a well-preserved large dinosaur specimen.

A **humerus bone** measuring about **1.78 metres** was also found, highlighting the massive size of the species.

Scientists estimate that Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis was nearly **27 metres (90 feet) long**, making it one of the largest land animals of its era.

The dinosaur is believed to have weighed around **25–28 tonnes**, classifying it among the heaviest prehistoric terrestrial creatures.

422. By whom, the Bharat Tex 2026 Event App, a unified digital platform for India's largest global textile event, was launched?

A.Piyush Goyal

B.Neelam Shami Rao

C.G. Kishan Reddy

D.S.Jaishankar

E.Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, launched the **Bharat Tex 2026 Event App** designed as a **unified digital platform** for India's largest global textile event.

The Bharat Tex 2026 App reflects a **digital-first approach** aimed at strengthening **business matchmaking**, improving attendee experience, enabling **data-driven engagement**, and supporting the overall scale of the event.

The app has been developed as a **comprehensive digital companion** enabling participants to access event information, discover exhibitors, **schedule meetings**, navigate venues, **capture leads**, access knowledge sessions, and receive **real-time updates** through a single mobile interface.

Detailed Explanation:

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The app has been developed as a **comprehensive digital companion** enabling participants to access event information, discover exhibitors, **schedule meetings**, navigate venues, **capture leads**, access knowledge sessions, and receive **real-time updates** through a single mobile interface.

The app offers **personalised access, views, and engagement tools** for stakeholders including exhibitors, speakers, international delegates, overseas buyers, domestic volume buyers, sourcing consultants, and general visitors.

A major feature of the app is the **AI Smart Assistant**, designed as a **24x7 conversational guide** for attendees.

423. As of 2026, Kami Rita Sherpa recently created a world record by scaling Mount Everest for the_____

A.28th time

B.30th time

C.31st time

D.32nd time

E.33rd time

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Kami Rita Sherpa created history by scaling **Mount Everest (8848.86 m)** for a record **32nd time**, breaking his own record for the highest number of Everest ascents.

The **56-year-old** climber became the world record holder for the most climbs to the world's highest peak, reinforcing his legacy as the **"Everest Man"**.

Kami Rita Sherpa was born in the **Solukhumbu district of Nepal** and began his mountaineering career in **1992**, completing his **first Everest ascent in 1994**.

Detailed Explanation:

Kami Rita Sherpa created history by scaling **Mount Everest (8848.86 m)** for a record **32nd time**, breaking his own record for the highest number of Everest ascents.

The **56-year-old** climber became the world record holder for the most climbs to the world's highest peak, reinforcing his legacy as the **"Everest Man"**.

Kami Rita Sherpa was born in the **Solukhumbu district of Nepal** and began his mountaineering career in **1992**, completing his **first Everest ascent in 1994**.

He previously achieved his **31st Everest summit on May 27, 2025**, before setting the new **32nd ascent record on May 17** (**10:12 a.m. local time**) while guiding a team of climbers.

He has consistently climbed Everest almost every year since 1994, except during **closures in 2014, 2015 and 2020**.

424. As of 2026, East Bengal FC won the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026 title by defeating which team in the final?

A.Mohun Bagan

B.Kerala Blasters

C.Bengaluru FC

D.Mumbai City FC

E.Inter Kashi

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

East Bengal FC won the **Indian Super League 2026 title** for the first time, ending a **22-year wait** for a top-tier **domestic league championship**.

East Bengal defeated Inter Kashi by **2-1** in the title-deciding match held at Kishore Bharati Krirangan.

Detailed Explanation:

East Bengal FC won the **Indian Super League 2026 title** for the first time, ending a **22-year wait** for a top-tier **domestic league championship**.

East Bengal defeated Inter Kashi by **2-1** in the title-deciding match held at Kishore Bharati Krirangan.

The victory marked one of the most significant moments in modern Indian football history and ended East Bengal's long title drought since the **2003–04 National Football League season**.

Inter Kashi took an early lead in the **15th minute** through Alfred, putting pressure on East Bengal in front of the home crowd.

425. Recently in news, ICRA(Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected India's GDP growth for FY26 at_____

A.7.2%

B.7.3%

C.7.4%

D.7.5%

E.7.6%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

ICRA projected India's **GDP growth at 7.5% for FY26**.

The FY26 GDP estimate of 7.5% is **10 bps lower** than the **National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Second Advance Estimate (SAE) of 7.6%**.

According to ICRA, India's GDP growth in the **fourth quarter (Q4: January–March) of FY26** is expected to moderate to a three-quarter low of **7%**.

Detailed Explanation:

ICRA projected India's **GDP growth at 7.5% for FY26**.

The FY26 GDP estimate of 7.5% is **10 bps lower** than the **National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Second Advance Estimate (SAE) of 7.6%**.

According to ICRA, India's GDP growth in the **fourth quarter (Q4: January–March) of FY26** is expected to moderate to a three-quarter low of **7%**.

India's GDP growth had stood at **7.8% in Q3FY26**, which is higher than the projected 7% growth in Q4FY26.

The report highlighted that India's **Merchandise exports in Q4FY26 declined by 2.8% year-on-year (Y-o-Y)**.

426. In 2026, the high-level review meeting on the progress of GIFT City at Gandhinagar was chaired by whom, and banking assets at GIFT City have crossed which amount?

A.Piyush Goyal – USD 75 billion

B.Amit Shah – USD 90 billion

C.Nirmala Sitharaman – USD 110 billion

D.Uday Kotak – USD 150 billion

E.Arvind Shrivastava – USD 50 billion

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired a high-level review meeting on the progress of **GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

The meeting reviewed the development of GIFT City's **international financial services ecosystem**.

GIFT City currently hosts **more than 1,150 entities** operating across financial services, technology, and related sectors.

Banking assets at GIFT City have crossed **USD 110 billion**.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired a high-level review meeting on the progress of **GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

The meeting reviewed the development of GIFT City's **international financial services ecosystem**.

Senior officials present at the meeting included **Shri V. Vualnam** (Secretary, Department of Expenditure), **Smt. Anuradha Thakur** (Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs), **Shri Arvind Shrivastava** (Secretary, Department of Revenue), **Shri Uday Kotak** (Chairman of GIFT City), and **Shri K. Rajaraman** (Chairman, International Financial Services Centres Authority – IFSCA).

Presentations during the meeting highlighted the progress of GIFT City in sectors such as **banking, capital markets, fund management, insurance and reinsurance, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, fintech, bullion exchange, international education**, and allied services.

Discussions focused on **infrastructure development, talent ecosystem, ease of doing business, taxation framework, residential ecosystem**, and **global competitiveness** of GIFT City.

GIFT City currently hosts **more than 1,150 entities** operating across financial services, technology, and related sectors.

Banking assets at GIFT City have crossed **USD 110 billion**.

427. As of 2026, the committee constituted by PFRDA to explore long-term inclusion of new asset classes in pension investments is chaired by whom, and the total number of NPS subscribers reached what figure in FY26?

A.S. Ramann – 1.25 crore

B.Narayan Ramachandran – 2.17 crore

C.Deepak Mohanty – 3.10 crore

D.Arvind Panagariya – 2.75 crore

E.Uday Kotak – 1.80 crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** constituted a committee to explore the **long-term inclusion of new asset classes** in pension investments.

The committee formed by PFRDA is chaired by **Narayan Ramachandran**.

The total number of subscribers under the National Pension System (NPS) reached **2.17 crore in FY26**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** constituted a committee to explore the **long-term inclusion of new asset classes** in pension investments.

The objective of the committee is to **improve returns for subscribers** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

The committee formed by PFRDA is chaired by **Narayan Ramachandran**.

The panel aims to identify **investment options that provide stable, steady, and long-term growth** while avoiding excessive market volatility in pension returns.

PFRDA Chairman **S. Ramann** stated that the regulator is studying **global pension fund models**.

The regulator aims to create a **"smooth glide path"** for **sustainable pension growth** in India.

The total number of subscribers under the National Pension System (NPS) reached **2.17 crore in FY26**.

428. In 2026, ZikZuk Technologies Private Limited received final authorisation from the RBI to operate as which of the following, under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007?

A.Payment Bank

B.Small Finance Bank

C.Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer

D.Asset Reconstruction Company

E.Bharat Bill Payment Operator

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

ZikZuk Technologies Private Limited received final authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer**.

The approval was granted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007**.

The final authorisation follows the company's earlier **in-principle approval** received in **May 2025**.

The PPI authorisation enables ZikZuk Technologies to operate across **digital payments, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure**, and **cross-border financial services**.

Detailed Explanation:

ZikZuk Technologies Private Limited received final authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer**.

The approval was granted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007**.

The final authorisation follows the company's earlier **in-principle approval** received in **May 2025**.

The PPI authorisation enables ZikZuk Technologies to operate across **digital payments, Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

infrastructure, and **cross-border financial services**.

The approval allows the company to expand and scale a wide range of **RBI-regulated payment solutions**.

The payment solutions include **digital wallets, prepaid cards**, and **stored-value services**.

A **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** is a payment system in which **money is loaded in advance** for future financial transactions.

General Purpose PPIs include **Full-Know Your Customer (KYC) PPIs** and **Small PPIs**.

Special Purpose PPIs include **Gift PPIs** and **Transit PPIs** used for metro, bus, rail, and toll payments.

429. In 2026, the Central Government announced the launch of a High-Powered Demography Mission mainly to address illegal immigration from which of the following neighbouring countries?

A.Nepal and Bhutan

B.China and Nepal

C.Sri Lanka and Maldives

D.Bangladesh and Myanmar

E.Afghanistan and Pakistan

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Central Government** is preparing to launch a **High-Powered Demography Mission** aimed at tackling illegal immigration, strengthening border security and **preventing demographic changes in sensitive border regions.**

The initiative was **announced by Amit Shah** during the **Rustamji Memorial Lecture organized** by the **Border Security Force**.

The mission will mainly focus on preventing infiltration from neighbouring countries such as **Bangladesh and Myanmar**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Government** is preparing to launch a **High-Powered Demography Mission** aimed at tackling illegal immigration, strengthening border security and **preventing demographic changes in sensitive border regions.**

The initiative was **announced by Amit Shah** during the **Rustamji Memorial Lecture organized** by the **Border Security Force**.

The mission will mainly focus on preventing infiltration from neighbouring countries such as **Bangladesh and Myanmar**.

The government believes that unchecked illegal immigration may create **security challenges, administrative pressure and demographic imbalance** in border states, especially in eastern and northeastern India.

The initiative is expected to combine **border management, administrative enforcement, state-level coordination and technology-driven surveillance systems**.

States likely to be at the centre of the initiative include **West Bengal, Assam and Tripura,** as these states share sensitive **international borders and have frequently witnessed immigration-related concerns.**

Alongside the Demography Mission, the government is also planning to launch a **Smart**

Border Project covering nearly **6,000 kilometres of border areas** with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

430. In 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with which of the following honours during his visit to Sweden?

A.Order of the White Lion
B.Royal Order of Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross
C.Order of St. Andrew
D.Legion of Honour
E.Order of Friendship
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Sweden** on a two-day official visit from **17–18 May 2026** at the invitation of Swedish Prime Minister **Ulf Kristersson**.
PM Modi had earlier visited Sweden in **2018** to attend the inaugural **India-Nordic Summit**.
PM Modi also participated in the **European Round Table for Industry**, co-hosted by Ulf Kristersson and **Ursula von der Leyen**.
PM Modi was conferred with the **"Royal Order of Polar Star", Degree Commander Grand Cross**, one of the highest civilian honours of the Swedish Government.
Detailed Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Sweden** on a two-day official visit from **17–18 May 2026** at the invitation of Swedish Prime Minister **Ulf Kristersson**.
PM Modi had earlier visited Sweden in **2018** to attend the inaugural **India-Nordic Summit**.
During the visit, PM Modi held bilateral talks with Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson in **Gothenburg**.
PM Modi also participated in the **European Round Table for Industry**, co-hosted by Ulf Kristersson and **Ursula von der Leyen**.
PM Modi was conferred with the **"Royal Order of Polar Star", Degree Commander Grand Cross**, one of the highest civilian honours of the Swedish Government.
The honour became the **31st international award** received by PM Modi.
India and Sweden agreed to elevate their bilateral relations and adopted a **Joint Action Plan for 2026–2030**.

431. In 2026, Chandrayaan-3 received the prestigious Goddard Astronautics Award from which organisation?

A.NASA
B.International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
C.American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
D.European Space Agency (ESA)
E.SpaceX Foundation
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has received the prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**, one of the world's leading organisations in the field of aerospace science and astronautics.

The award was presented in **Washington, District of Columbia (DC), United States**, and was accepted on behalf of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** by **India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra**.

Detailed Explanation:

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has received the prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**, one of the world's leading organisations in the field of aerospace science and astronautics.

The award was presented in **Washington, District of Columbia (DC), United States**, and was accepted on behalf of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** by **India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra**.

The honour recognises the historic success of **Chandrayaan-3**, which made India the **first country in the world to successfully achieve a soft landing near the Moon's south pole**.

This achievement marked a major milestone in global space exploration and strengthened India's position as a leading space power.

The mission's success on **23 August 2023** was globally significant because the Moon's south polar region is considered one of the least explored and most scientifically valuable areas of the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-3 also delivered important scientific outcomes by confirming the presence of key chemical elements in lunar soil and generating valuable data for future lunar missions.

432. In 2026, the Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade held at the Garud Regimental Training Centre marked the successful completion of training of which Indian Air Force Special Force?

A.Garud Force

B.Para SF

C.Marcos

D.NSG Black Cats

E.COBRA Force

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade** was held on **23 May 2026** at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar**.

The parade marked the successful completion of training of the **Indian Air Force (IAF) Special Forces operatives** of the **'Garud' Force**.

Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Rahul Gupta, ACAS Ops (Space), reviewed the parade as the **Chief Guest**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade** was held on **23 May 2026** at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar**.

The parade marked the successful completion of training of the **Indian Air Force (IAF) Special Forces operatives** of the **'Garud' Force**.

Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Rahul Gupta, ACAS Ops (Space), reviewed the parade as the **Chief Guest**.

The **Commandant of Garud Regimental Training Centre** received the Chief Guest and briefed him on various aspects of the training programme.

The Chief Guest congratulated the newly trained 'Garuds' on successfully completing the **demanding Special Forces training**.

During his address, AVM Rahul Gupta highlighted the importance of **rigorous training and continuous improvement** of Special Forces skills to meet evolving security challenges.

The successful trainees were awarded the **Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge**, and **Special Forces Tabs**.

Trophies were also presented to outstanding award-winning trainees during the ceremony.

433. In 2026, the 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) Meeting was held at Ahmedabad under the chairmanship of whom?

A.Rajnath Singh

B.Rakesh Pal

C.K. Rajaraman

D.Vivek Ram Chaudhari

E.Paramesh Sivamani

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) Meeting** was held at **Ahmedabad**.

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Director General Indian Coast Guard, **Paramesh Sivamani**.

The main objective of the meeting was to review and strengthen the **security framework for India's offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) Meeting** was held at **Ahmedabad**.

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Director General Indian Coast Guard, **Paramesh Sivamani**.

The main objective of the meeting was to review and strengthen the **security framework for India's offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure**.

The committee focused on enhancing **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** and strengthening **inter-agency coordination**.

Discussions were held on improving **surveillance capabilities** and **joint response mechanisms** to tackle emerging offshore security threats.

The meeting deliberated on the evolving global and regional security environment and **changing dynamics of modern warfare**.

Special focus was given to threats arising from **unmanned systems** and **drone-enabled warfare**.

The committee also reviewed the expanding **offshore exploration activities** in the **Andaman & Nicobar region**.

434. In 2026, who among the following Indian scientists was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) for pioneering contributions to Theoretical Computer Science, including the AKS Primality Test?

A.K. Sivan

B.Manindra Agrawal

C.C.N.R. Rao

D.A.S. Kiran Kumar

E.Jayant Narlikar

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Professor Manindra Agrawal, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, and **Dr Soumya Swaminathan** were elected as **Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS)**.

The **Royal Society (FRS)** is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious **scientific academies**.

Detailed Explanation:

Professor Manindra Agrawal, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, and **Dr Soumya Swaminathan** were elected as **Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS)**.

The **Royal Society (FRS)** is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious **scientific academies**.

By receiving the honour, they joined the elite group of distinguished scientists including **Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and Charles Darwin**.

Professor Manindra Agrawal was recognised for his pioneering contributions to **Theoretical Computer Science**.

He is especially known for the **AKS (Agrawal–Kayal–Saxena) Primality Test**, a breakthrough algorithm for identifying prime numbers.

435. In 2026, India submitted its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR-1) to which of the following organisations under global climate commitments?

A.United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

B.United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

C.United Nations Environment Programme

D.International Panel on Climate Change

E.World Meteorological Organization

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

India submitted its first **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR-1)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

India is strengthening its **National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Systems** and improving emissions accounting as part of global climate action efforts.

A three-day **Knowledge Sharing Workshop on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory** was organised from **20–22 May 2026** at **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun**.

Detailed Explanation:

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A three-day **Knowledge Sharing Workshop on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory** was organised from **20–22 May 2026** at **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun**.

The workshop was jointly organised by **CSIR-IIP** and the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.

The event focused on **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) accounting** for the **Energy** and **Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU)** sectors.

Experts from organisations such as **CSIR-CIMFR, CMPDI, CII, IIT-ISM Dhanbad, NIAS, AEEE, and Jadavpur University** participated in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by **Dr. Harender Singh Bisht**, Director of CSIR-IIP.

Dr. Bisht highlighted the importance of **emission accounting** and **sustainable technologies** for climate change mitigation.

436. In 2026, scientists at ICAR–Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack developed CRISPR1 (POC1), which is recognised as the world's first AI-designed genome-editing platform for which of the following?

A.Animals

B.Human cells

C.Bacteria

D.Plants

E.Algae

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Scientists at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI)** developed and validated **Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1)** in **Cuttack, Odisha**.

The research was led by **Dr. Kutubuddin Ali Molla**.

Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1) is the world's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for plants**.

The platform was developed using **rice as a model crop**.

POC1 enables advanced **gene knockout, base editing**, and **prime editing** in rice crops.

Detailed Explanation:

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The research was led by **Dr. Kutubuddin Ali Molla**.

Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1) is the world's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for plants**.

The platform was developed using **rice as a model crop**.

POC1 enables advanced **gene knockout, base editing**, and **prime editing** in rice crops.

The platform uses **AI-designed enzymes** that go beyond conventional **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** technologies.
The main objective of POC1 is to develop **climate-resilient, disease-resistant, high-yield**, and **nutritionally enhanced crop varieties**.
The platform enables **precise genome editing** without introducing foreign genes into plants.
POC1 is based on **OpenCRISPR-1 (OC1)**, an AI-generated nuclease originally designed for human cells in the **United States of America (USA)**.
Unlike traditional CRISPR systems that use naturally occurring microbial proteins, POC1 uses **AI-engineered enzymes**.
The platform applies **large language models (LLMs)** trained on vast protein databases for advanced **protein engineering**.

437. In 2026, NIBE Limited successfully conducted trials of its Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition, which has an operational range of how many kilometres?
A.50 km
B.75 km
C.100 km
D.150 km
E.200 km
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
NIBE Limited, a defence manufacturing company, successfully conducted trials of its **Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition (LM)**.
The Vayu Astra-1 has an **operational range of 100 kilometres (km)**.
The trials were conducted at **Pokhran, Rajasthan** and **Joshimath (Malari), Uttarakhand**.
The trials demonstrated the **No-Cost, No-Commitment (NCNC) model**.
Under the NCNC model, NIBE Limited independently conducted demonstrations and managed all **technology, operational, and technical validation costs**.
The **Indian Army (IA)** acted as the **evaluating authority** for the trials.
Detailed Explanation:
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Under the NCNC model, NIBE Limited independently conducted demonstrations and managed all **technology, operational, and technical validation costs**.
The **Indian Army (IA)** acted as the **evaluating authority** for the trials.

The evaluation was conducted under a **Request for Proposal (RFP) framework** to assess whether the system met the standards for a **100 km long-range kamikaze drone**.

The Vayu Astra-1 loitering munition is based on an **Israeli-designed loitering munition system**.

The system was developed in collaboration with **Elbit Systems**.

438. In 2026, a new worm-eating snake species named 'Trachischium lalremsangai' was discovered during biodiversity surveys in which of the following regions?

A.Mizoram and Myanmar

B.Assam and Nepal

C.Kerala and Sri Lanka

D.Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan

E.Sikkim and Bangladesh

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Researchers discovered a new worm-eating snake species named **'Trachischium lalremsangai'** during biodiversity and herpetological surveys in the forest regions of **Mizoram and Myanmar**.

The species was named after **Hmar Tlawmte Lalremsanga** in recognition of his contributions to herpetology research in India.

Detailed Explanation:

Researchers discovered a new worm-eating snake species named **'Trachischium lalremsangai'** during biodiversity and herpetological surveys in the forest regions of **Mizoram and Myanmar**.

The species was named after **Hmar Tlawmte Lalremsanga** in recognition of his contributions to herpetology research in India.

The discovery was officially documented in the international journal **Herpetozoa**.

The journal Herpetozoa is published by the **Austrian Herpetological Society**.

Trachischium lalremsangai is a **small, non-venomous, and harmless** snake species.

The species is **semi-fossorial**, meaning it primarily **lives underground**.

It is commonly found in **loose soil, leaf litter, and forest debris**.

The species belongs to the group commonly known as **slender snakes or worm-eating snakes**.

439. In 2026, India signed a bilateral WTO accession protocol with which country in Geneva to support its entry into the World Trade Organization?

A.Kenya

B.Nigeria

C.Vietnam

D.Bangladesh

E.Ethiopia

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

India and Ethiopia have signed a **bilateral World Trade Organization (WTO) accession protocol** in Geneva to support Ethiopia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

The agreement reflects India's continued support for integrating developing economies into the global trading system.

The protocol was signed at the headquarters of the **World Trade Organization in Geneva**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The agreement reflects India's continued support for integrating developing economies into the global trading system.

The protocol was signed at the headquarters of the **World Trade Organization in Geneva**.

India was represented by **Dr. Senthil Pandian C., Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO**, while Ethiopia was represented by **Ambassador Tsegab Kebebew Daka, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia in Geneva**.

After the signing, the accession protocol and related documents were formally submitted to the World Trade Organization Secretariat as part of Ethiopia's membership process.

440. In 2026, India upgraded its bilateral relationship with which country to a Strategic Partnership during the visit of its President Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi?

A.Greece

B.Malta

C.Cyprus

D.Portugal

E.Croatia

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India and Cyprus have upgraded their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi**.

The development marks an important step in strengthening India's engagement with the Mediterranean region.

Both countries signed **six major agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** covering areas such as **defence, cybersecurity, innovation, education, maritime cooperation and culture**.

A major outcome was the decision to establish a **Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** to strengthen security coordination between the two countries.

Detailed Explanation:

India and Cyprus have upgraded their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi**.

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A major outcome was the decision to establish a **Joint Working Group on Counter-**

Terrorism to strengthen security coordination between the two countries.

India and Cyprus also signed an agreement between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Diplomatic Academy of Cyprus to enhance cooperation in diplomatic training and capacity building.

In the field of technology, both nations signed an MoU on **innovation and digital technology cooperation** to promote collaboration in research and emerging technologies.

They also announced the launch of a dedicated **Cyber Security Dialogue**, highlighting the growing importance of cyber diplomacy and digital security cooperation.

A **Defence Cooperation Roadmap (2026–2031)** was announced to deepen military collaboration between the two countries.

441. In 2026, the World Cities Report released by UN-Habitat highlighted that in Central and South Asia (including India), the housing Price-to-Income Ratio reached which of the following values?

A.9.3

B.11.2

C.14.5

D.16.8

E.18.2

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **World Cities Report 2026** was released by **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** during the **World Urban Forum held in Baku, Azerbaijan**.

The report highlights the rapidly worsening global housing crisis and describes housing as one of the most serious urban challenges of the **21st century.**

According to the report, nearly **3.4 billion people**, around **40% of the global population**, are facing housing-related problems such as:

Unaffordable housing

Overcrowding

Poor living conditions

Lack of access to clean water and sanitation

One of the major findings is the sharp rise in housing prices compared to household incomes. The global **Price-to-Income Ratio** increased from **9.3 in 2010 to 11.2 in 2023**, showing that homes are becoming increasingly unaffordable worldwide.

In **Central and South Asia**, including India, the ratio reached **16.8**, indicating severe housing affordability stress for middle- and low-income families.

Detailed Explanation:

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According to the report, nearly **3.4 billion people**, around **40% of the global population**, are facing housing-related problems such as:

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One of the major findings is the sharp rise in housing prices compared to household incomes. The global **Price-to-Income Ratio** increased from **9.3 in 2010 to 11.2 in 2023**, showing that homes are becoming increasingly unaffordable worldwide.

In **Central and South Asia**, including India, the ratio reached **16.8**, indicating severe housing affordability stress for middle- and low-income families.

The report also highlighted the growing rental burden across the world. Around **44% of households globally spend more than 30% of their income on housing**, which is considered financially stressful.

At the same time, the report appreciated the impact of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** in improving housing access. Under the scheme:

Housing coverage increased from **0.3% in 2010 to 7% in 2023**

Around **12 million houses** were sanctioned for economically weaker and low-income groups.

442. In 2026, Vijay Shankar announced his retirement from domestic cricket and IPL after ending his domestic career with an unbeaten 151 runs against which team in the Ranji Trophy?

A.Mumbai

B.Karnataka

C.Delhi

D.Gujarat

E.Maharashtra

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Former **Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar** has announced his retirement from **domestic cricket** and the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, bringing an end to a notable career in Indian cricket.

Before retirement, he moved to **Tripura** for the **2025-26 domestic season** and ended his domestic career on a high note by scoring an unbeaten **151 runs against Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy**, earning the **Player of the Match** award.

Detailed Explanation:

Former **Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar** has announced his retirement from **domestic cricket** and the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, bringing an end to a notable career in Indian cricket.

With this retirement, Vijay Shankar will now become eligible to participate in various overseas franchise cricket leagues.

Vijay Shankar represented India in **21 white-ball international matches** between **2018 and 2019**.

In **12 One Day Internationals (ODIs)**, he scored **223 runs** at an average of **31.85**, while

in **9 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**, he scored **101 runs** with a strike rate of **138.35**.
He played most of his domestic cricket for **Tamil Nadu**, where he established himself as an important all-round performer. He also captained Tamil Nadu to victories in:
Vijay Hazare Trophy
Deodhar Trophy
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy
Before retirement, he moved to **Tripura** for the **2025-26 domestic season** and ended his domestic career on a high note by scoring an unbeaten **151 runs against Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy**, earning the **Player of the Match** award.

443. In 2026, Commonwealth Day is observed in India on which date?
A.24 March
B.22 April
C.24 May
D.26 January
E.15 August
Answer: C
Commonwealth Day is observed every year on **May 24 in India**, while most countries of the **Commonwealth of Nations** celebrate it on the **second Monday of March**.
The day is celebrated to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Queen Victoria** and to recognise the unity, cooperation and shared values among Commonwealth nations.
Commonwealth Day was earlier known as **Empire Day**. It was first observed in the **United Kingdom in 1904** by **Reginald Brabazon**.

444. In 2026, consider the following statements about the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):

1. **It was established in 2003 and gained statutory status through the PFRDA Act, 2013.**
2. **It functions under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
3. **Its headquarters is located in Mumbai.**
4. **Its Chairman is Sivasubramanian Ramann.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A.1, 2 and 4 only
B.1 and 3 only
C.2 and 3 only
D.1, 2, 3 and 4
E.2 and 4 only
Answer: A
About PFRDA:
Established: 2003 (Statutory status from PFRDA Act, 2013)
Under which Ministry: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann
Purpose: To promote, develop, and regulate the pension sector in India, especially the National

Pension System (NPS) and other old-age income security schemes.

445. In 2026, who among the following is the Prime Minister of Sweden?

A.Magdalena Andersson

B.Ulf Kristersson

C.Stefan Löfven

D.Anders Tegnell

E.Carl XVI Gustaf

Answer: B

About Sweden :

Prime Minister : Ulf Kristersson

Capital : Stockholm

Currency : Swedish krona

446. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹10.10 lakh on which bank for non-compliance related to Priority Sector Loan accounts and SHG member-level data reporting to Credit Information Companies?

A.HDFC Bank

B.ICICI Bank

C.City Union Bank

D.Federal Bank

E.IndusInd Bank

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹10.10 lakh** on **City Union Bank Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Priority Sector Loan accounts'** and **'Reporting of Self Help Group (SHG) member-level data to Credit Information Companies (CICs)'**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹10.10 lakh** on **City Union Bank Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Priority Sector Loan accounts'** and **'Reporting of Self Help Group (SHG) member-level data to Credit Information Companies (CICs)'**.

RBI imposed the penalty under the powers conferred by **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Section 46(4)(i)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and **Section 25(1)(iii)** read with **Section 23(4)** of the **Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005**.

The action followed the **Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE)** conducted by RBI with reference to the bank's financial position as on **31 March 2025**.

RBI issued a **show-cause notice** to the bank after identifying supervisory findings of regulatory non-compliance.

About City Union Bank (CUB):

Founded Year: 1904

Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi

Slogan: "Trust and Excellence Since 1904"

447. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced new loan recovery norms, under which recovery agents can be engaged only if they are certified by which of the following institutions?

A.National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)

B.Insurance Institute of India (III)

C.Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)

D.Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

E.Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released final amendments to overhaul **loan recovery and recovery agent regulations**, which will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.

Under the new framework, banks must conduct **strict due diligence** and **periodic background verification** of recovery agents before engagement.

Banks can engage only **certified recovery agents** trained through approved institutions such as the **Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)**.

RBI introduced detailed **borrower protection norms** to regulate recovery practices.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released final amendments to overhaul **loan recovery and recovery agent regulations**, which will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.

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Banks can engage only **certified recovery agents** trained through approved institutions such as the **Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)**.

RBI introduced detailed **borrower protection norms** to regulate recovery practices.

Recovery agents are allowed to contact borrowers only between **8 AM and 7 PM**.

The new rules **prohibit harassment, abusive language, intimidation, social media shaming**, and **pressuring of relatives or colleagues** during loan recovery.

Banks are required to **publicly disclose** the list of **empanelled recovery agencies** on their websites and customer platforms.

Borrowers must receive **prior notice** through SMS, email, or letters before any **physical recovery visit**.

448. In 2026, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) launched the Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility, which is headquartered in which city?

A.Tokyo

B.Shanghai

C.Singapore

D.Hong Kong

E.Beijing

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** established the **Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility**, aimed at supporting member countries affected by the **Middle East conflict**.

The facility provides up to **US$10 billion over two years** for member countries and clients impacted by the conflict.

The AIIB is a **multilateral development bank (MDB)** headquartered in **China (Beijing)** and began operations in **2016**, financing infrastructure and development projects across Asia and other regions.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** established the **Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility**, aimed at supporting member countries affected by the **Middle East conflict**.

The facility provides up to **US$10 billion over two years** for member countries and clients impacted by the conflict.

The AIIB is a **multilateral development bank (MDB)** headquartered in **China (Beijing)** and began operations in **2016**, financing infrastructure and development projects across Asia and other regions.

The new facility supplements existing AIIB financing tools and focuses on **energy security, food security, and economic resilience**.

It provides **fast-disbursing budget support**, financing for critical imports and expenditures, and **liquidity support** to affected economies.

The facility also supports government response programmes, short-term working capital, and business continuity needs of infrastructure companies and financial intermediaries.

On **18 May 2026**, **seven Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** issued a **joint statement** on coordinated support for countries affected by the Middle East conflict, highlighting disruptions in **energy markets, fertiliser markets, and trade routes**.

The AIIB is headed by **President Zou Jiayi**, who announced the new facility for affected members.

449. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India announced a record surplus transfer to the Government of India during the 623rd Central Board meeting. What was the amount transferred?

A.₹2.69 lakh crore

B.₹2.87 lakh crore

C.₹3.16 lakh crore

D.₹2.45 lakh crore

E.₹3.05 lakh crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a record **surplus transfer of ₹2.87 lakh crore** to the Government of India (GoI) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), during the **623rd meeting of the Central Board of Directors (CBoDs)**.

The surplus transfer for FY26 was higher than last year's transfer of **₹2.69 lakh crore**.

However, the transfer remained lower than the **Union Budget estimate of ₹3.16 lakh crore** for dividend receipts.

The 623rd Central Board Meeting was chaired by **Dr. Sanjay Malhotra** in **Mumbai**.

The **balance sheet of RBI expanded by 20.61% to ₹91.97 lakh crore** as of 31 March 2026.

Detailed Explanation:

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The 623rd Central Board Meeting was chaired by **Dr. Sanjay Malhotra** in **Mumbai**.

The **balance sheet of RBI expanded by 20.61% to ₹91.97 lakh crore** as of 31 March 2026.

The balance sheet growth was mainly supported by **large bond purchases** and **liquidity injections** into the banking system.

The **net income of RBI** before risk provisions and transfer to statutory funds stood at **₹3,95,972.10 crore** during FY26.

The **gross income of RBI increased by 26.42%** during FY26.

RBI's **expenditure before risk provisions rose by 27.60%** during the financial year.

RBI approved a transfer of **₹1,09,379.64 crore towards the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** for FY26.

The allocation towards CRB was significantly higher than the previous year's transfer of **₹44,861.70 crore**.

450. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE) released by NSO:

1. **The number of unincorporated establishments grew by 16.69% year-on-year to 9.16 crore.**
2. **Employment in the sector crossed 15 crore workers for the first time, reaching 15.17 crore.**
3. **Women accounted for nearly 29% of total employment in the sector.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.All of the above

E.None of the above

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated**

Sector Enterprises (QBUSE) for **January–March 2026**.

The report provides high-frequency data on India's **unincorporated non-agricultural sector**.

The number of unincorporated establishments increased by **16.69% year-on-year**, reaching **9.16 crore** during **Q4 FY26 (Jan–Mar 2026)**.

Rural establishments recorded stronger growth of **20.46%**, compared to **urban growth of 12.59%**.

Employment in the sector crossed **15 crore workers** for the first time, reaching **15.17 crore**, marking a **15.51% year-on-year increase**.

Women accounted for nearly **29% of total employment**, highlighting improved **gender inclusion** in the sector.

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE)** for **January–March 2026**.

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Rural establishments recorded stronger growth of **20.46%**, compared to **urban growth of 12.59%**.

Employment in the sector crossed **15 crore workers** for the first time, reaching **15.17 crore**, marking a **15.51% year-on-year increase**.

The growth in employment reflects strong expansion in the **unincorporated sector labour market**.

Women accounted for nearly **29% of total employment**, highlighting improved **gender inclusion** in the sector.

The data shows the role of unincorporated enterprises in promoting **inclusive economic participation** and **women's employment generation**.

Around **81% of establishments used the internet** for entrepreneurial activities, indicating strong **digital adoption**.

About **81% of establishments also adopted cashless transactions**, reflecting increased **digital financial inclusion**.

451. In 2026, Karnataka Grameena Bank received the National Award from PFRDA for outstanding performance under Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The bank achieved what percentage of its APY enrolment target?

A.125%

B.135%

C.140%

D.142%

E.160%

Answer:D

Short Explanation:

Karnataka Grameena Bank received the **National Award** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for outstanding enrolment performance under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.

The award was presented during the **APY Annual Felicitation Programme** held in **New Delhi**.

The award was received by **Shreekant M Bhandiwad**.

The award was presented by **M Nagaraju** and **S Ramann**.

Karnataka Grameena Bank enrolled **2,49,185 APY accounts** against the target of **1,75,500 accounts** set by **DFS/PFRDA**.

The bank achieved **142%** of its APY target, the **highest among all banks in Karnataka**.

Detailed Explanation:

Karnataka Grameena Bank received the **National Award** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for outstanding enrolment performance under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.

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The bank achieved **142%** of its APY target, the **highest among all banks in Karnataka**.

The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched in **May 2015** as a **government-backed social security scheme**.

APY is designed mainly for **workers in the unorganised sector**.

The scheme provides a **guaranteed monthly pension** ranging from **₹1,000 to ₹5,000** after the **age of 60 years**, depending on subscriber contributions.

The **Government of India** formed **Karnataka Grameena Bank** through the **amalgamation of two Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** in the state.

452. In 2026, India, China, Japan and several other WTO members criticised the United Kingdom's steel safeguard measures, which impose what tariff on imports exceeding quota limits?

A.10%

B.15%

C.20%

D.25%

E.30%

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India, China, and Japan have joined other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** members, including South Korea, Switzerland, Russia, and Brazil, in criticising

the **United Kingdom's steel safeguard measures**.

The UK steel safeguard measures include **tariff-rate quotas** and a **25% tariff** on imports exceeding quota limits.

These measures were introduced in response to **global steel overcapacity** and the impact of the **US Section 232 tariffs (2018)**.

Detailed Explanation:

India, China, and Japan have joined other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** members, including South Korea, Switzerland, Russia, and Brazil, in criticising the **United Kingdom's steel safeguard measures**.

The UK steel safeguard measures include **tariff-rate quotas** and a **25% tariff** on imports exceeding quota limits.

These measures were introduced in response to **global steel overcapacity** and the impact of the **US Section 232 tariffs (2018)**.

A **safeguard measure** under WTO rules allows countries to **temporarily restrict imports** when domestic industries suffer **serious injury** due to import surges.

The United Kingdom applied safeguards to **15 categories of steel products**, later extended based on recommendations from the **Trade Remedies Authority**.

The UK steel safeguard system originally followed the **European Union's trade response framework (2018)**.

Under the regime, imports within quota faced lower duties, while imports beyond quota attracted a **25% tariff**.

453. In 2026, Phase-II of the UMMID Programme was launched under the Department of Biotechnology to strengthen diagnosis and management of which of the following?

A.Infectious diseases

B.Rare Genetic Disorders

C.Cardiovascular diseases

D.Mental health disorders

E.Nutritional deficiencies

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme**.

The programme was launched under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** of the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)** at Prithvi Bhawan.

The programme focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of **Rare Genetic Disorders (RGDs)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme**.

The programme was launched under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** of the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)** at Prithvi Bhawan.

The programme focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of **Rare Genetic Disorders (RGDs)**.

Phase-II includes the establishment of **National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN) Kendras** for advanced genetic diagnostics and counselling services.

The programme also includes **clinician training, capacity-building, community outreach activities**, and nationwide digital monitoring through the **UMMID Dashboard**.

Phase-II will establish **25 additional NIDAN Kendras** across **13 States and 1 Union Territory (UT)**.

Three proposed training centres will be set up in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh.

454. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the UNESCO–L'Oréal "For Women in Science International Awards":

1. **Liesl Zühlke received the Africa and Arab States Award for cardiovascular research on childhood rheumatic heart disease.**
2. **Felice Jacka was awarded for her work in nutritional psychiatry and the impact of diet on mental health.**
3. **Raquel Lia Chan was recognised for pioneering work in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A.1 and 3 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 2 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E.2 only

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Fondation L'Oréal announced the five laureates of the **"2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards"**.

Liesl Zühlke received the **Africa and Arab States Award** for her cardiovascular research on **childhood rheumatic heart disease**.

Felice Jacka won the **Asia and the Pacific Award** for establishing the field of **nutritional psychiatry** and demonstrating the impact of diet on mental health.

Sarah A. Teichmann was named the **European laureate** for her work in **single-cell biology and genomics**.

Raquel Lia Chan received the **Latin America and the Caribbean Award** for developing **drought-resistant crops** through agricultural biotechnology.

Detailed Explanation:

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and

Fondation L'Oréal announced the five laureates of the **"2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards"**.

The awards recognised outstanding contributions in **life sciences and environmental sciences**.

The 2026 edition received a record **504 nominations from 89 countries**.

Liesl Zühlke received the **Africa and Arab States Award** for her cardiovascular research on **childhood rheumatic heart disease**.

Felice Jacka won the **Asia and the Pacific Award** for establishing the field of **nutritional psychiatry** and demonstrating the impact of diet on mental health.

Sarah A. Teichmann was named the **European laureate** for her work in **single-cell biology and genomics**.

Raquel Lia Chan received the **Latin America and the Caribbean Award** for developing **drought-resistant crops** through agricultural biotechnology.

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic won the **North America Award** for pioneering work in **tissue engineering and regenerative medicine**, including **'organs-on-a-chip' technology**.

The **28th edition** of the programme marked the renewal of the partnership between UNESCO and Fondation L'Oréal for another **six years**

455. In 2026, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold) on Professor Salim Abdool Karim for his contributions in which of the following fields?

A.Space science and astronomy

B.Medical science, epidemiology and public health

C.Nuclear physics

D.Agricultural biotechnology

E.Environmental engineering

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** conferred the country's highest civilian honour, the **Order of Mapungubwe**, on Indian-origin scientists **Professor Salim Abdool Karim** and **Professor Keertan Dheda**.

The awards were presented during the **National Orders ceremony** held in Pretoria.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim received the **Order of Mapungubwe (Gold)** for his exceptional contributions to **medical science, epidemiology, and public health**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The awards were presented during the **National Orders ceremony** held in Pretoria.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim received the **Order of Mapungubwe (Gold)** for his exceptional contributions to **medical science, epidemiology, and public health**.

He was honoured for his research on **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Tuberculosis (TB)**.

He was also recognised for his leadership and swift response during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which supported South Africa's early data-driven health response.

His work is noted for bridging **laboratory research with community healthcare services**.

456. In 2026, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) extended the deputation tenure of Anurag Garg as Director General of which of the following organisations until 31 July 2027?

A.Central Bureau of Investigation

B.National Investigation Agency

C.Border Security Force

D.Enforcement Directorate

E.Narcotics Control Bureau

Answer: E

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by **Narendra Modi**, extended the deputation tenure of **Anurag Garg** as **Director General (DG)** of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** till **31 July 2027**.

He succeeded **Satya Narayan Pradhan**, who served as **DG of NCB** from **July 2021 to August 2024**.

About Narcotics Control Bureau :

The **Narcotics Control Bureau** was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

NCB functions as India's **apex anti-drug law enforcement and intelligence agency** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.

457. In 2026, a Ring Gantry-based Linear Accelerator was commissioned at Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi to strengthen cancer treatment facilities. Which Defence Secretary of India was present during its commissioning?

A.Ajay Kumar

B.Giridhar Aramane

C.Rajesh Kumar Singh

D.Sanjay Mitra

E.Subhash Chandra

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

A **Ring Gantry-based Linear Accelerator** was commissioned at the **Department of Radiation Oncology of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi** on **25 May 2026**.

The commissioning took place in the presence of **Rajesh Kumar Singh, the Defence Secretary of India**.

The advanced medical technology will strengthen **cancer care services** at Army Hospital (R&R) and improve access to **advanced radiotherapy treatment**.

The facility will benefit **serving defence personnel, veterans, and their dependents** by enhancing in-house treatment capacity.

Detailed Explanation:

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The commissioning took place in the presence of **Rajesh Kumar Singh, the Defence Secretary of India**.

The advanced medical technology will strengthen **cancer care services** at Army Hospital (R&R) and improve access to **advanced radiotherapy treatment**.

The facility will benefit **serving defence personnel, veterans, and their dependents** by enhancing in-house treatment capacity.

The Linear Accelerator supports advanced radiotherapy techniques such as **Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT)**, **Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)**, **Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT)**, **Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)**, and **Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS)**.

The technology enables **precise radiation delivery to tumour sites** while minimising exposure to surrounding healthy tissues.

The new system is expected to improve **treatment outcomes, precision, and overall patient care**.

458. In 2026, India successfully test-fired the Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur under the supervision of which of the following organisations?

A.Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

B.Strategic Forces Command (SFC)

C.Indian Air Force

D.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

E.Border Security Force (BSF)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

India successfully conducted the test-firing of the **Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.

The missile test was carried out under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.

The successful launch validated all the **operational and technical parameters** of the missile system.

Agni-1 is part of India's **Agni series of ballistic missiles** developed for the country's **strategic deterrence capability**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The missile test was carried out under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.

The successful launch validated all the **operational and technical parameters** of the missile system.

Agni-1 is part of India's **Agni series of ballistic missiles** developed for the country's **strategic deterrence capability**.

The missile is capable of carrying both **conventional and nuclear warheads**.

Agni-1 is a **single-stage, solid-fuelled, road-mobile** Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).

The missile is equipped with a **Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL)** and also has **rail-launch capability** for rapid deployment.

The **strike range** of Agni-1 is approximately **700–900 kilometres (km)** and can extend up to **1,200 km** in some configurations.

The missile can carry a **payload of up to 1,000 kilograms (kg)**.

Agni-1 strengthens India's **quick-reaction and high-precision strike capability** under the policy of **credible minimum deterrence**.

459. In 2026, the Offer for Sale (OFS) of which bank was oversubscribed 2.35 times on the first day, leading the government to exercise the entire greenshoe option?

A.Central Bank of India

B.Bank of Baroda

C.Punjab National Bank

D.Canara Bank

E.Indian Bank

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Investment and Public Ass**

Offer for Sale (OFS) of the **Central Bank of In** day.

The strong response to the OFS was mainly drive

Following the oversubscription, the government d

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Investment and Public Ass**

Offer for Sale (OFS) of the **Central Bank of In** day.

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Following the oversubscription, the government d

With the greenshoe option, the total stake sale in

8% of the bank's equity.

If the complete 8% stake sale is fully subscribed, **₹2,456 crore** through the disinvestment exercise.

Institutional investors placed bids worth more tha

The **retail bidding phase** of the OFS was schedu

About Central Bank of India :

Founded : 21 December 1911

Headquarters : : Mumbai, Maharashtra India

MD & CEO : Kalyan Kumar

460. In 2026, which of the following institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Securities Markets and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs to collaborate on corporate

governance, Environmental Social and Governance initiatives, and capital market programmes?

A.Reserve Bank of India

B.Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

C.Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

D.Securities and Exchange Board of India

E.Competition Commission of India

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets, and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on **corporate governance, Environmental Social and Governance initiatives, and capital market-related programmes**.

The agreement was signed in Mumbai in the presence of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The **National Institute of Securities Markets** was established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, while the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs** functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Detailed Explanation:

Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets, and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on **corporate governance, Environmental Social and Governance initiatives, and capital market-related programmes**.

The agreement was signed in Mumbai in the presence of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The **National Institute of Securities Markets** was established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, while the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs** functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The institutions will jointly develop **certification courses, executive education programmes, and training modules** related to securities markets and corporate governance.

The programmes will include training for officials from the Securities and Exchange Board of India and other financial sector and regulatory institutions.

Major focus areas include **Environmental Social and Governance reporting, sustainability disclosures, and Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting**.

461. In 2026, the Government of Maharashtra signed Memorandums of Understanding with NTPC Limited, Adani Power Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited to attract investment of how much for nuclear energy projects?

A.₹4.5 lakh crore

B.₹5.0 lakh crore

C.₹6.0 lakh crore

D.₹6.5 lakh crore

E.₹7.0 lakh crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The Government of Maharashtra signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **NTPC Limited**, **Adani Power Limited**, **Reliance Industries Limited**, and **Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited** in Mumbai.

The initiative aims to attract investments worth **Rs 6.5 lakh crore** for nuclear energy projects in the state.

The proposed projects are expected to generate a total power generation capacity of **25,400 Megawatts**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of Maharashtra signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **NTPC Limited**, **Adani Power Limited**, **Reliance Industries Limited**, and **Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited** in Mumbai.

The initiative aims to attract investments worth **Rs 6.5 lakh crore** for nuclear energy projects in the state.

The proposed projects are expected to generate a total power generation capacity of **25,400 Megawatts**.

The projects are aimed at strengthening Maharashtra's **long-term energy security, industrial growth, clean energy expansion, and decarbonisation efforts** in line with net-zero energy systems.

Reliance Industries Limited will invest **Rs 2 lakh crore** to establish **Bharat Small Reactors and Small Modular Reactors** at **Purnagad, Maharashtra**, with a planned generation capacity of **7,200 Megawatts**.

Adani Power Limited will invest **Rs 1.5 lakh crore** to develop a **6,000 Megawatt nuclear power project** at **Barsu, Maharashtra**.

NTPC Limited will invest **Rs 1 lakh crore** to develop **7,200 Megawatts of nuclear power capacity** in Maharashtra.

462. In 2026, Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh became the fastest Indian ever in the men's 100-metre race by clocking which of the following timings at the Federation Cup in Ranchi?

A.10.15 seconds

B.10.12 seconds

C.10.00 seconds

D.10.05 seconds

E.10.09 seconds

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Indian sprinter **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian ever in the men's **100-metre race** after clocking **10.09 seconds** at the **Federation Cup** in Ranchi.

With this performance, he became the **first Indian athlete to enter the 10.0-second range** in the men's 100-metre event.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian sprinter **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian ever in the men's **100-metre**

race after clocking **10.09 seconds** at the **Federation Cup** in Ranchi.

With this performance, he became the **first Indian athlete to enter the 10.0-second range** in the men's 100-metre event.

The final race was held at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium.

A day before the final, Gurindervir Singh had clocked **10.17 seconds** in the semifinals and briefly set a new national record.

Soon after, fellow Indian sprinter **Animesh Kujur** surpassed the mark with a timing of **10.15 seconds**.

464. In 2026, Karnataka Grameena Bank is jointly owned by the Government of India, the Government of Karnataka, and which of the following banks with a 35% stake?

A.Canara Bank

B.Punjab National Bank

C.State Bank of India

D.Bank of Baroda

E.Indian Bank

Answer: A

About Karnataka Grameena Bank :

Founded : May 1, 2025

Headquarters : Ballari, Karnataka, India

Chairman : Sri Shrikant M Bhandiwad

Owner : Government of India (50%), Government of Karnataka (15%), Canara Bank (35%)

The bank was formed by the amalgamation of Karnataka Gramin Bank and Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank under The "One State, One RRB" policy of the government designed to improve operational efficiency.

It functions under Regional Rural Banks' Act 1976 and is sponsored by Canara Bank.

465. In 2026, the revised United Kingdom steel import restrictions will reduce tariff-free steel import quotas by nearly what percentage?

A.40%

B.50%

C.60%

D.70%

E.80%

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

From **July 2026**, new UK steel import restrictions will significantly impact the **India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**.

The revised UK regime will **reduce tariff-free steel import quotas by nearly 60%** and **increase the penalty tariff to 50%** beyond quota limits.

India's exports of iron and steel products to the UK were approximately **USD 893.4 million in 2025–26**.

Detailed Explanation:

From **July 2026**, new UK steel import restrictions will significantly impact the **India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**.

The revised UK regime will **reduce tariff-free steel import quotas by nearly**

60% and **increase the penalty tariff to 50%** beyond quota limits.

India's exports of iron and steel products to the UK were approximately **USD 893.4 million in 2025–26**.

India and the UK are exploring a **"unique and creative solution"** to resolve the steel trade dispute, which was not part of the original CETA negotiations.

Steel products are among the most frequently involved in **WTO trade remedy disputes**, due to widespread use of quotas, tariffs, and anti-dumping measures across economies.

465. In 2026, UMMID Programme launched by the Government of India is related to which of the following?

A.Universal Medical Mission for Immunisation and Development

B.Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders

C.Unified Mechanism for Monitoring Infectious Diseases

D.Urban Medical Modernisation and Integrated Diagnostics

E.United Mission for Maternal and Infant Development

Answer: B

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme**.

The **UMMID Programme** was first launched on **23 September 2019** as India's first comprehensive national initiative to introduce molecular diagnostics for rare diseases.

The initiative aims to strengthen **early detection, genetic counselling, and healthcare support** for individuals affected by inherited genetic disorders.

466. In 2026, which programme was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24 ceremony in Mumbai?

A.National Textile Innovation Mission (NTIM)

B.Advanced Certificate Program in International Trade (ACPIT)

C.Global Cotton Export Promotion Scheme (GCEPS)

D.Integrated Textile Logistics Initiative (ITLI)

E.Bharat Textile Competitiveness Programme (BTCP)

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, presided over the **TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24** ceremony held in Mumbai.

The awards were organised by **The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)**, which is sponsored by the Government of India, to recognise excellence in the cotton textile export sector.

The awards honoured exporters for outstanding performance in exports, as well as contributions

in **employment generation, innovation, ESG initiatives, and e-commerce excellence**.

The Union Finance Minister also launched the **Advanced Certificate Program in International Trade (ACPIT)** to strengthen India's export ecosystem.

Detailed Explanation:

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, presided over the **TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24** ceremony held in Mumbai.

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The awards honoured exporters for outstanding performance in exports, as well as contributions in **employment generation, innovation, ESG initiatives, and e-commerce excellence**.

The Union Finance Minister also launched the **Advanced Certificate Program in International Trade (ACPIT)** to strengthen India's export ecosystem.

The programme is aligned with various government schemes and policy initiatives aimed at enhancing **global trade competitiveness**.

The Finance Minister emphasised strengthening the entire textile value chain from **farm to fibre, factory, fashion, and foreign markets**.

She highlighted India's textile heritage tracing back to the **Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation**, underlining its historical and cultural significance.

India's vision of **Vikit Bharat by 2047** includes achieving **USD 100 billion in textile exports** and **USD 250 billion in textile production by 2030**.

India is currently the **sixth-largest textile exporter** in the world and the **second-largest producer of silk**.

The textile sector supports nearly **6 crore livelihoods**, contributes around **2.3% to GDP**, and accounts for about **12% of India's total exports**.

India's textile exports stood at approximately **USD 33.5 billion in 2025–26**, highlighting strong sectoral growth.

467. As of 2026, which European bank became the first to enable cross-border remittances to India through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?

A.Deutsche Bank

B.Barclays Bank

C.HSBC

D.Eurobank

E.BNP Paribas

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Eurobank will become the first European bank to enable **cross-border remittances** from **Greece and Cyprus** to **India** through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

The UPI-based remittance service has been launched in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

The remittance service has already **started operations in Greece**, while operations in **Cyprus** are expected to begin soon.

Detailed Explanation:

Eurobank will become the first European bank to enable **cross-border remittances** from **Greece and Cyprus** to **India** through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

The UPI-based remittance service has been launched in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

The remittance service has already **started operations in Greece**, while operations in **Cyprus** are expected to begin soon.

The initiative aims to provide **faster, cheaper, and seamless digital money transfers** for Indians residing in Greece and Cyprus who send remittances to India.

Eurobank also announced the opening of its **first representative office in India** to strengthen financial connectivity.

The move reflects Eurobank's strategy to expand **financial and trade relations** between Europe and India.

Eurobank has total assets of nearly **110 billion Euros**.

The bank currently operates in countries including **Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Luxembourg**.

468. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on Mintifi Finserve Private Limited for violation of which norms?

A.Priority Sector Lending norms

B.Foreign Exchange Management norms

C.Know Your Customer (KYC) norms

D.Digital Lending Guidelines

E.Asset Classification norms

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **Mintifi Finserve Private Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Know Your Customer (KYC)'** norms.

RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b)** read with **Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The **statutory inspection** of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on **31 March 2025**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **Mintifi Finserve Private Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Know Your Customer (KYC)'** norms.

RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b)** read with **Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The **statutory inspection** of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on **31 March 2025**.

Based on the supervisory findings and related correspondence, RBI issued a **show-cause notice** to the company asking why a penalty should not be imposed.

After reviewing the company's written reply and oral submissions during the personal hearing, RBI confirmed the **regulatory violation**.

RBI found that the company failed to upload KYC records of certain customers to the **Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR)** within the **prescribed timeline**.

The penalty was imposed due to **deficiencies in regulatory compliance** related to customer identification and record maintenance.

469. In 2026, which fintech company became one of the first cross-border fintech firms to receive in-principle approval as a Payment Service Provider (PSP) at GIFT City's IFSC?

A.Skydo

B.Paytm

C.Razorpay

D.Cashfree

E.Pine Labs

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Skydo received **in-principle approval** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in** Gujarat International Finance Tec-City **(GIFT City)** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

With this approval, Skydo became one of the **first cross-border fintech companies** to obtain a **PSP licence** at GIFT City.

Detailed Explanation:

Skydo received **in-principle approval** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in** Gujarat International Finance Tec-City **(GIFT City)** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

With this approval, Skydo became one of the **first cross-border fintech companies** to obtain a **PSP licence** at GIFT City.

The approval will enable the company to develop advanced capabilities such as **multi-currency collections, e-money accounts**, and **merchant acquisition services**.

Skydo also received **regulatory approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India** under the **Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) framework**.

The approval under the PA-CB framework allows the company to support **outward international payment flows**.

470. In FY26, what is the maximum amount that a resident individual can remit abroad under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)?

A.USD 100,000

B.USD 150,000

C.USD 200,000

D.USD 250,000

E.USD 500,000

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India's **outward remittances** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** declined by **2%** in **FY26** due to global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, total outward remittances declined to **USD 28.9 billion** in **FY26** from **USD 29.6 billion** in **FY25**.

The sharpest fall was recorded in remittances for **overseas education**, which declined by more than **20%** to **USD 2.3 billion** from **USD 2.9 billion** in the previous financial year.

The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** is an RBI policy that allows all resident individuals, including minors, to remit funds abroad freely.

Under the LRS, individuals can remit up to **USD 250,000 per financial year** outside India.

Detailed Explanation:

India's **outward remittances** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** declined by **2%** in **FY26** due to global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

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The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** is an RBI policy that allows all resident individuals, including minors, to remit funds abroad freely.

Under the LRS, individuals can remit up to **USD 250,000 per financial year** outside India.

The remittance facility can be used for permissible **current account transactions**, **capital account transactions**, or a combination of both.

Despite the overall decline, remittances for **investment in equity and debt** increased by **43.68% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** to **USD 440.22 million**.

Remittances for **medical treatment** abroad also increased by **9.52% Y-o-Y** to **USD 3.91 million**.

471. In 2026, what is the name of the new option introduced by PFRDA under the National Pension System (NPS) that follows a lifecycle investment approach?

A.NPS Secure Plus

B.Pension Growth Plan

C.NPS Lifelong Income Scheme

D.Smart Retirement Fund

E.RIS Steady

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** introduced new **Retirement Income Schemes (RIS)** and **drawdown options** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

The new framework aims to improve **retirement cash flow management** and extend the **longevity of retirement corpus** for subscribers.

Under the revised system, retirees can withdraw their NPS corpus gradually through **monthly, quarterly, or annual payouts** instead of taking the full lump sum amount at once.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** introduced new **Retirement Income Schemes (RIS)** and **drawdown options** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

The new framework aims to improve **retirement cash flow management** and extend the **longevity of retirement corpus** for subscribers.

Under the revised system, retirees can withdraw their NPS corpus gradually through **monthly, quarterly, or annual payouts** instead of taking the full lump sum amount at once.

PFRDA introduced a new option called **RIS Steady**, which follows a **lifecycle investment approach**.

Under RIS Steady, the **equity exposure** will gradually reduce from **35% at the age of 60 to 10% by the age of 75**.

The equity allocation will remain at **10% until the age of 85** under the scheme.

Subscribers can continue receiving **mandatory annuity pension payouts** while also withdrawing money periodically from their lump-sum corpus through the **new drawdown facility**.

472. In 2026, the 26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council was held in which city of Chhattisgarh?

A.Raipur

B.Bilaspur

C.Durg

D.Jagdalpur

E.Bastar

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** chaired the **26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council** in **Bastar, Chhattisgarh**.

The meeting was attended by **Vishnu Deo Sai**, **Mohan Yadav**, **Yogi Adityanath**, and **Pushkar Singh Dhami**.

The meeting was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Government of Chhattisgarh as the host.

Amit Shah stated that the meeting in Bastar was significant after achieving the milestone of a **Naxal-free India**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The meeting was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home

Affairs, with the Government of Chhattisgarh as the host.

Amit Shah stated that the meeting in Bastar was significant after achieving the milestone of a **Naxal-free India**.

He credited security forces, intelligence agencies, Central Armed Police Forces, and state police forces for coordinated action against Naxalism.

He highlighted the **"Whole of the Government Approach"**, under which Central and state governments worked together to bring development to areas affected by Naxalism.

The Central Zonal Council includes the states of **Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.**

He urged states to implement the **1930 cybercrime helpline** in accordance with the Ministry of Home Affairs model.

473. As of 2026, which United States official held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar ahead of the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting?

A.Antony Blinken

B.Marco Rubio

C.Lloyd Austin

D.Jake Sullivan

E.Pete Hegseth

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Marco Rubio, Secretary of **State of the United States,** held talks with **S. Jaishankar** during his official visit to India ahead of the **Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting**.

The discussions reflected the expanding scope of the **India–United States Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**.

Major areas of discussion included **artificial intelligence, defence cooperation, trade, energy security, critical minerals, nuclear energy, counter-terrorism, migration concerns, and Indo-Pacific security**.

The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations between India and the United States.

Detailed Explanation:

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Major areas of discussion included **artificial intelligence, defence cooperation, trade, energy security, critical minerals, nuclear energy, counter-terrorism, migration concerns, and Indo-Pacific security**.

The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations between India and the United States.

Key focus areas included:

Trade and energy cooperation

Defence and security partnership

Critical minerals collaboration

Artificial intelligence cooperation

Nuclear energy engagement
Counter-terrorism coordination
Counter-narcotics cooperation
People-to-people ties
India raised concerns regarding recent changes in United States immigration policies affecting Indian professionals, students, researchers, and travellers.
The reforms include changes related to **Green Card processing, Adjustment of Status applications, and consular visa procedures**

474. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) Scheme:

1. **The guidelines for the scheme were issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**
2. **The scheme aims to develop 100 world-class industrial parks across India.**
3. **The scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹33,660 crore.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A.1 only
B.2 and 3 only
C.1 and 3 only
D.All are correct
E.2 only
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Government of India released detailed guidelines** for the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna **BHAVYA Scheme** aimed at developing **100 world-class industrial parks** across India.
The guidelines were issued by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.** The scheme has a total financial outlay of **Rs 33,660 crore**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Government of India released detailed guidelines** for the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna **BHAVYA Scheme** aimed at developing **100 world-class industrial parks** across India.
The guidelines were issued by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.** The scheme has a total financial outlay of **Rs 33,660 crore**.
The **BHAVYA Scheme** is a Central Sector Scheme focused on creating integrated industrial ecosystems to attract domestic and global manufacturers.
The scheme aligns with major national initiatives such as **Make in India** and **Prime Minister Gati Shakti**.
Under the scheme, **100 industrial parks** will be developed between **Financial Year 2026–27 and Financial Year 2031–32**.
In the first phase, up to **50 industrial parks** will be selected through a competitive challenge-based process.

475. As of 2026, who became the third Indian peacekeeper to receive the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award?

A.Radhika Sen

B.Abhilasha Barak

C.Priyanka Sehrawat

D.Bhawana Kanth

E.Divya Ajith Kumar

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Abhilasha Barak, serving with the Indian Battalion as Commander of the **Female Engagement Team** in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, received the **2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.

The announcement was made by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations on **23 May 2026**.

Major Abhilasha Barak is the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.

Detailed Explanation:

Abhilasha Barak, serving with the Indian Battalion as Commander of the **Female Engagement Team** in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, received the **2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.

The announcement was made by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations on **23 May 2026**.

Major Abhilasha Barak is the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.

She was recognised for her outreach and community engagement activities focused on women and adolescent girls in conflict-affected areas.

She was also honoured for conducting **gender sensitisation training** for United Nations peacekeepers.

The award was established in **2016** by the Office of Military Affairs under the Department for Peace Operations.

The award recognises military peacekeepers who effectively integrate a **gender perspective** into peacekeeping operations and promote the principles of **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**.

Major Abhilasha Barak became the **third Indian peacekeeper** to receive the honour

476. In 2026, the Sansad Ratna Awards were announced to recognise outstanding performance by whom?

A.Chief Ministers and Governors

B.Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Standing Committees

C.District Collectors and Civil Servants

D.Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts

E.Defence Personnel and Veterans

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Sansad Ratna Awards 2026** were announced to recognise outstanding performance by **Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Standing Committees.**

This year, the jury selected **10 Lok Sabha Members of Parliament, 2 Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament, and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees** for the awards.

Medha Vishram Kulkarni and **Smita Uday Wagh** were among the prominent awardees.

Detailed Explanation:

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This year, the jury selected **10 Lok Sabha Members of Parliament, 2 Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament, and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees** for the awards.

Medha Vishram Kulkarni and **Smita Uday Wagh** were among the prominent awardees.

Smita Uday Wagh received special recognition for continuing parliamentary duties despite undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

The awards are based on parliamentary performance up to the end of the **Budget Session 2026**.

Individual award winners include **Jagdambika Pal**, **P. P. Chaudhary**, **Nishikant Dubey**, **Shrikant Eknath Shinde**, **Praveen Patel**, **Bidyut Baran Mahato**, **Lumbaram Chaudhary**, **Hemant Vishnu Savara**, **Naresh Ganpat Mhaske**, and **Narhari Amin**.

477. As of 2026, who was reappointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank?

A.Sandeep Bakhshi

B.Chanda Kochhar

C.Sashidhar Jagdishan

D.Amitabh Chaudhry

E.Rajesh Gopinathan

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **ICICI Bank**.

The new tenure of Sandeep Bakhshi will be for **two years**, starting from **4 October 2026** and ending on **3 October 2028**.

The reappointment was earlier approved by the **ICICI Bank Board in January 2026**, subject to RBI approval.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **ICICI Bank**.

The new tenure of Sandeep Bakhshi will be for **two years**, starting from **4 October 2026** and ending on **3 October 2028**.

The reappointment was earlier approved by the **ICICI Bank Board in January 2026**, subject to RBI approval.

Sandeep Bakhshi has been serving as **MD and CEO of ICICI Bank since 2018**, leading a major phase of business transformation.

Under his leadership, ICICI Bank strengthened its **retail loan portfolio**, improved **asset quality**, and expanded **digital banking operations**.

478. In 2026, the Indian Navy announced plans to acquire how many new warships over the next 3–4 years?

A.25

B.35

C.55

D.60

E.45

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Navy** announced plans to acquire **45 new warships** over the next **3–4 years** to enhance maritime capability and operational preparedness.

The Navy has received **in-principle approval for 195 additional vessels**, reflecting India's long-term strategy for fleet expansion and modernisation.

At present, the Indian Navy operates around **130 ships**, and aims to expand its fleet strength to nearly **300 warships by 2035**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The Navy has received **in-principle approval for 195 additional vessels**, reflecting India's long-term strategy for fleet expansion and modernisation.

At present, the Indian Navy operates around **130 ships**, and aims to expand its fleet strength to nearly **300 warships by 2035**.

The planned expansion supports India's vision of a stronger **blue-water navy** and enhanced **maritime security presence**.

The upcoming fleet will include **next-generation warships** equipped with advanced surveillance systems, modern combat technologies, and **indigenous defence systems** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

The Navy currently has **45 ships under construction in India**, which will be delivered within the next 3–4 years.

479. As of 2026, which ministry launched the PM-AJAY Portal and PM-AJAY Mobile App to strengthen digital governance and improve scheme implementation?

A.Ministry of Rural Development

B.Ministry of Panchayati Raj

C.Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

D.Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

E.Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **PM-AJAY Portal** and **PM-AJAY Mobile App** to strengthen digital governance and improve scheme implementation efficiency.

The portal was launched by Union Minister **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, in the presence of Minister of State B. L. Verma, Secretary Sudhansh Pant, and senior officials of the department, along with state and UT representatives.

The system aims to ensure **seamless coordination** among stakeholders, **faster service delivery**, and greater accountability in beneficiary services.

The platform currently tracks socio-economic development in over **47,000 SC-majority villages** and covers more than **4 million beneficiaries** across various scheme components.

Detailed Explanation:

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The system aims to ensure **seamless coordination** among stakeholders, **faster service delivery**, and greater accountability in beneficiary services.

The platform currently tracks socio-economic development in over **47,000 SC-majority villages** and covers more than **4 million beneficiaries** across various scheme components.

The PM-AJAY portal functions as a **central digital database** enabling **milestone-linked fund flow tracking** and real-time monitoring.

Under the **Adarsh Gram component**, traditional paper-based planning has been replaced with **digital village-level planning**.

The portal provides national, state, and district-level dashboards to monitor progress across **50 socio-economic indicators** and **10 developmental domains**.

It enables **automatic milestone-based tracking** once a Village Development Plan (VDP) is digitally approved.

480. In 2026, SBI Mutual Fund increased its stake beyond 5% in which private sector bank?

A.Yes Bank

B.IDFC FIRST Bank

C.Bandhan Bank

D.RBL Bank

E.Federal Bank

Answer: C

SBI Mutual Fund increased its stake in **Bandhan Bank** beyond **5%** of the bank's paid-up share capital.

According to a regulatory filing, the total shareholding of SBI Mutual Fund under its various schemes reached **5.0432%** as on **20 August 2026**.

Before the latest acquisition, SBI Mutual Fund held a **4.963% stake** in Bandhan Bank.

481. As of 2026, India postponed the proposed India–Africa Forum Summit due to the outbreak of which disease in parts of Africa?

A.Malaria

B.Ebola virus disease

C.Cholera

D.Dengue

E.Mpox

Explanation

Answer: B

India has postponed the proposed **India–Africa Forum Summit** due to the ongoing **Ebola virus outbreak** in parts of Africa, particularly affecting the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Uganda**.

The decision was taken as a **precautionary measure** to prevent potential **public health risks** and ensure the safety of delegates and participants from various countries.

The **India–Africa Forum Summit** is the highest **apex institutional platform** for dialogue and cooperation between India and African countries.

The summit was established in **2008** as a key mechanism to strengthen **India–Africa relations** in areas of **trade, development, and strategic partnership**.

482. In 2026, which organisation launched "Bharat Digital Samvad", India's first dedicated national forum on digital sovereignty and infrastructure policy?

A.Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association

B.Digital India Corporation

C.NASSCOM

D.National Informatics Centre

E.IndiaAI Mission

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** launched **"Bharat Digital Samvad"** at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi.

The event is India's **first dedicated national forum on digital sovereignty and infrastructure policy**.

The summit marked the formal public launch of the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association as a **not-for-profit industry body**.

The Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association operates at the intersection of **national security, economic value creation, and technological self-reliance**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** launched **"Bharat Digital Samvad"** at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi.

The event is India's **first dedicated national forum on digital sovereignty and infrastructure policy**.

The summit marked the formal public launch of the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association as a **not-for-profit industry body**.

The association is committed to advancing sovereign digital infrastructure across **cloud computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, Digital Public Infrastructure, and data platforms**.

The forum convened senior leaders from the cloud infrastructure, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data platform sectors.

The Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association operates at the intersection of **national security, economic value creation, and technological self-reliance**.

The organisation is guided by the principle of **"Data Swaraj"**, which refers to India's sovereign right to determine how data is collected, stored, governed, and monetised.

483. As of 2026, what is the name of the renewable energy platform launched by British International Investment and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners for projects in India?

A.Green Horizon

B.Solar Bharat Platform

C.North Star

D.Clean Energy India Fund

E.Renewable Grid Mission

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

British International Investment partnered with **Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners** to launch a **300-million United States Dollar renewable energy platform** named **"North Star"**.

The platform will invest in **solar, wind, hybrid, and energy storage projects** in India.

Detailed Explanation:

British International Investment partnered with **Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners** to launch a **300-million United States Dollar renewable energy platform** named **"North Star"**.

The platform will invest in **solar, wind, hybrid, and energy storage projects** in India.

British International Investment and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, through their **Growth Markets Fund Two**, will each commit up to **150 million United States Dollars** for the platform.

The initiative aims to address the funding gap required to build and scale renewable energy projects in India.

This marks the **first investment** under **British Climate Partners**, a **1.1 billion Pound Sterling climate finance initiative** launched by British International Investment in April 2026.

India has set a target of achieving **500 Gigawatts of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030** and **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

India currently faces a climate financing gap of around **160 billion United States Dollars annually until 2030**.

484. In 2026, the Delhi e-Governance Society signed an MoU with State Bank of India to introduce which integrated electronic payment system on the Delhi Government e-procurement portal?

A.DigiTender

B.GovPay Portal

C.Bharat Tender Connect

D.SmartProcure

E.e-Pay

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Delhi e-Governance Society** under the **Information Technology Department of the Delhi Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **State Bank of India**.
The agreement aims to introduce an integrated electronic payment system called **"e-Pay"** on the Delhi Government electronic procurement portal.
The initiative is intended to make the government procurement process **faster, transparent, efficient, and paperless**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Delhi e-Governance Society** under the **Information Technology Department of the Delhi Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **State Bank of India**.
The agreement aims to introduce an integrated electronic payment system called **"e-Pay"** on the Delhi Government electronic procurement portal.
The initiative is intended to make the government procurement process **faster, transparent, efficient, and paperless**.
The system will streamline **online tender payments** and automate several manual payment processes.
The platform will help reduce delays and improve accountability in government tenders.
A major feature of the system is the integration of **Earnest Money Deposit functionality** for real-time payment verification.
The new system will eliminate the need for physical demand drafts in tender payments.
The partnership with the State Bank of India will provide **secure digital payment support and Management Information System integration** across the procurement ecosystem

485. As of 2026, the Department of Posts signed an agreement for Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services with which e-commerce company?
A.Amazon India
B.Meesho
C.Snapdeal
D.Reliance Retail
E.Flipkart
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
The **Department of Posts** under the Ministry of Communications signed an agreement with **Flipkart India Private Limited** for **Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services**.
The agreement aims to strengthen India's **e-commerce logistics ecosystem** and improve **last mile delivery capabilities** across the country.
The agreement was signed in New Delhi by **Neeraj Kumar Jha**, General Manager of the Parcel Directorate, Department of Posts, and **Harvinder Kapur**, Director-Commercial of Flipkart India Private Limited.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Department of Posts** under the Ministry of Communications signed an agreement with **Flipkart India Private Limited** for **Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services**.

The agreement aims to strengthen India's **e-commerce logistics ecosystem** and improve **last mile delivery capabilities** across the country.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi by **Neeraj Kumar Jha**, General Manager of the Parcel Directorate, Department of Posts, and **Harvinder Kapur**, Director-Commercial of Flipkart India Private Limited.

The partnership will combine the extensive delivery network of the Department of Posts with Flipkart's presence in India's e-commerce sector.

Under the agreement, the Department of Posts will provide **last mile delivery services for Flipkart shipments across India**.

Flipkart will utilise the vast India Post network for parcel deliveries in **urban, semi-urban, rural, remote, and underserved regions**.

486. In 2026, Lionel Messi became only the second footballer in history after whom to cross a net worth of 1 billion United States Dollars?

A.Neymar Jr.

B.David Beckham

C.Cristiano Ronaldo

D.Kylian Mbappé

E.Ronaldinho

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Football legend **Lionel Messi** officially entered the billionaire club and became only the **second footballer in history** after **Cristiano Ronaldo** to cross a **net worth of 1 billion United States Dollars**.

According to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, Lionel Messi achieved this milestone through football salaries, bonuses, endorsements, investments, and business ventures.

Detailed Explanation:

Football legend **Lionel Messi** officially entered the billionaire club and became only the **second footballer in history** after **Cristiano Ronaldo** to cross a **net worth of 1 billion United States Dollars**.

According to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, Lionel Messi achieved this milestone through football salaries, bonuses, endorsements, investments, and business ventures.

Reports suggest that Lionel Messi has earned more than **700 million United States Dollars** in salaries and bonuses since 2007.

His major club earnings came during his time with **FC Barcelona**, followed by **Paris Saint-Germain**, and currently with **Inter Miami CF** in Major League Soccer.

Apart from football, Lionel Messi has built a strong financial portfolio through endorsement deals with global brands, investments, and family-managed business ventures.

487. In 2026, India's digital economy is projected to reach what value by 2030, according to the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association?

A.USD 500 billion
B.USD 750 billion
C.USD 1.5 trillion
D.USD 1 trillion
E.USD 2 trillion
Answer: D

Piyush Somani, President of the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association, stated that India's digital economy is projected to reach **1 trillion United States Dollars by 2030**.

The headquarters of the **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** is located in New Delhi.

Abhishek Bhatt serves as the Secretary General of the association.

The Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association was established in **2026**.

488. Where is the headquarters of Bandhan Bank located?

A.Kolkata
B.Mumbai
C.Bengaluru
D.Chennai
E.Hyderabad
Answer: A

About Bandhan Bank :

Founded : 23 August 2015
Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal.
Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Partha Pratim Sengupta

489. In 2026, the slogan "Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka" is associated with which bank?

A.HDFC Bank
B.Axis Bank
C.ICICI Bank
D.Kotak Mahindra Bank
E.IndusInd Bank
Answer: C

About ICICI Bank :

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
Founded Year: 1994 (as a bank; ICICI established in 1955)
Slogan: "Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka"
ICICI Bank is India's second-largest private sector bank in terms of market capitalisation.

490. As per the news, the Sansad Ratna Award was instituted by which organisation?

A.Observer Research Foundation
B.Prime Point Foundation
C.India Foundation
D.NITI Aayog
E.Press Information Bureau
Answer: B

The **Sansad Ratna Award** was instituted in **2010** by Chennai-based Prime Point Foundation.

The award was inspired by former President **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, who launched the first award ceremony.

491. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a mandatory cooling-off period for directors of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)

after completing how many consecutive years on the board?

A.5 years

B.7 years

C.10 years

D.12 years

E.15 years

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued final amendment directions for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)** to strengthen governance standards in the cooperative banking sector.

The amended rules introduce a **mandatory three-year cooling-off period** for directors who complete **10 consecutive years** on the board of a co-operative bank.

The new directions **came into effect immediately** after notification by the RBI

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued final amendment directions for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)** to strengthen governance standards in the cooperative banking sector.

The amended rules introduce a **mandatory three-year cooling-off period** for directors who complete **10 consecutive years** on the board of a co-operative bank.

The new directions **came into effect immediately** after notification by the RBI.

The amendment aims to prevent directors from circumventing tenure limits by temporarily resigning and later getting re-elected or co-opted onto the same board.

Under the revised framework, directors completing **10 continuous years** must **step down for three years** before becoming eligible again.

During the **cooling-off period**, such individuals **cannot hold any position of authority or influence** on the bank's board, though they may continue as customers or ordinary members.

The reforms were introduced through the **Reserve Bank of India (Urban Cooperative Banks – Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026** and the **Reserve Bank of India (Rural Cooperative Banks – Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026**

492. As of 2026, the Insurance Ombudsman in India can handle insurance-related complaints involving claim amounts up to_____

A.₹10 lakh

B.₹50 lakh

C.₹25 lakh

D.₹75 lakh

E.₹1 crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** reported that the **Insurance Ombudsman** resolved **41,055 grievances** during **FY 2025–26**.

Around **79% of the decisions** were delivered **in favour of policyholders**, indicating strong consumer-oriented dispute resolution outcomes.
The Insurance Ombudsman can handle complaints where the claim amount **does not exceed ₹50 lakh** under an insurance policy.
The system aims to provide **cost-free and faster dispute resolution** for insurance-related grievances.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** reported that the **Insurance Ombudsman** resolved **41,055 grievances** during **FY 2025–26**.
Around **79% of the decisions** were delivered **in favour of policyholders**, indicating strong consumer-oriented dispute resolution outcomes.
The data was presented by IRDAI during an **orientation programme** for Insurance Ombudsmen.
The Office of Insurance Ombudsman functions under the administrative control of the **Council for Insurance Ombudsmen (CIO)**, constituted under the **Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017**.
The Insurance Ombudsman system has established **18 centres across India**, including major cities such as Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Patna, and Thane, ensuring **nationwide grievance redressal coverage**.
The Insurance Ombudsman can handle complaints where the claim amount **does not exceed ₹50 lakh** under an insurance policy.
The system aims to provide **cost-free and faster dispute resolution** for insurance-related grievances.

493. In 2026, conversational fintech platform Jumpp received Corporate Agency and ISNP licences from which regulatory authority to distribute insurance products digitally?
A.Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
B.Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
C.Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
D.Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
E.National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
Conversational fintech platform **Jumpp,** operated by Finvasia Group, received **Corporate Agency** and **Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP)** licences from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
The approvals allow Jumpp to **distribute insurance products digitally** through its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform**.
With the IRDAI approval, Jumpp entered the **insurance distribution segment** and expanded its financial services beyond investments.
Detailed Explanation:

Conversational fintech platform **Jumpp,** operated by Finvasia Group, received **Corporate Agency** and **Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP)** licences from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

The approvals allow Jumpp to **distribute insurance products digitally** through its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform**.

With the IRDAI approval, Jumpp entered the **insurance distribution segment** and expanded its financial services beyond investments.

The platform plans to offer **health, life, motor, business, and home insurance products**.

Insurance services will be provided through **partnerships with various insurance companies**.

Jumpp is developing a **fully digital platform** for policy discovery, purchase, and management.

The platform uses **AI-based personalised financial and insurance recommendations** to enhance customer experience.

494. As of 2026, what monetary penalty was imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Newa Investments Private Limited for non-compliance with governance norms?

A.₹1.25 lakh

B.₹2.70 lakh

C.₹5 lakh

D.₹7.50 lakh

E.₹10 lakh

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹2.70 lakh** on **Newa Investments Private Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for non-compliance with RBI directions related to **'Governance' norms**.

RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b) read with Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The **statutory inspection** of the company was conducted with reference to its financial position as on **31 March 2025**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹2.70 lakh** on **Newa Investments Private Limited**.

The penalty was imposed for non-compliance with RBI directions related to **'Governance' norms**.

RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b) read with Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The **statutory inspection** of the company was conducted with reference to its financial position as on **31 March 2025**.

Based on the supervisory findings and related correspondence, RBI issued a **show-cause notice** to the company.

After reviewing the company's written reply and oral submissions during the personal hearing, RBI confirmed the **regulatory violation**.

RBI found that the company failed to obtain **prior written permission** from RBI before **appointing directors**.

495. In 2026, according to the World Bank Group's "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026" report, how many carbon pricing policies are currently being implemented globally?

A.52
B.64
C.75
D.89
E.87

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **World Bank Group** released the **13th edition** of the report titled **"State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026"**.

The report identified **India** among the **world's largest new carbon markets** following the launch of its **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** in **2026**.

According to the report, global carbon pricing systems currently cover **29% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.

The report noted that currently **87 carbon pricing policies** are being implemented globally.

Detailed Explanation:

The **World Bank Group** released the **13th edition** of the report titled **"State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026"**.

The report identified **India** among the **world's largest new carbon markets** following the launch of its **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** in **2026**.

According to the report, global carbon pricing systems currently cover **29% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.

The report highlighted that **annual revenues** from emissions trading systems and carbon taxes have **tripled over the last decade**.

Revenues increased from less than **USD 30 billion in 2016** to over **USD 107 billion in 2025**.

The report stated that **global direct carbon prices** increased by **7%** compared to the previous year's report.

Average global carbon prices **nearly doubled over the last 10 years**, rising from **USD 10 per tCO2e in 2016** to nearly **USD 21 per tCO2e in 2026**.

The report noted that currently **87 carbon pricing policies** are being implemented globally.

496. In 2026, Kerala's first private medical museum established at Ulloor in Thiruvananthapuram is named_____

A.Museum of Human Biology
B.Kerala Medical Heritage Centre
C.Museum of Medical Archives
D.National Anatomy Museum
E.Institute of Medical History

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Kerala has established its **first private medical museum**, named the **Museum of Medical Archives**, at Ulloor in **Thiruvananthapura**m.

The museum focuses on **human anatomy, medical history, and biological education** through interactive scientific exhibits and handcrafted anatomical models.

The museum was founded by **A. Sivaraman**, a former artist-modeler at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Detailed Explanation:

Kerala has established its **first private medical museum**, named the **Museum of Medical Archives**, at Ulloor in **Thiruvananthapura**m.

The museum focuses on **human anatomy, medical history, and biological education** through interactive scientific exhibits and handcrafted anatomical models.

The museum was founded by **A. Sivaraman**, a former artist-modeler at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Over several decades, he developed numerous **anatomical teaching aids and scientific models** used in medical education.

The museum reflects his vision of making medical science easier to understand and accessible to the general public beyond classrooms and academic institutions.

The **Museum of Medical Archives** is unique because it is entirely dedicated to **medical science and biological learning**.

497. In 2026, the Investors Support Portal launched under the Semicon India Programme was developed as what type of platform for semiconductor investors?

A.Single-window facilitation platform

B.Research funding platform

C.Export promotion platform

D.Digital payment platform

E.Skill development platform

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **India Semiconductor Mission** has launched the **Investors Support Portal** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to** strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and improve investor facilitation under the **Semicon India Programme**.

The portal has been developed as a **single-window facilitation platform** for semiconductor investors and ecosystem participants.

Detailed Explanation:

The **India Semiconductor Mission** has launched the **Investors Support Portal** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to** strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and improve investor facilitation under the **Semicon India Programme**.

The portal has been developed as a **single-window facilitation platform** for semiconductor investors and ecosystem participants.

It aims to simplify investor engagement by providing centralized access to government

schemes, policy guidelines, regulatory requirements, approved semiconductor projects, and investor support services.

A major objective of the portal is to strengthen investor confidence in India's growing semiconductor sector by ensuring faster communication, structured coordination, and easier access to information related to semiconductor manufacturing and design projects.

One of the key features of the platform is its **grievance resolution mechanism**, which allows investors to directly register concerns, operational challenges, or project-related issues.

498. In 2026, Yoga Mahotsav marking the 25-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organised at which UNESCO World Heritage site?

A.Ajanta Caves

B.Konark Sun Temple

C.Mahabalipuram Monuments

D.Hampi Monuments

E.Khajuraho Group of Monuments

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **UNESCO World Heritage temples at Khajuraho** Group of Monuments will host **Yoga Mahotsav 2026**, marking the important **25-day countdown** to the **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026**.

The event is being organised by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga** under the Ministry of Ayush and aims to combine India's ancient cultural heritage with its global wellness diplomacy initiatives.

Detailed Explanation:

The **UNESCO World Heritage temples at Khajuraho** Group of Monuments will host **Yoga Mahotsav 2026**, marking the important **25-day countdown** to the **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026**.

The event is being organised by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga** under the Ministry of Ayush and aims to combine India's ancient cultural heritage with its global wellness diplomacy initiatives.

Yoga Mahotsav is an annual outreach programme conducted before the International Day of Yoga celebrations observed every year on **21 June**.

The initiative is designed to increase public awareness about yoga, encourage mass participation, promote holistic health, and expand yoga outreach across both India and the international community.

Through this programme, the government seeks to strengthen yoga's role as a preventive healthcare and wellness practice.

Khajuraho was chosen as the venue because of its immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance.

499.In 2026, India discovered a new natural gas-bearing zone in the Dandewala field located in which state?

A.Gujarat

B.Assam

C.Rajasthan
D.Odisha
E.Andhra Pradesh
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
India has discovered a new **natural gas-bearing zone** in the **Dandewala field** located in **Rajasthan**.
The discovery was made by **Oil India Limited**, which is one of India's leading public sector oil and gas exploration companies.
This discovery is considered an important step towards strengthening India's domestic energy production.
Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** announced that natural gas was successfully unlocked from the **Sanu Formation**, a shallower geological layer in the Dandewala field.
Detailed Explanation:
India has discovered a new **natural gas-bearing zone** in the **Dandewala field** located in **Rajasthan**.
The discovery was made by **Oil India Limited**, which is one of India's leading public sector oil and gas exploration companies.
This discovery is considered an important step towards strengthening India's domestic energy production.
Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** announced that natural gas was successfully unlocked from the **Sanu Formation**, a shallower geological layer in the Dandewala field.
The discovery is important because it expands the hydrocarbon potential of the region and opens new opportunities for domestic natural gas extraction.
The **Dandewala field** is situated in the **Rajasthan sedimentary basin**, which is one of India's major onshore hydrocarbon-producing regions.
At present, the country imports **more than 85% of its crude oil requirement** and around **50% of its natural gas demand**. Such high dependence increases vulnerability to global crude oil price fluctuations, geopolitical tensions, supply disruptions, and rising import bills.
Increased domestic gas production from discoveries like Dandewala can help improve **India's energy security** by reducing reliance on imports.

500. In 2026, which traditional tribal artwork from Madhya Pradesh was gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden?
A.Madhubani painting
B.Pattachitra painting
C.Warli painting
D.Gond painting
E.Kalamkari art
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi showcased **India's tribal heritage** and indigenous **craftsmanship through diplomatic**

gifts presented to global leaders during his recent foreign visits.

The initiative reflects India's broader cultural diplomacy strategy focused on promoting traditional knowledge, regional identity, and indigenous craftsmanship at the global level.

One of the notable gifts was a traditional **Gond painting** from Madhya Pradesh presented to **Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden**.

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi showcased **India's tribal heritage** and indigenous **craftsmanship through diplomatic gifts** presented to global leaders during his recent foreign visits.

The initiative reflects India's broader cultural diplomacy strategy focused on promoting traditional knowledge, regional identity, and indigenous craftsmanship at the global level.

One of the notable gifts was a traditional **Gond painting** from Madhya Pradesh presented to **Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden**.

Gond art originates from the Gond tribal community, one of India's largest indigenous communities, and is known for preserving tribal storytelling traditions and supporting local livelihoods.

Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** received two traditional textile gifts representing Northeast India:

A **Muga Silk stole** from Assam

A **Shirui Lily-inspired stole** from Manipur

Muga Silk is one of India's most prestigious traditional textiles and has received **Geographical Indication tag recognition**.

The Shirui Lily stole was crafted by the Tangkhul Naga community of Manipur and inspired by the rare **Shirui Lily**, which is the state flower of Manipur.

Prime Minister Modi also gifted **Black Rice (Chak-Hao)** from Manipur to the Queen Mother of the United Arab Emirates.

501. In 2026, Adani Green Energy Limited commissioned the world's largest single-location Battery Energy Storage System outside China at which place in Gujarat?

A.Khavda

B.Jamnagar

C.Mundra

D.Kandla

E.Bhavnagar

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Adani Green Energy Limited commissioned a **3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System at Khavda**, **Gujarat.**

The project is described as the **world's largest single-location battery storage deployment outside China**.

The Battery Energy Storage System aims to strengthen India's renewable energy infrastructure by improving grid reliability and supporting stable power supply.

Detailed Explanation:

Adani Green Energy Limited commissioned a **3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System at Khavda**, **Gujarat.**

The project is described as the **world's largest single-location battery storage deployment outside China**.

The Battery Energy Storage System aims to strengthen India's renewable energy infrastructure by improving grid reliability and supporting stable power supply.

Out of the total 3.37 Gigawatt-hour capacity, **1.37 Gigawatt-hour** was added in March 2026, and the project was completed within **10 months of construction**, making it one of the fastest utility-scale battery deployments globally.

A **Battery Energy Storage System** stores surplus electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power and supplies it during periods of high demand or low generation.

502. In 2026, who was appointed as the Part-Time Chairman of the Board of Directors of Federal Bank Limited with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A.Shaktikanta Das

B.Elias George

C.Rajeev Jain

D.N. S. Vishwanathan

E.K. V. Kamath

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of former IAS officer **Elias George** as the **Part-Time Chairman** of the Board of Directors of **Federal Bank Limited**.

The appointment became effective from **May 23, 2026**, for a **three-year tenure**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of former IAS officer **Elias George** as the **Part-Time Chairman** of the Board of Directors of **Federal Bank Limited**.

The appointment became effective from **May 23, 2026**, for a **three-year tenure**.

Elias George is a **1982-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** with more than **35 years of experience** in public administration, infrastructure financing, and public utility management.

Before becoming Chairman, he had been serving as an **Independent Director** on the board of Federal Bank since **September 2023**.

503. In 2026, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended whom for the post of Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)?

A.Rajesh Kumar

B.T. D. Sivakumar

C.Deepak Mohanty

D.Sanjay Malhotra

E.Ajay Seth

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **T. D. Sivakumar** for the post of **Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** of **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)**.

The recommendation was made after interface evaluations conducted on **20–21 May 2026**, assessing nine eligible candidates for the senior leadership role.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **T. D. Sivakumar** for the post of **Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** of **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)**.

The recommendation was made after interface evaluations conducted on **20–21 May 2026**, assessing nine eligible candidates for the senior leadership role.

The selection process considered performance during interviews, professional experience, and other eligibility parameters under a **merit-based evaluation framework**.

According to FSIB, **T. D. Sivakumar** demonstrated the most suitable profile for the position of **DMD at IIFCL**.

He is currently serving as **Chief General Manager** at the **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)**.

504. In 2026, who became the first astronaut from Hong Kong to participate in a Chinese space mission under the Shenzhou-23 mission?

A.Zhu Yangzhu

B.Zhang Zhiyuan

C.Li Jiaying

D.Wang Yaping

E.Liu Yang

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

China launched the **Shenzhou-23** spacecraft carrying **three astronauts** to the **Tiangong Space Station** for scientific research and orbital operations.

The mission marks China's **first space mission** expected to support a **year-long human stay** in orbit.

The spacecraft was launched aboard the **Long March-2F Y23** carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwestern China.

The three-member crew includes **Zhu Yangzhu**, the **mission commander** and space engineer.

Detailed Explanation:

China launched the **Shenzhou-23** spacecraft carrying **three astronauts** to the **Tiangong Space Station** for scientific research and orbital operations.

The mission marks China's **first space mission** expected to support a **year-long human stay** in orbit.

The spacecraft was launched aboard the **Long March-2F Y23** carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwestern China.

The three-member crew includes **Zhu Yangzhu**, the **mission commander** and space engineer.

The crew also includes **Zhang Zhiyuan**, a pilot and **former Air Force officer**.

Li Jiaying serves as the **payload specialist** and became the **first astronaut from Hong Kong** to participate in a Chinese space mission.

The Shenzhou-23 mission will conduct **more than 100 scientific experiments** related to space life science, aerospace medicine, materials science, and microgravity physics.

505. In 2026, which Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) successfully completed its first-ever all-women international mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest?

A.Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
B.Border Security Force (BSF)
C.Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
D.Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)
E.Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** successfully completed its first-ever **all-women international mountaineering expedition** to **Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak.

The **14-member ITBP team** summited the **8,848 metre (m)** Mount Everest via the **South Col Route** from **Nepal**.

The **ITBP expedition team** consisted of **11 women climbers** and **3 technical/support members**.

The climbers faced extreme challenges in the **"Death Zone" above 8,000 m**, including extreme weather, low oxygen levels, and difficult ice-wall sections.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** successfully completed its first-ever **all-women international mountaineering expedition** to **Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak.

The **14-member ITBP team** summited the **8,848 metre (m)** Mount Everest via the **South Col Route** from **Nepal**.

The **ITBP expedition team** consisted of **11 women climbers** and **3 technical/support members**.

The climbers faced extreme challenges in the **"Death Zone" above 8,000 m**, including extreme weather, low oxygen levels, and difficult ice-wall sections.

The **Border Security Force (BSF)**, a **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, also successfully scaled Mount Everest through its first all-women expedition named **'Mission Vande Mataram'**.

The **BSF Everest expedition** was organised as part of the **Diamond Jubilee celebrations (60 years of service)** of the force.

The **BSF all-women team** included **Kouser Fatima** (Ladakh), **Munmun Ghosh** (West Bengal), **Rabeka Singh** (Uttarakhand), and **Tsering Chorol** (Kargil, Ladakh).

The **BSF women constables** successfully reached the summit despite harsh climatic conditions and low oxygen availability.

506. In 2026, LIC increased its shareholding in Central Bank of India to what percentage through open market purchases?

A.4.25%

B.5.10%

C.8.00%

D.7.50%

E.6.06%

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquired **26.26 crore equity shares** of **Central Bank of India** through open market purchases.

The acquisition increased LIC's shareholding in Central Bank of India **from 3.16% to 6.06%**, representing an **additional 2.901% stake**.

The transaction highlights LIC's growing investment exposure in the **public sector banking sector** and reflects confidence in the bank's future growth prospects.

Detailed Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquired **26.26 crore equity shares** of **Central Bank of India** through open market purchases.

The acquisition increased LIC's shareholding in Central Bank of India **from 3.16% to 6.06%**, representing an **additional 2.901% stake**.

The transaction highlights LIC's growing investment exposure in the **public sector banking sector** and reflects confidence in the bank's future growth prospects.

The **Government of India** exercised the **full oversubscription (greenshoe) option** in the bank's **Offer for Sale (OFS)**.

As a result, the total OFS size increased from 36.20 crore shares (4%) to **72.41 crore shares (8%)** of the bank's paid-up capital.

The OFS process was managed by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** as part of the government's disinvestment programme.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):

Headquarters (HQ): Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Founded: 1956

About Central Bank of India :

Founded : 21 December 1911

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Kalyan Kumar

507. In 2026, which bank was in the final stages of acquiring ManiBhavnam Home Finance in a deal valued at around ₹109 crore?

A.AU Small Finance Bank

B.Equitas Small Finance Bank

C.Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

D.ESAF Small Finance Bank

E.Shivalik Small Finance Bank

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Shivalik Small Finance Bank is in the final stages of acquiring **ManiBhavnam Home Finance** in a deal valued at around **₹109 crore**.

The acquisition has already received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, while clearance from the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** is still awaited.

The main objective of the acquisition is to strengthen Shivalik Small Finance Bank's presence in the **affordable housing finance segment**.

Detailed Explanation:

Shivalik Small Finance Bank is in the final stages of acquiring **ManiBhavnam Home Finance** in a deal valued at around **₹109 crore**.

The acquisition has already received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, while clearance from the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** is still awaited.

The main objective of the acquisition is to strengthen Shivalik Small Finance Bank's presence in the **affordable housing finance segment**.

The deal will also help the bank expand its **secured lending business** in **North India**.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank is backed by **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation**, Japan's largest lender.

508. In 2026, Adani Power signed agreements to acquire a 24% stake in Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL) from which company?

A.Reliance Power

B.NTPC Limited

C.Jaiprakash Associates Limited

D.Tata Power

E.JSW Energy

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Adani Power has signed definitive agreements with **Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL)** to acquire a **24% stake** in **Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL)** along with the **180 MW Churk thermal power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

The acquisition is part of an **NCLT-approved resolution plan** under the **insolvency process** for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Limited.

Adani Power will acquire JAL's 24% stake in JPVL for approximately **₹2,993.6 crore** through a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Adani Power has signed definitive agreements with **Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL)** to acquire a **24% stake** in **Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL)** along with the **180 MW Churk thermal power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

The acquisition is part of an **NCLT-approved resolution plan** under the **insolvency process** for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Limited.

Adani Power will acquire JAL's 24% stake in JPVL for approximately **₹2,993.6 crore** through a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)**.

The company will also acquire the **180 MW Churk thermal power plant** and related assets, including an **11.49% stake in Prayagraj Power Generation Company Ltd**, for **₹1,200 crore**.

Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL) operates **thermal and hydro power assets** with a combined capacity of **2,220 MW**.

509. In 2026, India decided to strengthen economic relations and work towards finalising the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with which country?

A.Australia

B.Germany

C.France

D.Canada

E.Japan

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

India and Canada have decided to strengthen economic relations with the aim of finalising the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, a broad-based **Free Trade Agreement, by the end of 2026.**

Piyush Goyal, during his official visit to Ottawa, stated that both countries are working to conclude the negotiations at the earliest possible time.

The third round of negotiations is being held from 25 May to 29 May 2026 after the successful completion of two earlier rounds.

The agreement is expected to improve market access, reduce trade barriers, and increase investment flows between the two countries.

Detailed Explanation:

India and Canada have decided to strengthen economic relations with the aim of finalising the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, a broad-based **Free Trade Agreement, by the end of 2026.**

Piyush Goyal, during his official visit to Ottawa, stated that both countries are working to conclude the negotiations at the earliest possible time.

The third round of negotiations is being held from 25 May to 29 May 2026 after the successful completion of two earlier rounds.

The agreement is expected to improve market access, reduce trade barriers, and increase investment flows between the two countries.

Major sectors likely to benefit include energy, agri**-food, technology, education, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and services trade.**

India and Canada have also set an ambitious target to increase bilateral trade from the current **17 billion United States Dollars** to **50 billion United States Dollars by 2030**, reflecting strong confidence in the future potential of the partnership.

India currently **exports pharmaceuticals**, **iron and steel, seafood, cotton garments, chemicals, and electronic goods to Canada,** while Canada exports pulses, coal, fertilisers, petroleum crude, pearls, semi-precious stones, and paper products to India.

510. In 2026, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched which book based on his

experiences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

A.Modi: A Vision for India

B.Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav

C.Safar with Narendra Modi

D.Leadership and Nation Building

E.Bharat@2047

Answer: B

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched his new book **"Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav"** in New Delhi.

The book was formally released by former Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** and former Prime Minister **H. D. Deve Gowda**.

The book is based on Shivraj Singh Chouhan's decades-long political association and experiences with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

511. As of 2026, International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed every year on_____

A.8 March

B.7 April

C.15 May

D.28 May

E.21 June

Answer: D

International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed every year on **28 May** to raise awareness about women's health issues and promote their overall well-being, especially in the areas of **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**.

The **Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)** was established in **1984** and played a major role in organising and promoting the International Day of Action for Women's Health globally.

The day was first officially recognised in **1987** during a **women's health meeting held in South Africa.**

512. In 2026, which state became the first in India to create a separate Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio at the cabinet level?

A.Kerala

B.Tamil Nadu

C.Maharashtra

D.Karnataka

E.Telangana

Answer: A

Kerala become the first Indian state to create a Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio at the cabinet level and formally assign AI as a separate administrative identity in government. This decision was announced by the UDF government and this portfolio assigned to senior leader PK Kunhalikutty.

513. In which year was the International Day of Yoga officially adopted by the United Nations following a proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

A.2012

B.2013

C.2014

D.2015

E.2016

Answer: C

The **International Day of Yoga** was officially adopted by the **United Nations** in 2014 following a proposal put forward by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

Since then, the observance has become one of India's most significant global cultural and wellness initiatives, promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, holistic health, preventive healthcare, and international wellness awareness.

514. In 2026, India's first privately manufactured military aircraft, the Airbus C-295, is being produced at the Tata-Airbus facility located in which city?

A.Pune

B.Bengaluru

C.Hyderabad

D.Vadodara

E.Nagpur

Answer: D

India's first privately manufactured military aircraft, the Airbus C-295 closer to final rollout from Tata-Airbus facility in Vadodara, Gujarat. This landmark moment represents the major breakthrough for the country's self-reliance ambitions and redefine the India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem

515. In 2026, "Your Perfect Banking Partner" is the tagline of which bank?

A.South Indian Bank

B.Federal Bank

C.Karnataka Bank

D.City Union Bank

E.Dhanlaxmi Bank

Answer: B

About Federal Bank:

Founded: 1931

Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala, India

Managing Director & CEO: KVS Manian

Tagline: "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

516. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted the Expert Committee on "Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)" under the chairmanship of whom?

A.Dr. V. Narayanan

B.Dr. Anil Prabhakar

C.Nandan Nilekani

D.Dr. Ajay Kumar

E.Kris Gopalakrishnan

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an Expert Committee on **"Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)"**.

The committee has been formed to study the **opportunities, risks, and implications of quantum technology** in India's financial sector.

The committee is chaired by **Dr. Anil Prabhakar**, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.

Quantum technology uses principles such as **superposition and entanglement** for advanced computational capabilities.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an Expert Committee on **"Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)"**.

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Quantum technology uses principles such as **superposition and entanglement** for advanced computational capabilities.

Quantum technology can support applications like **portfolio optimisation, risk assessment, macroeconomic modelling**, and financial analysis.

At the same time, quantum computing **poses threats to existing cryptographic and encryption systems** used in the financial ecosystem.

The committee will evaluate risks posed by quantum computing through a **Cryptography Bill of Materials (CBOM)**.

The CBOM will help identify **critical financial systems and processes vulnerable to quantum threats**.

517. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding SEBI's revised methodology for calculating household savings through securities markets:

1. **The revised methodology increased India's FY25 gross savings-to-GDP ratio to 34.94%.**
2. **The updated framework uses transaction-level granular data from stock exchanges, depositories, and AMFI.**
3. **The net household financial savings declined to 6.10% of GDP under the revised estimates.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

E. 3 only

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised the methodology for calculating **household savings through securities markets**.

Due to the revised methodology, India's **FY25 gross savings-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio** increased from **34.47% to 34.94%**.
The revised estimates were released through a SEBI research paper prepared in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
Under the updated framework, household savings through securities markets in FY25 were estimated at **₹6.91 lakh crore**, compared to ₹5.43 lakh crore under the earlier methodology.
Detailed Explanation:
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Under the updated framework, household savings through securities markets in FY25 were estimated at **₹6.91 lakh crore**, compared to ₹5.43 lakh crore under the earlier methodology.
The revised methodology uses **transaction-level granular data** from stock exchanges, depositories, and the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**.
The updated framework provides a more **comprehensive, realistic, and accurate estimation** of household savings.
As per revised estimates, the **household savings-to-GDP ratio** improved to **21.7%** in FY25 from the earlier estimate of 21.23%.
The **net household financial savings** also increased to **7.10% of GDP** from the previous estimate of 6.63%.

518. In 2026, consider the following statements regarding the initiatives launched during SIDBI's 37th Foundation Day celebrations:

1. **The SIDBI-RRB Co-Lending Platform was launched to strengthen MSME credit flow in rural and semi-urban areas.**
2. **The MoRE Programme aims to support 10,000 rural micro and artisan units over the next 3 years.**
3. **The Micro Credit Card Scheme for MSMEs provides credit up to ₹10 lakh with 100% guarantee coverage.**

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

A.1 only
B.2 only
C.3 only
D.1 and 3 only
E.2 and 3 only
Answer: C
Short Explanation:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a set of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)-backed** strategic web portals and initiatives during the **37th Foundation Day celebrations** held in **Mumbai**.

The initiatives were launched to strengthen the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem** through innovation, inclusive financing, technology adoption, and collaborative partnerships.

The **SIDBI-RRB Co-Lending Platform** was launched to operationalise collaboration between **SIDBI and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** for improving **MSME credit flow in semi-urban and rural areas** across India.

The **Modernization of Rural Enterprises (MoRE) Programme** aims to support **10,000 rural micro and artisan units** through cluster-based interventions over the **next 3 years**.

The **Micro Credit Card Scheme for MSMEs** enables **Udyam-registered micro enterprises** to avail credit up to **Rs 5 lakh with 75% guarantee coverage** and without mandatory primary security.

Detailed Explanation:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a set of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)-backed** strategic web portals and initiatives during the **37th Foundation Day celebrations** held in **Mumbai**.

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The **Modernization of Rural Enterprises (MoRE) Programme** aims to support **10,000 rural micro and artisan units** through cluster-based interventions over the **next 3 years**.

The **Micro Credit Card Scheme for MSMEs** enables **Udyam-registered micro enterprises** to avail credit up to **Rs 5 lakh with 75% guarantee coverage** and without mandatory primary security.

The **SIDBI MachFin Mart** is a technology-driven **digital platform** that helps MSMEs access **machinery delivery** through a structured marketplace supporting standardisation, technology adoption, and loan sanction.

519. In 2026, what was the correct loan amount mentioned in relation to the Credit Outreach Programme organised at Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura?

A.₹95.40 crore

B.₹100.40 crore

C.₹105.40 crore

D.₹205.40 crore

E.₹125.40 crore

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

A **Credit Outreach Programme** was organised at **Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura** on **26 May 2026**.

The programme was chaired by **M. Nagaraju**, Secretary of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**.

Various banks sanctioned loans worth **₹105.40 crore** to **4,577 beneficiaries** during the programme.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** announced sanctions exceeding **₹2 crore** for different development projects.

Detailed Explanation:

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National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** announced sanctions exceeding **₹2 crore** for different development projects.

Banks also extended support under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives for improving infrastructure in schools and anganwadis.

A **Cluster Development Branch** of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** was inaugurated at **Udaipur** to strengthen the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sector.

The new SIDBI branch aims to **support borrowers, promote MSME growth**, and enhance regional economic development

520. In FY 2025-26, India's gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows reached a record high of_____

A.USD 94.53 billion

B.USD 84.53 billion

C.USD 89.53 billion

D.USD 74.53 billion

E.USD 104.53 billion

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that India's **gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows reached a record high of **USD 94.53 billion in FY 2025-26**, registering a **17% increase** over the previous year.

Despite record gross inflows, India's **net FDI inflows** stood at only **USD 7.65 billion**, indicating a sharp gap between total inflows and actual retained investment.

Gross FDI refers to the total foreign investment entering India before any deductions.

Net FDI is calculated by **subtracting repatriated funds and overseas investments** made by Indian companies from

gross FDI, representing the actual net addition to India's investment stock.

Detailed Explanation:

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Gross FDI refers to the total foreign investment entering India before any deductions.

Net FDI is calculated by **subtracting repatriated funds and overseas investments** made by Indian companies from gross FDI, representing the actual net addition to India's investment stock.

Repatriation means foreign companies taking back previously invested funds from India in the form of profits, dividends, or sale of assets.

The low net FDI was mainly due to two trends: increasing **capital repatriation** by foreign investors and rising **overseas investments** by Indian companies.

Foreign investors repatriated nearly **USD 53.58 billion**, the highest level recorded in at least the last three years.

Major reasons for high repatriation included **global risk-off sentiment**, the **West Asia war**, **supply chain disruptions**, **rupee depreciation**, and **profit-booking** after strong Indian market performance.

521. In 2026, under the amended Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, the total number of categories of weights and measures verified by GATCs increased to:

A.18

B.20

C.21

D.22

E.23

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has expanded the role of **Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs)** through amendments to the **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013**.

Under the amended rules, GATCs will now be authorised to verify dispensing systems for:

Petrol

Diesel

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Hydrogen

Earlier, GATCs were responsible for verification of **18 categories** of weights and measures. With the inclusion of five additional fuel dispensing systems, the total number has increased to **23 categories**.

Detailed Explanation:

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Test Centres (GATCs) through amendments to the **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013**.

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Diesel

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Hydrogen

The initiative aims to improve the availability and efficiency of verification services and support the increasing adoption of **cleaner fuel technologies** in India.

Earlier, GATCs were responsible for verification of **18 categories** of weights and measures. With the inclusion of five additional fuel dispensing systems, the total number has increased to **23 categories**.

As per the revised rules:

Verification fee for **petrol and diesel dispensers** has been fixed at **₹5,000 per nozzle**

Verification fee for **CNG, LPG, LNG and hydrogen dispensers** has been fixed at **₹10,000 per nozzle**

522. In 2026, what was the theme of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) organised by the World Health Organization (WHO)?

A.Universal Health for Sustainable Future

B.Health Equity Through Innovation

C.Advancing Global Healthcare Partnerships

D.One World, One Health Vision

E.Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** organised the **79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)** in **Geneva, Switzerland** from **18–23 May 2026**.

The theme of WHA79 was **"Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility"**.

During the six-day session, member countries adopted **more than 20 decisions and 13 resolutions** on major global health challenges.

The adopted resolutions covered issues such as **stroke, tuberculosis (TB), antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emergency care, haemophilia, precision medicine, radiation, pharmacovigilance, diagnostic imaging, transplantation, liver disease, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The adopted resolutions covered issues such as **stroke, tuberculosis (TB), antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emergency care,**

haemophilia, precision medicine, radiation, pharmacovigilance, diagnostic imaging, transplantation, liver disease, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Victor Atallah Lajam, Minister of Health of the **Dominican Republic**, served as the **President and Chairperson of WHA79**.

Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, addressed the plenary session of WHA79.

India reaffirmed its commitment to equitable, accessible, and people-centric healthcare under the vision of **"Health for All"**.

523. In 2026, who officially assumed charge as the Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)?

A.D.V. Swamy

B.P. Jawahar

C.Rajesh Kumar Singh

D.Amit Yadav

E.Sanjay Kumar Agarwal

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

P. Jawahar officially assumed charge as the **Chairman** of the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**.

Marine Products Export Development Authority functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.

P.Jawahar **succeeded D.V. Swamy** as the Chairman of MPEDA.

He will serve as Chairman for a **period of five years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Detailed Explanation:

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Marine Products Export Development Authority functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.

P. Jawahar **succeeded D.V. Swamy** as the Chairman of MPEDA.

He will serve as Chairman for a **period of five years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

P. Jawahar is a **2007-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **AGMUT cadre** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories).

He possesses extensive **administrative experience** in sectors such as **industries, commerce, education, sustainable development, elections administration, and public governance**.

524. In 2026, who were approved by SEBI as Executive Directors (EDs) on the board of Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)?

A.Saurabh Shukla and Gopalan S. Raghavan

B.Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar

C.Subhash Kelkar and Ankit Sharma

D.Rajesh Verma and Neha Sharma

E.Ajay Tyagi and Anuradha Rao

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved the appointment of **Amit Mahajan** and **Nayana Ovalekar** as **Executive Directors (EDs)** on the board of **Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)**.

The appointments will become effective from their respective dates of joining, subject to **ratification by CDSL shareholders**.

The disclosure regarding the appointments was made under **Regulation 30** of the **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – LODR) Regulations, 2015**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved the appointment of **Amit Mahajan** and **Nayana Ovalekar** as **Executive Directors (EDs)** on the board of **Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)**.

The appointments will become effective from their respective dates of joining, subject to **ratification by CDSL shareholders**.

The disclosure regarding the appointments was made under **Regulation 30** of the **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – LODR) Regulations, 2015**.

Amit Mahajan will head **Vertical 1** at CDSL, which is responsible for **Critical Operations**.

Nayana Ovalekar will lead **Vertical 2**, overseeing **Regulatory Affairs, Compliance, Risk Management, and Investor Grievances**.

BSE Limited also appointed **Saurabh Shukla** as Executive Director for **Vertical 1** and **Gopalan S. Raghavan** as Executive Director for **Vertical2**.

National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) appointed **Subhash Kelkar** and **Ankit Sharma** as **Executive Directors (EDs)** for its two major operational verticals.

525. In 2026, which Indian water utility secured a position among the global top five in three major award categories at the Global Water Summit held in Madrid?

A.Delhi Jal Board

B.Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board

C.Kerala Water Authority

D.Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board

E.Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board** emerged as one of the top five global utilities at the **Global Water Summit 2026** held **in Madrid**.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board became the only Indian water utility to secure a position among the global top five in three major award categories at the summit.

The board received international recognition for its integrated approach towards water conservation, **wastewater recycling, water reuse, and sustainable urban water governance** through **its "5 pillars" strategy**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board** emerged as one of the top five global

utilities at the **Global Water Summit 2026** held **in Madrid**.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board became the only Indian water utility to secure a position among the global top five in three major award categories at the summit.

The board received international recognition for its integrated approach towards water conservation, **wastewater recycling, water reuse, and sustainable urban water governance** through **its "5 pillars" strategy**.

The recognition was linked to the board's contribution towards achieving **United Nations** Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on ensuring clean water and sanitation for all.

In this category, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board featured alongside globally recognised utilities including:

Aguas Nuevas

Indah Water Konsortium

SANASA

Sanepar

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board was also listed among the top five globally in the prestigious **"Utility of the Year"** category, one of the highest recognitions in the international water sector.

526. In 2026, the Management Training Institute of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which institution for executive education programmes?

A.Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

B.XLRI Jamshedpur

C.Management Development Institute Gurgaon

D.Indian School of Business Hyderabad

E.National Institute of Industrial Engineering Mumbai

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The Management Training Institute of **Steel Authority of India Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Management Development Institute Gurgaon** to collaborate on executive education programmes aimed at **developing future-ready leaders within the company.**

The partnership combines academic expertise with practical industry application to strengthen organisational capability and leadership development in Steel Authority of India Limited.

Detailed Explanation:

The Management Training Institute of **Steel Authority of India Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Management Development Institute Gurgaon** to collaborate on executive education programmes aimed at **developing future-ready leaders within the company.**

The partnership combines academic expertise with practical industry application to strengthen organisational capability and leadership development in Steel Authority of India Limited.

Under the collaboration, both institutions will work on:

Customised leadership development programmes
Strategy and innovation-driven learning interventions
Action learning projects with measurable business impact
Overseas learning programmes
Joint research and consulting initiatives
Development of case studies tailored to the operational ecosystem of Steel Authority of India Limited
The initiative is expected to enhance managerial skills, strategic thinking, and leadership capabilities among executives of the company.

527. In 2026, Tata Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to support the development of 5,000 MW clean energy capacity in Bhutan?

A.Druk Green Power Corporation
B.Bhutan Power Corporation
C.Bhutan Renewable Energy Authority
D.Himalayan Hydropower Corporation
E.Bhutan Energy Development Board

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Tata Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Druk Green Power Corporation** to create a training framework supporting the development of **5,000 Megawatt clean energy capacity** in Bhutan.
The training programmes under the partnership will be delivered through the **Tata Power Skill Development Institute**, which focuses on bridging skill gaps in the power sector through industry-oriented training and certification programmes.
The initiative is aimed at strengthening local workforce capabilities required for Bhutan's expanding clean energy sector and supports the broader **India–Bhutan partnership in renewable energy development.**

Detailed Explanation:

Tata Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Druk Green Power Corporation** to create a training framework supporting the development of **5,000 Megawatt clean energy capacity** in Bhutan.
The training programmes under the partnership will be delivered through the **Tata Power Skill Development Institute**, which focuses on bridging skill gaps in the power sector through industry-oriented training and certification programmes.
The initiative is aimed at strengthening local workforce capabilities required for Bhutan's expanding clean energy sector and supports the broader **India–Bhutan partnership in renewable energy development.**
The Tata Power Skill Development Institute operates a wide training network across India and provides practical training across the power value chain, including:
Thermal power
Hydel power
Solar energy
Wind energy

Green hydrogen technologies

The partnership is expected to contribute to clean energy capacity building, workforce development, and sustainable energy cooperation between India and Bhutan.

528. In 2026, which organisation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Spices Board of India to promote Ayush products and medicinal spices in international markets?

A.National Medicinal Plants Board

B.Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)

C.Ministry of Commerce and Industry

D.Export Inspection Council of India

E.Federation of Indian Export Organisations

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Ayush Export Promotion Council (**AYUSHEXCIL**) and **Spices Board of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's global position in traditional wellness and natural products.

The agreement focuses on the integrated promotion of **Ayush products** and **medicinal spices** in international markets.

The MoU was signed by Anurag Sharma, Chairman of AYUSHEXCIL, and M. S. Manivannan, Secretary of the Spices Board of India.

Detailed Explanation:

Ayush Export Promotion Council (**AYUSHEXCIL**) and **Spices Board of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's global position in traditional wellness and natural products.

The agreement focuses on the integrated promotion of **Ayush products** and **medicinal spices** in international markets.

The MoU was signed by Anurag Sharma, Chairman of AYUSHEXCIL, and M. S. Manivannan, Secretary of the Spices Board of India.

The partnership aims to enhance global cooperation in the areas of:

Export promotion

Quality assurance and standardisation

Research and innovation

International market development

The collaboration will support the promotion of products such as:

Functional foods

Nutraceuticals

Herbal extracts

Ayurvedic and spice-based value-added products

529. In 2026, India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was named as_____

A.Agniveer

B.Pinaka Plus

C.Vajrastra

D.Brahmashakti

E.Suryastra

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated the **NIBE Group's private defence manufacturing complex** in **Shirdi, Maharashtra**.

He also flagged off India's first **300-kilometre (km) Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra'** to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and future warfare capabilities.

The NIBE Defence Manufacturing Complex was developed by the **NIBE Limited (NIBE Group)** with an investment of over **Rs.5,000 crore**.

Detailed Explanation:

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He also flagged off India's first **300-kilometre (km) Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra'** to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and future warfare capabilities.

The NIBE Defence Manufacturing Complex was developed by the **NIBE Limited (NIBE Group)** with an investment of over **Rs.5,000 crore**.

The project is expected to generate nearly **4,000 employment opportunities** in the defence manufacturing sector.

Suryastra is an **indigenous guided rocket launcher system** developed under the **emergency procurement framework**.

The Suryastra system was successfully tested at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha**.

530. In 2026, NASA unveiled a USD 20 billion three-phased plan to establish a permanent base on which celestial body?

A.Mars

B.Moon

C.Venus

D.Europa

E.Titan

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled a **USD 20 billion three-phased plan** to establish a **permanent base on the Moon**.

The plan was announced by **NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman**.

The **lunar base programme** will involve **robotic landers**, **lunar rovers**, and **drones** to support **long-term human presence** on the Moon.

NASA aims to establish the **first lunar base by March 2027** and plans to **land astronauts** on the Moon again in **2028** under the **Artemis programme**.

Moon Base-I (2026–2028) will focus on **testing technologies** and preparing for **future surface operations** on the Moon.

Detailed Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled a **USD 20 billion three-phased plan** to establish a **permanent base on the Moon**.

The plan was announced by **NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman**.

The **lunar base programme** will involve **robotic landers**, **lunar rovers**, and **drones** to support **long-term human presence** on the Moon.

NASA aims to establish the **first lunar base by March 2027** and plans to **land astronauts** on the Moon again in **2028** under the **Artemis programme**.

The mission aims to help the **United States** develop the capability to **live and operate** in the Moon's **harsh environment**.

Moon Base-I (2026–2028) will focus on **testing technologies** and preparing for **future surface operations** on the Moon.

For Moon Base-I, NASA selected **Blue Origin's Blue Moon Mark-1 Endurance lander**, scheduled no earlier than **September 2026**.

The Moon Base-I mission is planned to land at the **Shackleton Connecting Ridge** near the **Moon's south pole**.

Moon Base-II (2029–2032) will focus on **constructing permanent lunar infrastructure** including **habitats**, **power systems**, and facilities for **long-duration human missions**.

Moon Base-III (2032 onwards) aims to support **routine crew rotations** and **continuous human activity** on the lunar surface.

531. In 2026, the Technology Development Board (TDB) signed an agreement with IDT Innovation Technologies Private Limited for a project related to_____

A.Quantum Computing Solutions

B.Green Hydrogen Storage Systems

C.Semiconductor Chip Manufacturing

D.Satellite Communication Networks

E.Industry 4.0 and Industrial AIoT Devices

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited., Nagpur**.

The agreement is for the project titled **"Industry 4.0: Development and Commercialization of Industrial AIoT Devices."**

The initiative aims to strengthen India's **Industry 4.0 ecosystem** and accelerate indigenous **industrial digital transformation**.

The project focuses on commercializing **Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (AIoT)**-based industrial solutions.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India,

signed an agreement with **IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited., Nagpur**.

The agreement is for the project titled **"Industry 4.0: Development and Commercialization of Industrial AIoT Devices."**

The initiative aims to strengthen India's **Industry 4.0 ecosystem** and accelerate indigenous **industrial digital transformation**.

The project focuses on commercializing **Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (AIoT)**-based industrial solutions.

The AIoT solutions are designed to improve **resource efficiency, energy optimization, predictive maintenance**, and **operational productivity** in manufacturing and industrial sectors.

The initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision of **intelligent manufacturing, digital industrial infrastructure**, and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

The company developed an integrated industrial AIoT ecosystem consisting of **proprietary hardware devices** and a **secure analytics software platform**.

The hardware suite includes **actuator monitors, energy meters, machine condition sensors, temperature monitoring systems, electrical health monitoring systems**, and **edge-based data acquisition units**.

The centralized software platform enables **secure data aggregation, real-time industrial monitoring, data visualization, analytics**, and **predictive performance monitoring**.

532. In 2026, the Department of Space approved the establishment of which facilities in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to strengthen India's space ecosystem?

A.Integrated Satellite Hubs

B.National Launch Complexes

C.Advanced Orbital Stations

D.Common Technical Facilities

E.Space Research Innovation Centres

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The Department of Space approved the establishment of **Common Technical Facilities (CTFs)** in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** to strengthen India's space ecosystem.

The new CTFs aim to promote **domestic manufacturing capabilities** and support the growth of India's space sector industry base.

These facilities will include **advanced testing, validation, and integration infrastructure** for high-precision assessment of space systems and components.

One CTF, named **Space Manufacturing Park**, will be established at **Khoraj near Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Department of Space approved the establishment of **Common Technical Facilities (CTFs)** in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** to strengthen India's space ecosystem.

The new CTFs aim to promote **domestic manufacturing capabilities** and support the growth of India's space sector industry base.
These facilities will include **advanced testing, validation, and integration infrastructure** for high-precision assessment of space systems and components.
One CTF, named **Space Manufacturing Park**, will be established at **Khoraj near Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
The Gujarat facility will primarily focus on **spacecraft manufacturing** and development of **complex payload systems**.
Another CTF, called the **Space Vehicles Cluster**, will be set up at **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.
The TN facility is strategically located near the upcoming **Small Launch Vehicle (SLV) complex** at **Kulasekharapatnam**.
The Space Vehicles Cluster will mainly focus on **manufacturing, testing, and integration of launch vehicle systems**.

533. In 2026, what is the name of the nationwide campaign implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) focusing on soil health, balanced fertiliser use, and sustainable agriculture practices?

A.Krishi Vikas Abhiyan
B.Khet Bachao Abhiyan
C.Dharti Suraksha Mission
D.Sustainable Farming Drive
E.Soil Health Jan Andolan

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)** implemented the nationwide **"Khet Bachao Abhiyan"** focusing on **soil health**, **balanced fertiliser use**, and **sustainable agriculture practices**.
The campaign has achieved widespread outreach, reaching around **2.71 crore citizens** across the country.
Under the initiative, a total of **12,979 awareness camps and seminars** were organised nationwide.
The campaign directly engaged approximately **7.17 lakh farmers**, promoting **scientific awareness** in agriculture.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)** implemented the nationwide **"Khet Bachao Abhiyan"** focusing on **soil health**, **balanced fertiliser use**, and **sustainable agriculture practices**.
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Under the initiative, a total of **12,979 awareness camps and seminars** were organised nationwide.

The campaign directly engaged approximately **7.17 lakh farmers**, promoting **scientific awareness** in agriculture.
The programme also strengthened farmer outreach by connecting **8,383 farmer-members** through **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**, and **Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs)**.
Large-scale awareness was created through **53,616 publicity locations**, including banners, posters, and hoardings across India.
The main objective of "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" is to promote **soil test-based nutrient management**.
The campaign aims to **reduce excessive dependence on chemical fertilisers** and **protect soil fertility**.

534. In 2026, which Karnataka-based chess player earned the prestigious Women's International Master (WIM) title and became the first WIM from Bengaluru?

A.Isha Sharma
B.Divya Deshmukh
C.Vantika Agrawal
D.Swara Lakshmi Nair
E.Savitha Shri B.

Answer: D

Short Explanation:
Karnataka-based chess player Swara Lakshmi Nair has earned the prestigious **Women's International Master (WIM)** title, becoming the **second player from Karnataka** to do so.
Isha Sharma was the first woman from the state to achieve the **WIM** title.
The **19-year-old Swara Lakshmi** has also become the **first Women's International Master from Bengaluru**.

Detailed Explanation:
Karnataka-based chess player Swara Lakshmi Nair has earned the prestigious **Women's International Master (WIM)** title, becoming the **second player from Karnataka** to do so.
Isha Sharma was the first woman from the state to achieve the **WIM** title.
The **19-year-old Swara Lakshmi** has also become the **first Women's International Master from Bengaluru**.
She is a **multiple-time Karnataka State champion** and has previously won a **bronze medal at the Commonwealth Under-20 Championship**.
Swara achieved her **first WIM norm** at the **Sardinia World Chess Festival 2025** held in **Italy**.
Her **second norm** was secured at the **Grand Hotel Kielce Open 2025** in **Poland**.
The **third and final norm** required for the title was achieved at the **Ptuj IM Tournament** in **Slovenia**.
She also secured an additional norm at the **Sardinia Festival 2026**, and her live FIDE rating currently stands at **2219**.

535. In 2026, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and International

Everest Day are both observed every year on which date?

A.May 29

B.May 25

C.May 27

D.June 1

E.June 5

Answer: A

The **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** is observed every year on **May 29** to honour the dedication and sacrifice of UN peacekeepers across the world.

The first **United Nations Peacekeeping Mission** was established in **May 1948**. The mission, named United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (**UNTSO**), was deployed in **Palestine**.

International Everest Day 2025 is observed on **May 29** to commemorate the historic first successful ascent of **Mount Everest** in **1953**.

536. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), regarded as a landmark economic reform in India, came into force in which year?

A.2016

B.2015

C.2014

D.2017

E.2018

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, which came into force in **2016**, completed **10 years of implementation** in **2026**.

The **IBC** is regarded as a **watershed economic reform** aimed at consolidating and modernising India's fragmented insolvency framework.

The Code established a **creditor-driven, time-bound, and efficient insolvency resolution mechanism** focused on corporate revival and value maximisation.

As of **March 2026**, a total of **8,987 insolvency cases** had been admitted under the IBC framework.

Around **42%** of the cases resolved through resolution plans were previously handled by the **Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)** or were defunct companies.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, which came into force in **2016**, completed **10 years of implementation** in **2026**.

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As of **March 2026**, a total of **8,987 insolvency cases** had been admitted under the IBC framework.

Out of these, **7,102 cases** had reached closure by March 2026.

Among the closed cases, **4,099 companies (around 58%)** were **successfully rescued and revived**.

Another **3,003 cases** ended in **liquidation**.

Among rescued entities, **1,388 cases** were closed due to appeal, review, or settlement, while **1,292 cases** were withdrawn.

Around **42%** of the cases resolved through resolution plans were previously handled by the **Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)** or were defunct companies.

537. What is the Premium Payment Term (PPT) available under LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium plan?

A.3 years, 7 years, 12 years

B.5 years, 10 years, 15 years

C.5 years, 8 years, 12 years

D.10 years, 15 years, 20 years

E.1 year, 5 years, 10 years

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two new joint life insurance savings plans named **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium"** and **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium."**

The new insurance products became available from **June 2026**.

Both plans are **joint life insurance policies** designed for a **married individual and his or her spouse** under a single policy.

The Limited Premium plan offers **Premium Payment Term (PPT)** options of **5 years, 10 years, or 15 years**.

The plan provides **7% guaranteed additions** on the **Tabular Annual Premium (TAP)**.

Detailed Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two new joint life insurance savings plans named **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium"** and **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium."**

The new insurance products became available from **June 2026**.

Both plans are **joint life insurance policies** designed for a **married individual and his or her spouse** under a single policy.

The schemes combine **savings benefits** with **financial protection** to provide long-term financial security for couples and families.

The plans offer features such as **guaranteed returns**, **fixed benefits**, **premium waiver on first death**, **loan facility**, and **flexible payout options**.

Under both plans, the minimum **Basic Sum Assured (BSA)** is fixed at **Rs. 3 lakh**.

The maximum sum assured depends on **Life Insurance Corporation of India's underwriting policy** and approval process.

The minimum entry age for policyholders is **18 years**.

The maximum entry age varies according to the selected plan type and policy option.

LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium is a **one-time premium payment plan**.
The Single Premium plan offers **guaranteed additions of ₹70 per ₹1,000** of Basic Sum Assured (BSA).
The policy term for the Single Premium plan ranges from **10 years to 25 years**.
LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium is a **limited premium payment plan**.
The Limited Premium plan offers **Premium Payment Term (PPT)** options of **5 years, 10 years, or 15 years**.
The plan provides **7% guaranteed additions** on the **Tabular Annual Premium (TAP)**.

538. As of 2026, One Mobikwik Systems Limited received in-principle approval from RBI for which type of licence to enable offline merchant payments?
A.Payment Gateway Licence
B.Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) Licence
C.Small Finance Bank Licence
D.Prepaid Payment Instrument Licence
E.NBFC Core Investment Company Licence
Answer: B
Short Explanation:
One Mobikwik Systems Limited, the parent company of **MobiKwik**, received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) licence**.
The **PA-P licence** will enable MobiKwik to facilitate **offline merchant payments** across India.
The approval allows the company to provide **payment aggregation services** to **physical merchants**.
Detailed Explanation:
One Mobikwik Systems Limited, the parent company of **MobiKwik**, received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) licence**.
The **PA-P licence** will enable MobiKwik to facilitate **offline merchant payments** across India.
The approval allows the company to provide **payment aggregation services** to **physical merchants**.
The services include acceptance and processing of **in-store digital payments** through **Point-of-Sale (PoS) infrastructure**, **Quick Response (QR)-based payments**, and **merchant settlement solutions**.
MobiKwik plans to scale deployment of **soundboxes** and **Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machines**.

539. In 2026, which state government announced the creation of a Deep-Tech Angel Fund in collaboration with SIDBI?
A.Karnataka
B.Telangana
C.Maharashtra
D.Andhra Pradesh
E.Tamil Nadu
Answer: D
Short Explanation:

The **Government of Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, announced the creation of a **Deep-Tech Angel Fund**.

The initiative will be implemented through the **Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH)** in **New Delhi**.

The programme aims to position **Andhra Pradesh** as a major **hub for deep-tech innovation** in India.

The initiative will provide **early-stage funding**, **industry access**, **ecosystem support**, and **global scaling opportunities** for startups.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, announced the creation of a **Deep-Tech Angel Fund**.

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The programme aims to position **Andhra Pradesh** as a major **hub for deep-tech innovation** in India.

The initiative will provide **early-stage funding**, **industry access**, **ecosystem support**, and **global scaling opportunities** for startups.

The programme focuses on **strategic sectors** such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **electronics**, **semiconductors**, **quantum technologies**, **advanced manufacturing**, and **clean energy**.

Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) will function as the **central platform** for **startup incubation** and **deep-tech ecosystem development**.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will provide **angel funding**, **seed funding**, and **financial support** for startups and the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** ecosystem.

540. As of 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 51st meeting of which governance platform to review major infrastructure projects?

A.Digital India Mission

B.e-Samiksha Platform

C.PRAGATI

D.PM Gati Shakti

E.National Infrastructure Pipeline

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the **51st meeting of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** to review major infrastructure, renewable energy, sanitation, and water resource projects across the country.

The meeting focused on ensuring faster implementation, improved inter-state coordination, and timely completion of public projects.

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the **51st meeting of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** to review major infrastructure, renewable energy, sanitation, and water resource projects across the country.

The meeting focused on ensuring faster implementation, improved inter-state coordination, and timely completion of public projects.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven key infrastructure projects related to the **railway, power, and road sectors** across nine states involving an estimated investment of nearly **₹30,000 crore**.

Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) is an **Information and Communication Technology-enabled multi-modal governance platform** launched by the Government of India to monitor major infrastructure projects, resolve administrative bottlenecks, and strengthen coordination between the Centre and States.

A major focus of the meeting was the expansion of **rooftop solar energy** in urban areas.

541. As of 2026, what is the financial outlay of the "Mission Queen Pineapple" launched in Tripura?

A.₹136 crore

B.₹236 crore

C.₹256 crore

D.₹336 crore

E.₹436 crore

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **₹236 crore Mission Queen Pineapple** in Tripura to transform the state's **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Queen Pineapple** into a premium global brand.

The mission will be implemented from **Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2026 to Quarter 4 of Financial Year 2028** and aims to develop a complete ecosystem around Tripura's unique Queen Pineapple variety.

Detailed Explanation:

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The mission will be implemented from **Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2026 to Quarter 4 of Financial Year 2028** and aims to develop a complete ecosystem around Tripura's unique Queen Pineapple variety.

The initiative focuses on:

Modern infrastructure development

Food processing

Branding and exports

Farmer participation across the value chain

Reduction in post-harvest losses

Rural employment generation

The mission is anchored by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**.

Tripura's Queen Pineapple is known for its:

Distinct aroma
Low-fibre texture
Natural sweetness
Juicy pulp
Chemical-free cultivation in hilly terrain
Due to these qualities, the fruit has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, giving it a unique market identity. However, farmers currently receive only around **₹6–10 per kilogram** at the farmgate level.

542. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022–23:
The report is released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
It is prepared by the National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) under the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC).
The report follows the System of Health Accounts (SHA) 2011 framework.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A.1 and 2 only
B.2 and 3 only
C.1 and 3 only
D.All are correct
E.3 only
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released the **National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23**, highlighting major improvements in India's healthcare financing system over the past decade.
The report shows a steady rise in **Government Health Expenditure (GHE)**, reduction in **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)**, and increased public investment in healthcare infrastructure, insurance coverage, and financial protection schemes.
The report is prepared by the **National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS)** under the **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC)** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The 2022-23 edition is the **10th National Health Accounts report** released by India and follows the **System of Health Accounts (SHA) 2011 framework**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released the **National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23**, highlighting major improvements in India's healthcare financing system over the past decade.
The report shows a steady rise in **Government Health Expenditure (GHE)**, reduction in **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)**, and increased public investment in healthcare infrastructure, insurance coverage, and financial protection schemes.
The **National Health Accounts (NHA)** report provides estimates of healthcare expenditure in India and tracks:
Government health spending

Private healthcare expenditure
Household medical spending
Insurance coverage
Social security healthcare spending
The report is prepared by the **National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS)** under the **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC)** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The 2022-23 edition is the **10th National Health Accounts report** released by India and follows the **System of Health Accounts (SHA) 2011 framework**.

543. As of 2026, consider the following statements regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 passed by Assam:
Assam became the first state in Northeast India to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.
The Bill mandates compulsory registration of live-in relationships within one month.
The legislation standardises the minimum legal marriage age at 21 years for women and 25 years for men.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
A.1 only
B.2 only
C.3 only
D.1 and 2 only
E.None of the above
Answer: C
Short Explanation:
The **Assam Legislative Assembly passed** the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making Assam the **first state in Northeast India** and the **third state in the country** after **Uttarakhand and Gujarat** to adopt Uniform Civil Code legislation.
Failure to register may lead to **up to three months imprisonment or a fine of ₹10,000**, while false declarations can attract a **fine of ₹25,000 and imprisonment**. The Bill also provides legal recognition to children born from registered live-in relationships.
The Bill standardises the **minimum legal marriage age** at **18 years for women and 21 years for men**.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Assam Legislative Assembly passed** the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making Assam the **first state in Northeast India** and the **third state in the country** after **Uttarakhand and Gujarat** to adopt Uniform Civil Code legislation.
The Bill aims to establish a **common civil legal framework** for all residents of the state in matters related to **marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships**.
The legislation was introduced by Atul Bora on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the first session of the 16th Assam Legislative Assembly.
One of the major provisions of the Bill is the **mandatory registration of live-in relationships**. Couples living together must

register their relationship with the Sub-Registrar within one month.

Failure to register may lead to **up to three months imprisonment or a fine of ₹10,000**, while false declarations can attract a **fine of ₹25,000 and imprisonment**. The Bill also provides legal recognition to children born from registered live-in relationships.

The Bill standardises the **minimum legal marriage age** at **18 years for women and 21 years for men**.

544. As of 2026, who assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) of the Indian Navy on 29 May 2026?

A.Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi

B.Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar

C.Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar

D.Vice Admiral M. A. Hampiholi

E.Vice Admiral Suraj Berry

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar assumed charge as the **48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** on **29 May 2026**.

On assuming office, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the **National War Memorial**.

Detailed Explanation:

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar assumed charge as the **48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** on **29 May 2026**.

On assuming office, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the **National War Memorial**.

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar is an alumnus of the **National Defence Academy** and was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **1 July 1988**.

He is a specialist in **Gunnery and Missile Systems** with over **37 years** of distinguished naval service.

He commanded several naval ships including **INS Nashak**, **INS Vibhuti**, and **INS Kirpan**.

545. As of 2026, what is the highest ceremonial honour awarded to a state police force in India, recently conferred on the Sikkim Police?

A.Police Medal of Excellence

B.National Service Police Award

C.Bharat Rakshak Police Honour

D.Gallantry Police Standard

E.President's Police Colour

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Sikkim State Police** has been conferred the prestigious **President's Police Colour**, one of the highest honours awarded to a police force in India.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the honour during a ceremonial event held in Gangtok on **28 May 2026**.

The **President's Police Colour** is regarded as the highest ceremonial recognition awarded to a state police force in India.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Sikkim State Police** has been conferred the prestigious **President's Police Colour**, one of the highest honours awarded to a police force in India.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the honour during a ceremonial event held in Gangtok on **28 May 2026**.

The award recognises the police force for:

Exceptional service

Professional excellence

Distinguished record of duty

Commitment to public safety

Contribution to maintaining law and order

President Droupadi Murmu appreciated the contribution of both serving and retired personnel of the Sikkim Police and noted that the force has been maintaining peace and public trust since its establishment in **1897**.

President Murmu observed that the role of police should extend beyond crime control and focus on strengthening community engagement and public confidence.

The Sikkim Police was praised for maintaining peace and social harmony through:

Professional conduct

Efficient policing

Community engagement

People-friendly approach

The **President's Police Colour** is regarded as the highest ceremonial recognition awarded to a state police force in India.

546. As of 2026, the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal will be awarded posthumously to which two Indian peacekeepers?

A.Major Radhika Sen and Major Abhilasha Barak

B.Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh and Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan

C.Naib Subedar Gurmeet Singh and Havildar Rajesh Kumar

D.Major Shubhangi Swaroop and Captain Anjali Singh

E.Havildar Vikram Singh and Subedar Amit Prasad

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

On the occasion of the **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**, the **United Nations (UN)** will honour two Indian peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag.

The prestigious **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** will be awarded posthumously to **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh** and **Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan**.

Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh served with the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**, while Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan served with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.

Detailed Explanation:

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Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh served with the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**, while Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan served with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.

The medals will be presented by **United Nations Secretary-General** António Guterres during the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers ceremony.

Major Abhilasha Barak has been selected for the **2025 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.

She is currently serving with the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** and leads the **Female Engagement Team (FET)**.

Major Abhilasha Barak is recognised as the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.

547. As of 2026, INS Sudarshini achieved a historic milestone by completing its first crossing of which ocean during the Lokayan 26 expedition?

A.Indian Ocean

B.Pacific Ocean

C.Arctic Ocean

D.Atlantic Ocean

E.Southern Ocean

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) **INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Antigua and Barbuda** as part of the ongoing **Lokayan 26 expedition**.

The ship successfully completed a historic **trans-Atlantic passage**, marking the **first Atlantic crossing** by INS Sudarshini.

The last Atlantic crossing by an Indian Navy sail training ship was undertaken by **INS Tarangini** in **2007**.

INS Sudarshini was warmly received by **Vijay Tewani** and **Telbert Benjamin**.

The **longest leg** of the expedition was from **Mindelo, Cape Verde to Antigua**, lasting **19 days**.

Detailed Explanation:

Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) **INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Antigua and Barbuda** as part of the ongoing **Lokayan 26 expedition**.

The ship successfully completed a historic **trans-Atlantic passage**, marking the **first Atlantic crossing** by INS Sudarshini.

The last Atlantic crossing by an Indian Navy sail training ship was undertaken by **INS Tarangini** in **2007**.

INS Sudarshini was warmly received by **Vijay Tewani** and **Telbert Benjamin**.

The **longest leg** of the expedition was from **Mindelo, Cape Verde to Antigua**, lasting **19 days**.

During the voyage, the ship sailed continuously **under sail**, demonstrating **traditional seamanship**, **navigation skills**, and **endurance at sea**.

The crew successfully handled challenging conditions including **heavy swells** and **strong winds** through coordinated **sail handling** and sustained **watchkeeping**.

During this leg, INS Sudarshini crossed the milestone of **10,000 nautical miles** since departing from **Kochi** on **20 January 2026**.

548. As of 2026, which organisation was excluded for the first time from the manufacturing process of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme, with private sector participation being invited?

A.Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

B.Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

C.Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

D.Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)

E.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** issued the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme** in **New Delhi**.

The **AMCA Programme** is India's first **indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft** project.

The government-funded programme has an estimated prototype development cost of **₹15,000 crore**.

For the first time, the Ministry of Defence **excluded Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** from the manufacturing process and invited **private sector participation**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** issued the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme** in **New Delhi**.

The **AMCA Programme** is India's first **indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft** project.

The government-funded programme has an estimated prototype development cost of **₹15,000 crore**.

The project includes the development of **five flying prototypes** and **one structural test aircraft**.

The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is a major **Make in India defence initiative**.

The programme is being implemented by the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

For the first time, the Ministry of Defence **excluded Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** from the manufacturing process and invited **private sector participation**.

549. As of 2026, what is the name of the integrated digital logistics application launched by the Indian Army to streamline logistics and sustainment management?

A.LOG-ARMY

B.SENA-TRACK

C.Q-FORCE

D.BATTLE-SUPPLY

E.ARMY-LOGIX

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Indian Army** launched **'Q-FORCE'**, an integrated **digital logistics application** designed to streamline logistics and sustainment management across varied operational terrains in India.

Q-FORCE integrates multiple logistics and inventory platforms to ensure seamless coordination and efficient management of military resources.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Indian Army** launched **'Q-FORCE'**, an integrated **digital logistics application** designed to streamline logistics and sustainment management across varied operational terrains in India.

Q-FORCE integrates multiple logistics and inventory platforms to ensure seamless coordination and efficient management of military resources.

The application aims to improve **military logistics, supply-chain efficiency, transport coordination, and operational support** during deployments.

Q-FORCE is an integrated digital logistics management system developed for **better real-time coordination, resource planning, and decision-making** within the Indian Army.

The platform supports **real-time logistics monitoring, faster tracking of logistics assets, and efficient resource allocation**.

550. As of 2026, researchers from which institute developed a light-driven nano-catalyst using gold nanoparticles, palladium nanoparticles, and BODIPY molecules?

A.IISc Bengaluru

B.IIT Delhi

C.Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali

D.CSIR-NCL Pune

E.IIT Bombay

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

Researchers developed a novel **light-driven nano-catalyst** aimed at reducing the use of toxic solvents, high temperatures, and energy-intensive industrial processes.

The innovation is expected to make the manufacturing of **medicines and industrial chemicals** cleaner, faster, and more energy efficient.

The research was carried out by scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**.

Detailed Explanation:

Researchers developed a novel **light-driven nano-catalyst** aimed at reducing the use of toxic solvents, high temperatures, and energy-intensive industrial processes.

The innovation is expected to make the manufacturing of **medicines and industrial chemicals** cleaner, faster, and more energy efficient.

The research was carried out by scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**.

Institute of Nano Science and Technology is an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

The scientists developed a **nanocomposite catalyst** by combining **gold nanoparticles**, **palladium nanoparticles**, and a light-absorbing molecule called **BODIPY**.

The hybrid material functions as a **light-driven catalyst** that uses light energy to accelerate chemical reactions more efficiently than traditional catalysts.

According to the research published in the journal ***Nanoscale***, the nanomaterial works through an **energy transfer mechanism**.

In the process, **gold nanoparticles** absorb light energy and transfer it to the **BODIPY molecule**.

551. As of 2026, the discovery of the 12.6-billion-year-old "Loktak Protocluster" was led by which Indian scientist?

A.Dr. K. Sivan

B.Dr. Ritu Karidhal

C.Dr. Ronaldo Laishram

D.Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood

E.Dr. T. V. Venkatesh

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

An international research team led by Indian scientist **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** discovered a **12.6-billion-year-old cosmic structure** named the **"Loktak Protocluster."** **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** is associated with the **National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)**.

The discovery was formally published in ***The Astrophysical Journal Letters***.

Detailed Explanation:

An international research team led by Indian scientist **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** discovered a **12.6-billion-year-old cosmic structure** named the **"Loktak Protocluster."** **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** is associated with the **National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)**.

The discovery was formally published in ***The Astrophysical Journal Letters***.

The **Loktak Protocluster** is described as an ancient **"city of galaxies"** formed in the **early Universe**.

The protocluster was named after **Loktak Lake** in **Manipur**.

Loktak Lake is the **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India** and is famous for its floating **"phumdis"**.

Phumdis are **floating masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter** drifting on water.

552. As of 2026, which initiative under the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM 2026) announced funding support for six international research projects in agriculture?

A.Indo-Pacific Agri-Tech Mission

B.Green Revolution 2.0

C.NextGen Farming Initiative

D.Quad Food Security Network

E.AI-ENGAGE

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **11th edition** of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM 2026)** was held in **New Delhi**.

The meeting was chaired by **S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Government of India.

Key participants included **Penny Wong** from Australia, **Toshimitsu Motegi** from Japan, and **Marco Rubio** from the United States.

Under the **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)** initiative, over **USD 6 million** was announced as funding support for **six international research projects**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **11th edition** of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM 2026)** was held in **New Delhi**.

The meeting was chaired by **S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Government of India.

Key participants included **Penny Wong** from Australia, **Toshimitsu Motegi** from Japan, and **Marco Rubio** from the United States.

One of the major highlights of the meeting was the launch of the first-ever **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)** initiative.

The Quad also launched the **Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security** to strengthen regional energy resilience.

India announced that it will host the **2nd edition** of the **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission**.

Under the **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)** initiative, over **USD 6 million** was announced as funding support for **six international research projects**.

553. As of 2026, the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal was launched by which department of the Government of India?

A.Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

B.NITI Aayog

C.Ministry of Home Affairs

D.Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

E.National Informatics Centre

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Government

of India, launched the **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal**.

The portal was launched during a meeting with Nodal Officers of Central Ministries and States/Union Territories (UTs) on **25 May 2026**.

Sarita Chauhan, Additional Secretary, DARPG, chaired the meeting and presented a detailed demonstration of the **NeSDA 2025 Portal**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Government of India, launched the **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal**.

The portal was launched during a meeting with Nodal Officers of Central Ministries and States/Union Territories (UTs) on **25 May 2026**.

Sarita Chauhan, Additional Secretary, DARPG, chaired the meeting and presented a detailed demonstration of the **NeSDA 2025 Portal**.

The presentation covered the **assessment framework**, portal functionalities, submission workflows, reporting mechanisms, and assessment timelines.

NeSDA is a **biennial assessment framework** developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances to evaluate the effectiveness of **e-Governance service delivery mechanisms** from the citizen's perspective.

The framework is based on the **Online Service Index (OSI)** of the **United Nations (UN) e-Government Survey** and is customized for India's federal structure.

NeSDA assesses the **availability, accessibility, and maturity** of online services across States, UTs, and Central Ministries/Departments

554. As of 2026, which Indian Olympian archer and Arjuna Awardee passed away at the age of 61 in Rajasthan?

A.Shyam Lal Meena

B.Rajat Haldar

C.Limba Ram

D.Tarundeep Rai

E.Atanu Das

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

Veteran Indian Olympian archer and **Arjuna Award awardee Shyam Lal Meena** passed away at the age of **61 in Rajasthan**.

He was born on **4 March 1965** in **Kevadia village, Banswara district, Rajasthan**.

He won a **bronze medal** in the **men's recurve team event** at the **1987 Asian Archery Championships** held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, along with **Limba Ram and Rajat Haldar**.

Detailed Explanation:

Veteran Indian Olympian archer and **Arjuna Award awardee Shyam Lal Meena** passed away at the age of **61 in Rajasthan**.

He was born on **4 March 1965** in **Kevadia village, Banswara district, Rajasthan**.

He won a **bronze medal** in the **men's recurve team event** at the **1987 Asian Archery**

Championships held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, along with **Limba Ram and Rajat Haldar**.

The bronze medal at the 1987 Asian Archery Championships was **India's first major international medal in archery** and helped the country qualify for its **Olympic archery debut** at the **1988 Summer Olympics**.

Shyam Lal Meena received the prestigious **Arjuna Award in 1989** from the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his outstanding contribution to archery.

555. As of 2026, under the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework, Quad partners pledged to mobilize up to how much investment?

A.USD 10 billion

B.USD 15 billion

C.USD 30 billion

D.USD 25 billion

E.USD 20 billion

Answer: E

Under the newly released **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework**, Quad partners pledged to mobilize up to **USD 20 billion investment**.

The investment will support **critical minerals supply chains**, including mining, processing, and recycling activities.

The **Quad** is a strategic grouping comprising **India, United States, Japan, and Australia**.

556. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed an MoU with which central bank to promote cross-border QR code-based merchant payments and digital payment connectivity?

A.Bank of Thailand

B.State Bank of Vietnam

C.Monetary Authority of Singapore

D.Bank of Indonesia

E.People's Bank of China

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with an aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation in **financial innovation** and **digital payments** between India and Vietnam.

The agreement was signed after receiving approval from the **Union Cabinet of India**.

The MoU focuses on promoting **cross-border QR Code-based merchant payments** between the two countries.

The partnership aims to improve **payment system connectivity** and facilitate **seamless cross-border transactions**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with an aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation in **financial innovation** and **digital payments** between India and Vietnam.

The agreement was signed after receiving approval from the **Union Cabinet of India**.

The MoU focuses on promoting **cross-border QR Code-based merchant payments** between the two countries.

The partnership aims to improve **payment system connectivity** and facilitate **seamless cross-border transactions**.

The MoU provides a framework for **information sharing**, **regulatory coordination**, and **implementation support**.

Areas of cooperation include sharing information on **emerging market trends**, **digital payment technologies**, best practices, and regulatory frameworks.

The agreement also supports cooperation in **fast payment systems**, **messaging systems**, and **card switch mechanisms**.

The MoU allows the possibility of launching **joint innovation programmes** and **digital payment projects** between RBI and SBV.

One major objective is to make cross-border transactions more **transparent, real-time, convenient, and cost-efficient**.

The system will provide **upfront display of charges**, improving transparency in international payments.

557. In 2026, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) launched the Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets in collaboration with which organisation?

A.RBI

B.SEBI

C.PSB Alliance

D.NABARD

E.IRDAI

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, launched the **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** on **29 May 2026**.

The portal was developed in collaboration with the **PSB Alliance** to provide easier access to information related to **unclaimed financial assets**.

The portal was launched by **M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS**, during the review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, launched the **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** on **29 May 2026**.

The portal was developed in collaboration with the **PSB Alliance** to provide easier access to information related to **unclaimed financial assets**.

The portal was launched by **M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS**, during the review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.

The portal is accessible through the official website: **Unclaimed Financial Assets Portal**

The platform serves as a **unified portal** for searching unclaimed financial assets across the **financial ecosystem**.

The portal provides access to search facilities for **unclaimed bank deposits, insurance claims, shares, dividends, and mutual funds**.
The initiative is an extension of the nationwide campaign **"आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार (Your Money, Your Right)"**

558. In 2026, as per the Department of Financial Services (DFS) review of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), what was the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) level reported?

A.2.93%
B.1.93%
C.3.39%
D.0.39%
E.2.13%

Answer: B

Short Explanation:
During the meeting, a **Coffee Table Book** titled **"आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार (Your Money, Your Right)"** was unveiled.
The campaign focused on helping citizens identify and reclaim **unclaimed financial assets**.
Over the last six months, more than **₹6,800 crore** was restituted to nearly **29 lakh claimants** across India.
The new DFS website is available in **23 regional languages** and includes **accessibility features** for visually impaired persons.
Aggregate business of PSBs reached around **₹283.3 lakh crore** as of 31 March 2026.
Aggregate net profit of PSBs increased to approximately **₹1.98 lakh crore**, marking the **highest-ever annual net profit** in PSB history.
Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) declined to a **historic low of 1.93%**.
Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) reduced further to **0.39%**.

Detailed Explanation:
Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), M. Nagaraju, chaired a review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to assess their performance during **FY 2025–26**.
The meeting was attended by senior **DFS officials**, the **Chairman of State Bank of India**, and **MDs, CEOs, and Executive Directors** of PSBs.
During the meeting, a **Coffee Table Book** titled **"आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार (Your Money, Your Right)"** was unveiled.
The campaign focused on helping citizens identify and reclaim **unclaimed financial assets**.
Over the last six months, more than **₹6,800 crore** was restituted to nearly **29 lakh claimants** across India.
The **revamped website** of the Department of Financial Services was also launched with a **citizen-centric approach**.
The new DFS website is available in **23 regional languages** and includes **accessibility features** for visually impaired persons.
The review assessed PSB performance in areas such as **business growth, profitability, asset**

quality, financial inclusion, digital banking, MSME credit, cyber resilience, and risk management.

Aggregate business of PSBs reached around **₹283.3 lakh crore** as of 31 March 2026.

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Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) declined to a **historic low of 1.93%**.

Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) reduced further to **0.39%**.

The improvement reflected **stronger balance sheets** and **prudent risk management practices**.

559. In Mar'26, according to RBI data, overseas travel spending by Indians declined to which amount?

A.USD 1.29 billion

B.USD 0.99 billion

C.USD 1.09 billion

D.USD 2.59 billion

E.USD 1.19 billion

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **overseas travel spending** by Indians declined to **USD 1.09 billion** in **March 2026**.

Overseas travel expenditure decreased by nearly **USD 212 million** compared to February 2026.

The decline reflects **reduced spending on foreign travel** by Indian residents.

Under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, Indians can remit up to **USD 2,50,000 per financial year** for permitted transactions.

Detailed Explanation:

According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **overseas travel spending** by Indians declined to **USD 1.09 billion** in **March 2026**.

Overseas travel expenditure decreased by nearly **USD 212 million** compared to February 2026.

The decline reflects **reduced spending on foreign travel** by Indian residents.

Under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, Indians can remit up to **USD 2,50,000 per financial year** for permitted transactions.

The LRS allows remittances for purposes such as **foreign travel, education, investments, and maintenance of relatives abroad**.

Total outward remittances under the LRS stood at **USD 2.59 billion** in March 2026.

Travel remained the **largest component of outward remittances**, accounting for **USD 1.09 billion** of the total remittances.

560. In 2026, the SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System inaugurated at IGI Airport, New Delhi, has been developed under which flagship programme?

A.Mission Vayu Suraksha

B.Mission SkyNet

C.National Aviation Mission

D.Mission Mausam

E.IMD Aviation Initiative

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System** at **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi**.

The system has been developed under the Government of India's flagship **Mission Mausam** programme.

SkyCast is an advanced aviation weather intelligence platform that provides **real-time atmospheric information** to enhance aviation safety and operational efficiency.

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System** at **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi**.

The system has been developed under the Government of India's flagship **Mission Mausam** programme.

SkyCast is an advanced aviation weather intelligence platform that provides **real-time atmospheric information** to enhance aviation safety and operational efficiency.

The system continuously monitors:

Fog formation

Visibility levels

Wind speed and direction

Turbulence

Moisture content

Atmospheric temperature

Aerosol concentration

It will help **pilots, air traffic controllers, and airport authorities** make informed decisions during critical flight operations, especially **take-offs and landings**.

561. In 2026, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved which scheme for strengthening India's Public Distribution System (PDS) with an outlay of ₹25,530 crore?

A.SARTHAK-PDS

B.NFSA Support Scheme

C.SMART-PDS

D.Anna Suraksha Yojana

E.Ration Mitra Scheme

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System (SARTHAK-PDS)** for a period of **5 years**.

The scheme has an outlay of **₹25,530 crore** and aims to strengthen **food security** across the country.

The scheme covers the entire **Public Distribution System (PDS)** value chain, including **foodgrain distribution, logistics, transportation, material handling, and grievance redressal mechanisms**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The scheme has an outlay of **₹25,530 crore** and aims to strengthen **food security** across the country.

The scheme covers the entire **Public Distribution System (PDS)** value chain, including **foodgrain distribution, logistics, transportation, material handling, and grievance redressal mechanisms**.

It is an **umbrella scheme** that integrates:

Assistance to State Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains and Fair Price Shop Dealers' Margin under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Scheme for Modernisation and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS).

The integration of these schemes is expected to strengthen the implementation of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** under a **single administrative framework**.

562. In 2026, the Chhattisgarh Government launched the 'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana' with an initial allocation of_____

A.₹150 crore

B.₹250 crore

C.₹300 crore

D.₹200 crore

E.₹500 crore

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **Chhattisgarh Government** will launch the **'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana'** to equip emerging towns and urban centres with **modern civic infrastructure and public facilities**.

The state government has allocated **₹200 crore** for the scheme in the **2026–27 Budget**.

The scheme has been conceptualised on the lines of the **'Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana'**, which was introduced for **municipal corporations**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Chhattisgarh Government** will launch the **'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana'** to equip emerging towns and urban centres with **modern civic infrastructure and public facilities**.

The state government has allocated **₹200 crore** for the scheme in the **2026–27 Budget**.

The scheme has been conceptualised on the lines of the **'Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana'**, which was introduced for **municipal corporations**.

In the first phase, the **Urban Administration and Development Department** has selected **32 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across the state's **five revenue divisions**:

Bilaspur – 9

Bastar – 6

Surguja – 6

Raipur – 6

Durg – 5

The **Chief Engineer of the Mechanical Cell of the Directorate** has been appointed as the **Nodal Officer** for all five revenue divisions to ensure effective implementation and monitoring.

563. In 2026, India's first municipality-developed Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has been approved in which Union Territory?

A.Puducherry

B.Lakshadweep

C.Goa

D.Andaman & Nicobar Islands

E.Daman & Diu

Answer: A

Short Explanation:

The **Government of India** has notified **two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** in the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.

The approvals were granted during the **137th Meeting of the Board of Approval (BoA)** under the **Department of Commerce**, held on **27 February 2026**.

The projects are expected to attract investments of nearly **₹1,975 crore** and generate around **8,500 employment opportunities**.

One of the SEZs will be developed by **Oulgaret Municipality** at **Thattanchavady village, Oulgaret Taluk**, making it **India's first municipality-developed SEZ**.

Detailed Explanation:

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One of the SEZs will be developed by **Oulgaret Municipality** at **Thattanchavady village, Oulgaret Taluk**, making it **India's first municipality-developed SEZ**.

The municipality-developed SEZ will focus on **Information Technology (IT)** and **Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS)** activities.

The second SEZ will be established by the **Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation (PIPDIC)** at **Karasur village, Villianur Taluk**.

The **multi-sector SEZ** will support industries across **manufacturing, services, and export-oriented businesses**.

564. In 2026, India signed a bilateral framework with which country to strengthen cooperation in critical minerals and rare earth elements supply chains?

A.Japan

B.Australia

C.United States of America

D.United Kingdom

E.Germany

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

India and the **United States of America (USA)** have signed a **bilateral framework** to strengthen cooperation in the **supply, mining, and processing of critical minerals and rare earth elements**.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.

The framework covers cooperation in **mining, processing, recycling, and related investments** across the critical minerals value chain.

It builds upon ongoing **India–United States** efforts to strengthen **supply chain security** in critical and strategic sectors.

Detailed Explanation:

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The framework covers cooperation in **mining, processing, recycling, and related investments** across the critical minerals value chain.

It builds upon ongoing **India–United States** efforts to strengthen **supply chain security** in critical and strategic sectors.

On **20 February 2026**, India became a signatory to the **United States-led Pax Silica Initiative**.

Critical minerals and rare earth elements are essential for:

High-tech electronics

Clean energy technologies

Defence systems

Electric vehicles

The partnership aims to reduce supply chain vulnerabilities and enhance access to critical resources required for emerging technologies and strategic industries.

China currently accounts for around 90% of global critical mineral processing, highlighting the importance of diversifying supply chains.

565. In 2026, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) partnered with which country's organisation Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC) to enhance workforce mobility for Indian talent?

A.South Korea

B.Germany

C.Singapore

D.Japan

E.Australia

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has partnered with **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC), Japan**, to strengthen and facilitate **workforce mobility opportunities for Indian talent in Japan**.

The collaboration will leverage the **'Credibility Check' framework** provided by **NSDC Trust**, a

group organisation of the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.

The initiative aims to establish a **structured and reliable verification mechanism** for Indian candidates travelling to Japan through **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)**.

Detailed Explanation:

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The initiative aims to establish a **structured and reliable verification mechanism** for Indian candidates travelling to Japan through **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)**.

The verification process may include:

Identity verification

Educational and qualification credential verification

Employment history verification

Criminal background checks (where legally permissible)

Consistency checks of submitted documents

Other credibility assessment parameters

India and Japan have also outlined an **Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange and Cooperation**.

The broader objective is to facilitate the movement of at least **50,000 skilled Indian professionals to Japan over the next five years**.

566. In 2026, the WhatsApp-based citizen services in Gujarat under the MoU with Meta are being integrated into which platform?

A.Digital India Portal

B.e-Governance Gujarat Hub

C.Gujarat e-Seva Portal

D.Bharat Citizen Connect

E.Sugam Digital Gujarat platform

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

The **Government of Gujarat** and **Meta Platforms Inc. (Meta)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Gandhinagar** to provide **WhatsApp-based access to government services** across the state.

Under the initiative, around **20 citizen services** from **five major departments** will be integrated into the **Sugam Digital Gujarat** platform.

Citizens will be able to access these services through a **single WhatsApp number**.

The services will be delivered through a **chatbot available in Gujarati and English**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of Gujarat** and **Meta Platforms Inc. (Meta)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Gandhinagar** to provide **WhatsApp-based access to government services** across the state.

Under the initiative, around **20 citizen services** from **five major departments** will be integrated into the **Sugam Digital Gujarat** platform.

Citizens will be able to access these services through a **single WhatsApp number**.

The services will be delivered through a **chatbot available in Gujarati and English**.

Key services proposed under the platform include:

Grievance redressal assistance

Income Certificate issuance

Caste Certificate issuance

Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Certificate issuance

Ration Card updates

Access to revenue records

Official affidavits

The platform is expected to improve **real-time application status tracking** and strengthen **last-mile delivery of public services** in both urban and rural areas.

The initiative aims to enhance **digital governance, citizen convenience, and accessibility of government services**.

567. In 2026, Odisha signed a tripartite MoU with Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS) to establish an Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility in which region?

A.Rourkela–Sundargarh

B.Cuttack–Jajpur

C.Bhubaneswar–Khurda

D.Ganjam–Berhampur

E.Sambalpur–Jharsuguda

Answer: C

Short Explanation:

The **Government of Odisha**, **Intel Corporation**, and **3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS)** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.

The agreement aims to establish an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in the **Bhubaneswar–Khurda region of Odisha**.

The project involves an estimated investment of **$3.3 billion**, making it one of the largest semiconductor-related investments in India.

The initiative is expected to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem and support the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **Government of Odisha**, **Intel Corporation**, and **3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS)** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.

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The initiative is expected to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem and support the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.

The signing ceremony was attended by **Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw**, **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi**, and **Intel Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lip-Bu Tan**.

The upcoming facility will manufacture:

Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrates
High-Density Interconnect (HDI) Substrates
Advanced Semiconductor Components
Next-Generation Packaging Solutions

Intel Corporation will provide technical expertise, process support, and advanced manufacturing knowledge for the project.

568. In 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the tenure of Ketan Merchant as Interim CEO of which bank for three months (effective from 27 May 2026)?

A.Paytm Payments Bank
B.Fino Payments Bank
C.Airtel Payments Bank
D.India Post Payments Bank
E.NSDL Payments Bank

Answer: B

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved a **three-month extension** for **Ketan Merchant** to continue as the **Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Fino Payments Bank**.

The extended tenure became effective from **27 May 2026**.

The disclosure regarding the extension was made under **Regulation 30** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – LODR) Regulations, 2015.

569. In 2026, Bassirou Diomaye Faye appointed which person as the new Prime Minister of Senegal?

A.Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo
B.Macky Sall
C.Ousmane Sonko
D.Abdoulaye Wade
E.Cheikh Tidiane Gadio

Answer: A

Bassirou Diomaye Faye, **President of Senegal**, appointed **Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo** as the new **Prime Minister (PM)** of Senegal.

Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo is a veteran **central banker**, **economist**, and member of the **Pastef party**.

The **political transition** occurred **three days** after President Bassirou Diomaye Faye **dissolved the government** and dismissed former Prime Minister **Ousmane Sonko**.

About Senegal :

Capital : Dakar
Currency : West African CFA franc

570. In 2026, the 16th India–Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was co-chaired by India's Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and which Singapore official?

A.Chan Chun Sing
B.Joseph Leong
C.Ng Eng Hen
D.Lawrence Wong

E.Teo Chee Hean

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The **16th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue** was held in **Singapore** on **28 May 2026**.

The dialogue was co-chaired by **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, **Defence Secretary of India**, and **Joseph Leong**, **Permanent Secretary (Defence) of Singapore**.

Both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing defence engagements and discussed key areas of **defence cooperation**.

Detailed Explanation:

The **16th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue** was held in **Singapore** on **28 May 2026**.

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Both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing defence engagements and discussed key areas of **defence cooperation**.

Major discussion areas included **military engagements**, **defence industry collaboration**, **capacity building**, and **regional security issues**.

India and Singapore explored new avenues to strengthen their **strategic defence partnership** and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The two countries also discussed enhancing cooperation in **emerging and niche sectors** such as **cyber security**, **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **maritime security**, **unmanned systems**, and **advanced defence technologies**.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of **innovation-driven partnerships** to address evolving regional and global security challenges.

About Singapore :

President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Prime Minister : Lawrence Wong

Currency : Singapore dollar

571. In 2026, the Indian Coast Guard, in a joint operation with ATS Gujarat, seized approximately how much cocaine off the Mundra coast?

A.105 kg

B.115 kg

C.125 kg

D.150 kg

E.95 kg

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) seized approximately **115 kg of Cocaine** during a joint anti-smuggling operation conducted with the **Anti-Terrorism Squad Gujarat (ATS Gujarat)**.

The operation was carried out from **25–26 May 2026** off the **Mundra coast in Gujarat**.

The estimated international market value of the seized narcotics is around **₹1150 crore**.

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) seized approximately **115 kg of Cocaine** during a joint anti-smuggling operation conducted with the **Anti-Terrorism Squad Gujarat (ATS Gujarat)**.

The operation was carried out from **25–26 May 2026** off the **Mundra coast in Gujarat**.

The estimated international market value of the seized narcotics is around **₹1150 crore**.

The operation was launched based on **specific and actionable intelligence** shared by **ATS Gujarat**.

Indian Coast Guard interceptor boats, along with ATS personnel onboard, conducted an extensive search operation in the **Mundra anchorage area**.

During the operation, **suspicious activity** was detected onboard a **container vessel**.

572. In 2026, the 4th Lavender Festival organised by CSIR-IIIM is being held under which theme?

A.Purple Revolution India

B.Aroma of Kashmir

C.Lavender for Rural Growth

D.Lavender goes global

E.Aroma Innovation Mission

Answer: D

Short Explanation:

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM Jammu) will organize the **4th Lavender Festival** on **6–7 June 2026** at **Government Degree College, Bhaderwah, Doda** under the theme **"Lavender goes global"**.

The festival celebrates the success of the **Purple Revolution** and lavender-based **rural entrepreneurship** in Jammu and Kashmir.

Detailed Explanation:

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM Jammu) will organize the **4th Lavender Festival** on **6–7 June 2026** at **Government Degree College, Bhaderwah, Doda** under the theme **"Lavender goes global"**.

The festival celebrates the success of the **Purple Revolution** and lavender-based **rural entrepreneurship** in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event will be inaugurated by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, and Space, and Vice President of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, announced the details during a curtain raiser press conference.

CSIR-IIIM has expanded lavender cultivation to **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the North-Eastern States** through scientific interventions and entrepreneurship support.

573. In 2026, Google launched the "Google for Education Schoolers (GES)" programme at the Education World Forum in which city?

A.New York
B.Paris
C.Tokyo
D.Geneva
E.London
Answer: E
Short Explanation:
Google announced the **Google for Education Schoolers (GES)** programme at the **Education World Forum 2026** held in **London, United Kingdom**.
GES is a **free Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme** designed for **school and higher education teachers across India**.
The initiative aims to provide **mobile-first AI training** on the **responsible use of AI tools**, including **Gemini**, in classrooms and academic environments.
Detailed Explanation:
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GES is a **free Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme** designed for **school and higher education teachers across India**.
The initiative aims to provide **mobile-first AI training** on the **responsible use of AI tools**, including **Gemini**, in classrooms and academic environments.
The programme has been launched in collaboration with **various state governments** and the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.
In the **initial phase**, the programme will be implemented with the governments of **Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Assam**.
The initiative will also cover the **Ladakh Union Territory** and the **Punjab School Education Board (PSEB)**.

574. In 2026, under the ICMR Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect programme, how many public health technologies were transferred to industry partners?
A.35
B.38
C.40
D.41
E.45
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, under the **Department of Health Research (DHR)**, organised the **"Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect"** event.
A major highlight of the event was the launch of the first-of-its-kind **Innovator–Industry Platform**.
Through this platform, **41 public health technologies** were transferred from ICMR institutes and innovators to industry partners.
Detailed Explanation:
The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, under the **Department of Health Research (DHR)**, organised the **"Medical**

Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect" event.

The event was held at the **Manekshaw Centre** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Council of Medical Research functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.

The programme was inaugurated by **Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav**, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Gobardhan Das, Member of **NITI Aayog**, was present during the event.

The primary objective of the **Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect** programme is to accelerate **technology transfer** and **commercialisation** of indigenous healthcare innovations through industry partnerships.

A major highlight of the event was the launch of the first-of-its-kind **Innovator–Industry Platform**.

Through this platform, **41 public health technologies** were transferred from ICMR institutes and innovators to industry partners.

575. In 2026, Nibe Group signed a Joint Venture with which company to establish advanced energetic materials and propellant manufacturing facilities in India?

A.Rafael Advanced Defense Systems

B.Lockheed Martin

C.BAE Systems

D.Boeing Defence

E.Elbit Systems

Answer: E

Short Explanation:

Nibe Group and **Elbit Systems** signed a **Joint Venture (JV)** agreement to establish advanced **energetic materials** and **propellant manufacturing facilities** in India.

The strategic partnership supports the Government of India's **'Make in India'** and **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** initiatives.

The proposed defence products to be manufactured under the JV include **Nitro Cellulose**, **Nitro Glycerine**, and **various propellant bases**.

Detailed Explanation:

Nibe Group and **Elbit Systems** signed a **Joint Venture (JV)** agreement to establish advanced **energetic materials** and **propellant manufacturing facilities** in India.

The strategic partnership supports the Government of India's **'Make in India'** and **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** initiatives.

The proposed defence products to be manufactured under the JV include **Nitro Cellulose**, **Nitro Glycerine**, and **various propellant bases**.

The propellant products include **single-base propellant**, **double-base propellant**, and **triple-base propellant**.

Under the JV arrangement, **Elbit Systems** will provide **technical assistance** and related support.

Nibe Group will be responsible for **establishment, investment, and**

operational management of the manufacturing facilities in India.

576. In 2026, Raja Randhir Singh, who recently passed away, was associated with which sport?

A.Boxing

B.Shooting

C.Hockey

D.Athletics

E.Wrestling

Answer: B

Short Explanation:

Renowned Indian shooter, **five-time Olympian**, and veteran sports administrator **Raja Randhir Singh** passed away at the age of **79** in **New Delhi**.

Raja Randhir Singh was born on **18 October 1946** in **Patiala, Punjab**.

He was honoured with the prestigious **Arjuna Award** in **1979** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his outstanding contribution to shooting sports.

Detailed Explanation:

Renowned Indian shooter, **five-time Olympian**, and veteran sports administrator **Raja Randhir Singh** passed away at the age of **79** in **New Delhi**.

Raja Randhir Singh was born on **18 October 1946** in **Patiala, Punjab**.

He was honoured with the prestigious **Arjuna Award** in **1979** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his outstanding contribution to shooting sports.

Raja Randhir Singh was a five-time Olympian, **Asian Games gold medallist**, former **Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, and the first Indian to become **President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**.

He specialised in **trap and skeet shooting** events during his shooting career.

He represented India in **five Olympic Games**: **Mexico City 1968**, **Munich 1972**, **Montreal 1976**, **Moscow 1980**, and **Los Angeles 1984**.

Raja Randhir Singh also served as the **reserve shooter** for the **1964 Summer Olympics** held in **Tokyo, Japan**.

577. In 2026, World No Tobacco Day is observed annually on which date?

A.30 May

B.31 May

C.1 June

D.29 May

E.2 June

Answer: B

World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on **31 May** to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promote tobacco-free lifestyles.

The day is organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and is also known as **World Anti-Tobacco Day**.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Established: **1948**
The World Health Organization (WHO) has 194 member

578. In Mar'26, according to RBI data on outward remittances, which category accounted for the largest share within travel spending?
A.Education-related travel
B.Overseas business travel
C.Pilgrimage and medical travel
D.Other travel (holidays & credit card settlements)
E.Work-related travel
Answer: D
Short Explanation:
Travel remained the **largest component of outward remittances**, accounting for **USD 1.09 billion** of the total remittances.
Within the travel category, the **"other travel" segment** accounted for **USD 623.05 million**, representing nearly **57% of total travel spending**.
The "other travel" category includes **holiday trips and international credit card settlements**.
Detailed Explanation:
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Within the travel category, the **"other travel" segment** accounted for **USD 623.05 million**, representing nearly **57% of total travel spending**.
The "other travel" category includes **holiday trips and international credit card settlements**.
Spending on **education-related travel** amounted to **USD 450.16 million** during March 2026.
Expenditure on **overseas business travel, pilgrimage, and medical treatment** together totalled **USD 21.39 million**.

579. In 2026, India hosted which Session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi?
A.66th Session
B.67th Session
C.69th Session
D.68th Session
E.70th Session
Answer: D
India hosts the 68th Session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body from the 20th to 22nd May, 2026. This high level international gathering will take place at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and it will bring together the policymakers, productivity experts and delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region.

580. In 2026, the 'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana' launched by the Chhattisgarh

Government has been conceptualised on the lines of which scheme?

A.Smart City Mission

B.AMRUT Scheme

C.Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana

D.Swachh Bharat Mission

E.Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Answer: C

The **Chhattisgarh Government** will launch the **'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana'** to equip emerging towns and urban centres with **modern civic infrastructure and public facilities**.

The state government has allocated **₹200 crore** for the scheme in the **2026–27 Budget**.

The scheme has been conceptualised on the lines of the **'Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana'**, which was introduced for **municipal corporations**.

In the first phase, the **Urban Administration and Development Department** has selected **32 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across the state's **five revenue divisions**:

Bilaspur – 9

Bastar – 6

Surguja – 6

Raipur – 6

Durg – 5