

Banking DCA February 2025

Banking Current Affairs



(<https://www.entri.me>)



(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me>)

1. To meet the growing demand for minerals vital for advanced technologies and defence production, the Union Cabinet has approved which mission with a financial allocation of ₹16,300 crore?

A National Mineral Exploration Mission

B National Critical Mineral Mission

C Strategic Resource Development Mission

D Advanced Mineral Security Initiative

E National Rare Earth Development Program

Solution

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Critical Mineral Mission (CMM) with a financial allocation of Rs 16,300 crore.
- This initiative is designed to meet the growing demand for minerals vital for advanced technologies and defence production.
- Explore Critical Minerals – Focus on both onshore and offshore areas.
- Streamline Regulatory Processes – Establish fast-track approval systems for mining projects.

- Encourage Financial Incentives – Provide financial support for exploration activities.
- Boost Mining Capabilities – Support the acquisition of critical mineral assets abroad.
- Promote National Stockpile – Build a reserve of critical minerals for long-term resource security

2. **On Republic day 2025, Which ministry won the Best Tableaux from Central Ministries/Departments (Judges' Choice) award?**

A Ministry of Defence

B Ministry of Women & Child Development

C Ministry of Tribal Affairs

D Ministry of External Affairs

E Ministry of Culture

Solution

- The Republic Day Parade 2025 at Kartavya Path, Delhi showcased India's military strength, cultural diversity, and historical legacy.
- Expert panels announced results via an online public poll on MyGov. Here are the winners in various categories:
- Judges' Choice: Best Marching Contingent (Services): Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent
- Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces): Delhi Police Marching Contingent
- Best Tableaux Winners: Uttar Pradesh: Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas

- Tripura: Eternal Reverence – Worship of 14 Deities in Kharchi Puja
- Andhra Pradesh: Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys

3. **Who is the Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that adopted the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024?**

A Om Birla

B Jagdambika Pal

C Rajnath Singh

D Piyush Goyal

E Mallikarjun Kharge

Solution

- The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chairperson Jagdambika Pal stated that the panel adopted the Waqf (Amendment) Bill draft report and the amended version of the proposed law with a majority vote.
- Pal stated that 16 members voted in favour, while 11 opposed it.
- JPC Chairperson Jagdambika Pal confirmed the amended version of the proposed law.
- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on August 8, 2024.

- It aims to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to address challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties.

4. Which color is prominently used in Lunar New Year decorations as a symbol of joy and fortune?

A Blue

B Yellow

C Red

D Green

E White

Solution

- The Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year, marks the beginning of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.
- It starts with the first new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20.
- The festival is filled with customs and traditions aimed at bringing good luck and prosperity for the year ahead.
- Red Decorations – The color red symbolizes joy and fortune, seen in lanterns, banners, and door decorations.
- Lion Dances & Fireworks – Public celebrations include lion and dragon dances, fireworks, and temple prayers.

- **Lantern Festival – On the 15th day, the festival ends with lantern displays and light shows.**

5. **What type of pipes has Tata Steel developed for hydrogen transportation?**

A API X52

B API X60

C API X65

D API X70

E API X55

Solution

- Tata Steel has become the first Indian company to develop hydrogen-compliant pipes, marking a significant advancement in India's clean energy efforts.
- These API X65 pipes are designed specifically for transporting hydrogen and are part of Tata Steel's commitment to supporting the country's energy transition.
- The pipes were processed at Tata Steel's Khopoli plant using steel produced at the Kalinganagar facility.
- These pipes meet all critical requirements for hydrogen transportation.

- Tata Steel managed the entire process, from designing and manufacturing the hot-rolled steel to producing the pipes, showcasing its capacity to build critical energy infrastructure.

6. Recently(Jan '25), Which bank's savings account can be instantly opened through Jumpp?

A HDFC Bank

B ICICI Bank

C Axis Bank

D YES Bank

E State Bank of India

Solution

- Jumpp is a super app that combines banking, payments, savings, investing, and borrowing into one platform.
- It allows users to consolidate their financial accounts through account aggregation and enables instant YES Bank savings account openings.
- Designed for online shoppers in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Focuses on financial inclusion with multilingual AI-driven assistance (English and Hindi) and voice-based interactions for users with limited digital literacy.
- Aims to onboard 1 million users by January 2026.

- Expands services beyond metro cities and integrates with India's Account Aggregator (AA) framework, which has recorded over 100 million consents for secure data sharing.

7. What is the main objective of the Manufacturing Accelerator Program launched by HDFC?

- A** To promote retail banking solutions
- B** To foster innovation and drive growth in India's manufacturing sector
- C** To provide financial aid to agricultural startups
- D** To expand HDFC Bank's customer base in rural areas
- E** To support only large-scale manufacturing industries

Solution

- HDFC, in collaboration with Startup India's Bharat Startup Grand Challenge, has launched the Manufacturing Accelerator Program to foster innovation and drive growth in India's manufacturing sector.
- The program supports startups addressing critical manufacturing challenges using cutting-edge solutions.
- Applications are open until 15 February.
- A joint initiative by HDFC Bank, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), and riidl Somaiya Vidyavihar University.
- Aligns with India's vision to become a global manufacturing hub.

- Empowers startups to develop advanced manufacturing technologies, enhance productivity, and promote sustainable practices.

8. In Jan 2025, what regulation has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced for housing finance companies (HFCs)?

A

HFCs must follow the same private placement regulations for non-convertible debentures (NCDs) as NBFCs

B

HFCs must stop issuing non-convertible debentures (NCDs)

C

HFCs must increase interest rates on all NCDs

D

HFCs are now exempt from private placement regulations

E

HFCs must issue NCDs only through public offerings

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that housing finance companies (HFCs) must now follow the same private placement regulations for non-convertible debentures (NCDs) as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- The revised guidelines apply to all new private placements of NCDs with maturities exceeding one year by HFCs.
- Effective immediately, HFCs must comply with NBFC-style regulations for NCD issuances.

9. As per the Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI), what was the index value for September 2024, reflecting an 11.11% year-on-year rise in digital payments?

A 432.78

B 445.50

C 465.33

D 480.12

E 499.25

Solution

- Digital payments across the country registered an 11.11% year-on-year rise as of September 2024, according to RBI's index measuring online transaction adoption.
- RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2024 stands at 465.33 as against 445.5 for March 2024, the Reserve Bank stated in a statement on January 29, 2025.
- Key Growth Drivers: The rise in RBI-DPI was driven by improvements in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country.

- Index Background: RBI introduced the composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 to track the digitization of payments in India.

10. What is the maximum loan amount covered under the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs?

A ₹50 crore

B ₹75 crore

C ₹100 crore

D ₹150 crore

E ₹25 crore

Solution

- The Government of India has approved the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME), fulfilling a key announcement from the Union Budget 2024-25.
- The scheme, facilitated by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), provides 60% guarantee coverage to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for credit facilities up to ₹100 crore sanctioned to eligible MSMEs.
- Objective: Facilitates credit availability for MSMEs to purchase Plant and Machinery/Equipment, boosting manufacturing and supporting the Make in India initiative.

11. Under the revised norms introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which of the following sections of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, outlines provisions for offences and penalties?

A Section 20

B Section 22

C Section 24

D Section 26

E Section 28

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for imposing monetary penalties and compounding offences under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act), 2007.
- The aim is to rationalise and consolidate enforcement actions against payment system operators and banks.
- The PSS Act outlines provisions for offences and penalties under Section 26.

- RBI can impose a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh or twice the amount involved in the contravention, whichever is higher.
- For continuing contraventions, an additional penalty of ₹25,000 per day can be imposed after the first day.
- RBI is also empowered to compound offences under Section 31 of the PSS Act, except for offences punishable with imprisonment only.

12. What was the smallest invoice financed by 121 Finance on the previous version of GeM Sahay?

A INR 100

B INR 160

C INR 120

D INR 200

E INR 250

Solution

- 121 Finance is an Reserve Bank of India-registered NBFC-Factor that partnered with GeM (Government-e-Marketplace), an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, along with Perfios and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), to launch the enhanced version of GeM Sahay.
- The smallest invoice financed by 121 Finance on the previous version of GeM Sahay was INR 160, showcasing its ability to cater to diverse business needs and promote financial inclusion.
- GeM Sahay 2.0 was developed in record time with the support of iSpirt, GeM, and other partners.

- 121 Finance is India's largest independently owned NBFC-Factor, specializing in solving B2B trade credit challenges for MSMEs.

13. What is the name of the newly launched Paytm feature for Android users to enable instant payment collection?

A Paytm Payment Hub

B Quick Money Widget

C Receive Money QR Widget

D Paytm Cash Collect

E Instant Payment QR

Solution

- One 97 Communications (OCL) owns Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services distribution company, has launched a new 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users, enabling instant payment collection directly from a smartphone's home screen.
- Paytm is a pioneer in QR codes, Soundbox, and mobile payments.
- The widget is designed to benefit influencers, shopkeepers, freelancers, delivery partners, and small businesses by simplifying and speeding up payment collection.

- The feature was first introduced for iOS users and received a positive response, prompting its extension to Android.

14. Which article of the Indian Constitution allows the appointment of retired judges as ad hoc judges in High Courts?

A Article 217A

B Article 224A

C Article 242A

D Article 226A

E Article 233A

Solution

- Article 224A of the Indian Constitution enables the appointment of retired judges as ad hoc judges in High Courts to address judicial vacancies and case backlogs.
- The Chief Justice of a High Court can request a retired judge, with the President's prior consent, to sit and act as a judge.

15. How many roads have been approved under the Connectivity Component of PM-JANMAN in Maharashtra?

A 33

B 27

C 38

D 21

E 30

Solution

- In a major step towards enhancing rural connectivity and economic growth, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has approved 27 roads spanning 50.13 km under the Connectivity Component of PM-JANMAN in Maharashtra.
- This initiative involves an investment of ₹50.35 crore and aims to uplift Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the state.
- All-Weather Road Connectivity: Ensuring reliable infrastructure for 27 PVTG habitations in remote areas.
- Socio-Economic Upliftment: Improving living standards and economic opportunities for PVTGs.

16. Recently, the two-day National Conference, chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, with Labour Ministers and Secretaries of States and UTs, was held in New Delhi. When are the committees expected to submit their findings on social security coverage?

A December 2024

B January 2025

C March 2025

D June 2025

E September 2025

Solution

- The two-day workshop, chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Labour & Employment, concluded with key discussions on social security and labour welfare for both organized and unorganized sector workers.
- This workshop included Labour Ministers, Labour Secretaries of States/UTs, and other senior officials..
- Extensive discussions on providing social security for unorganized sector workers (such as gig workers, construction workers, and

others).

- The Ministry highlighted the need to create sustainable models for social security in these sectors.
- Three Committees were formed to work on a comprehensive social security coverage model. These Committees, consisting of five states each, will hold further consultations and submit their findings in March 2025.

17. Recently the book, “Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade” was launched in New Delhi. Which of the following individuals was NOT mentioned as a part of the event?

A Shri Amit Shah

B Shri Manohar Lal

C Shri Kartikeya Sharma

D Dr. Aishwarya Pandit

E Shri Bhupender Yadav

Solution

- The book “Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade” was released by Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, in New Delhi.
- Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Kartikeya Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP, and Dr. Aishwarya Pandit, the book’s editor, were present at the event.
- Shri Amit Shah described the past 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the end of one era and the beginning of a new one, with India’s history being rewritten.

- He predicted that even Modi's critics would acknowledge this period as one marked in golden letters in future history books.
- Shah emphasized that India's transformation began in 2014, when India received a stable government after three decades.

18. What is the sponsorship amount for the Coal India Ranchi Marathon 2025?

A Rs. 50 Lakh

B Rs. 75 Lakh

C Rs. 2 Crore

D Rs. 1 Crore

E Rs. 5 Crore

Solution

- Coal India Limited (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal (MoC), is sponsoring the Coal India Ranchi Marathon 2025, scheduled for 9th February 2025 in Ranchi, Jharkhand For the 3rd consecutive year.
- The event is supported by a sponsorship of Rs. 1 Crore from the Coal India Sports Promotion Association (CISPA) fund, marking the third consecutive year of CIL's involvement.
- Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), a subsidiary of CIL, is responsible for conducting the event.

19. Which country has developed the world's first deep-sea radar system capable of detecting and tracking high-altitude aircraft from a depth of 1,000 meters underwater?

A United States

B Russia

C China

D Japan

E France

Solution

- China has developed the world's 1st deep-sea radar system capable of detecting and tracking high-altitude aircraft from a depth of 1,000 metres underwater.
- The system uses an acoustic sensor array deployed on the seabed to capture faint sound waves emitted by aircraft.
- These sound waves, after reflecting off the seabed and sea surface, are used to estimate the aircraft's coordinates with high accuracy.
- Sound waves from aircraft are typically reflected back into the sky by the sea surface, with only a small fraction penetrating the water.

- These waves become distorted due to varying temperatures, densities, salinities, and ocean currents.

20. As per IRDAI's new directive, what is the maximum percentage by which insurers can increase health insurance premiums for senior citizens (aged 60 and above) without prior approval?

A 5%

B 8%

C 15%

D 12%

E 10%

Solution

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed insurers not to increase health insurance premiums for senior citizens (aged 60 and above) by more than 10% without prior approval.
- Insurers must seek regulator approval before discontinuing health policies for senior citizens.
- To control rising healthcare costs, insurers have been urged to standardise hospital empanelment and negotiate package rates similar to the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

- Premium rates for health insurance are determined by factors such as estimated claims, administrative costs, and acquisition expenses.
- A major driver of premium increases is the lack of standardised hospitalisation costs in private insurance, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates uniform package rates.

21. What is the primary purpose of the RBI's decision to infuse Rs 1.1 lakh crore liquidity into the banking system?

- A** To provide immediate credit growth to banks
- B** To manage liquidity challenges and stabilize the banking system
- C** To finance upcoming government infrastructure projects
- D** To increase interest rates across financial markets
- E** None of the above

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a plan to infuse Rs 1.1 lakh crore liquidity into the banking system to address tight liquidity conditions.
- The liquidity infusion includes open market purchase auctions of Government securities worth Rs 60,000 crore in three tranches.
- Additionally, a 56-day Variable Rate Repo auction worth Rs 50,000 crore is scheduled.
- A \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction with a tenor of six months will also be conducted.

- This move aims to stabilize liquidity conditions and ensure orderly liquidity management in the banking system.

22. Recently, SEBI Plans New System for Immediate IPO Share Sales, Who is the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

A Ajay Tyagi

B Uday Kotak

C Madhabi Puri Buch

D Dr. S Jaishankar

E Dr. Shaktikanta Da

Solution

- SEBI is planning a new system to allow investors to sell shares immediately after allotment in an Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- This move aims to curb grey market trading and provide a regulated avenue for share sales post-allotment.
- Madhabi Puri Buch, the current Chairperson of SEBI, highlighted this initiative.
- She is the first woman to lead SEBI, appointed in 2022.

23. India's space economy, currently at 8 billion dollars, is projected to grow to how many billion dollars in the next 10 years?

A 45

B 41

C 48

D 44

E 47

Solution

- India's space economy has grown to 8 billion dollars and is expected to rise to 44 billion dollars in the next decade.
- Future missions like Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4 (2027), Shukrayaan (2028), and an Indian Space Station (2030) point to India's robust space exploration program.
- Initiatives like SPADEX showcase India's development in advanced space technologies.
- Current Space Economy: Valued at \$8 billion, reflecting achievements in satellite technology, launch services, and space exploration.

- **Projected Growth:** Expected to reach \$44 billion over the next 10 years, driven by both governmental and private sector initiatives.

24. Consider the following statements based on the RBI report released in January 2025:

- 1. Credit cards almost doubled by Dec 2024, compared to 2019.**
- 2. Digital payments surged 94x in volume and 3.5x in value since 2013.**
- 3. UPI rise almost quadrupled, from 21% (2019) to 83% (2024).**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A Only 1 & 2

B Only 2 and 3

C Only 1 and 3

D All of the above

E Only 1

Solution

- The RBI report highlights significant growth in credit card circulation, digital payments, and UPI adoption.
- Statement 1 is correct: Credit cards more than doubled, rising from 5.53 crore in December 2019 to 10.80 crore in December 2024.

- Statement 2 is correct: Digital payments surged 94x in volume and 3.5x in value between 2013 and 2024, reflecting exponential growth in India's digital payment ecosystem.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The contribution of UPI to the cumulative digital payments ecosystem more than doubled in five years, rising from 34 percent in 2019 to 83 percent in 2024.
- This growth is supported by innovations like UPI Lite and cross-border payment linkages introduced by the RBI.

25. What is the name of the solution adopted by Punjab National Bank for real-time cybercrime complaint management?

A CyberSecure 360

B FraudShield Pro

C SafeBank Integration System

D Clari5 NCRP Integration Solution

E SafeSecure 360

Solution

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) became the first bank in India to adopt the Clari5 NCRP Integration Solution for real-time cybercrime complaint management and fraud prevention.
- The Clari5 NCRP Integration Solution integrates with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre's (I4C) National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
- It ensures real-time fraud prevention and automated complaint management across banking channels like Internet Banking, ATMs, UPI, and NEFT/RTGS.

- Features include real-time lien marking, intelligent debit freeze, and dynamic dashboards offering actionable insights.
- The system is future-ready, supporting Credit Cards and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

26. Which Indian company partnered with ESAF Small Finance Bank to offer vehicle financing solutions?

A Tata Motors

B Maruti Suzuki

C Ashok Leyland

D Mahindra & Mahindra

E None of the above

Solution

- Ashok Leyland partnered with ESAF Small Finance Bank to offer vehicle financing solutions.
- Ashok Leyland signed an MoU with ESAF Small Finance Bank to provide vehicle loans.
- The financing solutions include tailored monthly repayment plans for customers.
- This partnership aims to meet customer needs and enhance financial accessibility.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank will provide end-to-end financial solutions for Ashok Leyland customers.

27. Who has been reappointed as the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank for another three-year term starting March 19, 2025?

A Amitabh Chaudhry

B Sandeep Bakshi

C Sumant Kathpalia

D Rakesh Sharma

E Byomkesh Shastri

Solution

- Rakesh Sharma has been reappointed as MD & CEO of IDBI Bank for a three-year term starting March 19, 2025.
- The decision was approved by the Board of Directors on January 23, 2025, with the Reserve Bank of India's approval.
- Sharma's career spans over four decades, starting with SBI, where he excelled in credit, HR, and international banking operations.
- He served as MD & CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (2014-2015) and Canara Bank (2015-2018).
- As MD & CEO of IDBI Bank since 2018, he has driven operational and financial transformation.

- He also holds leadership roles in EDII, IBA, IDBI Capital Markets, and IDBI Intech Limited.

28. Who has been appointed as the executive director of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a term of three years in January 2025?

A P. Suriaraj

B Amrit Mohan Prasad

C Priyanka Aggarwal

D Nandini Kulasekara

E Zulfiqar Hasan

Solution

- P. Suriaraj has been appointed as the executive director of Dhanlaxmi Bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a term of three years.
- P. Suriaraj brings 37 years of banking experience from Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- He has expertise in various departments such as integrated treasury, HR, and recovery.
- Suriaraj is a post-graduate in Commerce and a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

- He will serve as a whole-time director on the Board under Section 10A(2)(a) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

29. Consider the following statements regarding the RBI's mandate for cyber fraud prevention:

1. The Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) technology has been developed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
3. The '1600xx' number series is used for promotional calls as per TRAI guidelines.

Which of the following statements is/are CORRECT?

A Only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

B Only statement 1 is correct.

C Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

D All statements are correct.

E Only statement 2 is correct.

Solution

- The RBI has mandated banks to use the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) technology developed by the Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI) to combat cyber fraud.

- Banks must comply with the mandate by March 31, 2025.
- Statement 1 is correct: The MNRL technology has been developed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The MNRL technology is regulated by the Ministry of Communications, not the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The '1600xx' number series is designated for transactional calls as per TRAI guidelines, not for promotional calls.
- The '140xx' number series is used for promotional calls.

30. Which ministry released the data on CPI-AL & CPI-RL for December 2024?

A Ministry of Finance

B Ministry of Labour & Employment

C Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

D Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

E Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Solution

- The Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and the Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) remained at 1,320 and 1,331 points, respectively, for December 2024.
- Annual inflation rates eased to 5.01% (CPI-AL) and 5.05% (CPI-RL), down from around 7.7% in December of the previous year.
- Sub-indices like Pan, Supari, and Fuel & Light recorded marginal price increases.
- These statistics were released by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

31. What weightage did Tripura propose for the infrastructure index and international border in the new revenue distribution criteria?

A 2% each

B 3% each

C 5% each

D 10% each

E 15% each

Solution

- The Tripura government presented two key demands to the 16th Finance Commission (FC-XVI) regarding the horizontal distribution of resources among states.
- The state demanded the introduction of an infrastructure index and international border as new criteria for revenue distribution, considering Tripura's geographic location.
- Tripura also sought an increase in its tax devolution share from the current 42% to 50%.
- During the meeting, Chief Minister Manik Saha proposed modifications to the weights used by the 15th Finance Commission

(FC-XV) for revenue distribution.

- The state suggested incorporating the infrastructure index with a 5% weightage and international border with a 5% weightage as additional criteria.

32. Which division of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed the MoU with IIIT-Delhi?

A Data Analytics Division

B Data Informatics and Innovation Division

C National Statistical Division

D Statistical Research Division

E Economic Statistics Division

Solution

- The Data Informatics and Innovation Division of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Delhi) under the Data Innovation (DI) Lab Initiative.
- Launched in July 2024, the DI Lab aims to modernize the National Statistical System by fostering innovation and research-driven solutions.
- Focuses on emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Big Data Analytics to improve

data collection, processing, and dissemination.

- Over 100 academic institutions have been approached, and MoUs have been signed with IITs, IIMs, and other reputed institutions.

33. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Bajaj Finserv?

A S. Sreenivasan

B Ramandeep Singh Sahni

C R. K. Gupta

D Vinay Kumar

E Arvind Sharma

Solution

- Bajaj Finserv has appointed Ramandeep Singh Sahni as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Whole-Time Key Managerial Personnel, effective from February 1, 2025.
- He succeeds S. Sreenivasan, who will step down as CFO on January 31, 2025, but will continue in a strategic role as President (Insurance and Special Projects).
- Sahni has been with the Bajaj Finserv Group for over 11 years, serving as CFO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (BALIC) and later Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd. (BAGIC).

- Prior to Bajaj Finserv, he spent 12 years at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd., holding senior roles in Internal Audit and Finance.

34. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services?

A Animesh Chatterjee

B Vivek Karve

C Pradeep Kumar Agrawal

D Rajeev Gupta

E Sandeep Jain

Solution

- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has appointed Pradeep Kumar Agrawal as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Key Managerial Personnel, effective from March 5, 2025.
- This appointment fills a four-month vacancy following the resignation of former CFO Vivek Karve, who served until October 2024.
- Agrawal brings over 28 years of experience in financial operations, having held leadership roles at Aditya Birla Group and Bharat Petroleum.

- **Interim CFO:** Animesh Chatterjee, the current Head of Treasury, will serve as the Interim CFO from January 29, 2025, to March 4, 2025, ensuring a smooth transition.

35. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)?

A Rajesh Nirwan

B Vivek Kumar

C Sandeep Mehta

D Anil Yadav

E Ramesh Chandra

Solution

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Rajesh Nirwan (IPS) as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- The proposal was put forward by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Effective Date: Nirwan's appointment will be effective from the date he assumes charge and will continue until further orders, as per the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) order issued on January 27, 2025.

36. On January 30, 2025, who assumed the position of the Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition in the Indian Navy, succeeding Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar?

A Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar

B Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan

C Vice Admiral Daljit Singh Chaudhary

D Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar

E Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

Solution

- Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan, AVSM, NM assumed charge as the Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition on January 30, 2025, succeeding Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM.
- Vice Admiral Swaminathan was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987.
- He is a post-graduate from IIT, Kharagpur.
- With over 37 years of service, he has extensive experience, including nine years onboard the aircraft carrier INS Viraat in various roles.

- **Key Assignments: Fleet Engineer Officer (Western Fleet), General Manager (Refit) at Naval Dockyard, Mumba, Director of Personnel and Principal Director Ship Production in New Delhi.**

37. Recently, American Greg Bell, the oldest living Olympic gold medalist in athletics, has passed away. In which year was Greg Bell inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame?

A 1980

B 1985

C 1988

D 1990

E 1995

Solution

- Greg Bell, the 1956 Olympic long jump gold medalist, passed away on January 25 at his home at the age of 94.
- At the time of his death, he was the oldest living U.S. track and field Olympic gold medalist.
- Bell was born on November 7, 1930, in Terre Haute, Indiana, into extreme poverty.
- In 1956, he won the NCAA title and tied for first at the Olympic Trials, though he was declared the winner due to the lack of international tiebreaking rules.

- At the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, Bell won the gold medal with a jump of 7.83m (25-8.25), setting an Olympic record.
- Bell also won silver at the 1959 Pan American Games and set his lifetime best of 26-7 against the Soviet Union.

38. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized Niger for eliminating onchocerciasis (river blindness), making it the fifth country worldwide and the first in Africa to achieve this achievement. Onchocerciasis is the second leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide, after which disease?

A Glaucoma

B Cataracts

C Retinitis

D Macular degeneration

E Trachoma

Solution

- Niger has been acknowledged by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating onchocerciasis (river blindness), making it the 5th country globally and the first in Africa to achieve this milestone.
- Onchocerciasis is the second leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide, after trachoma.

- The disease is caused by the parasite *Onchocerca volvulus*, transmitted through the bites of infected black flies, primarily found in riverine areas.
- It affects rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa and Yemen, with smaller endemic areas in Latin America.
- From 1976 to 1989, Niger implemented vector control measures (insecticide spraying) under the WHO Onchocerciasis Control Programme in West Africa (OCP), significantly reducing transmission.

39. The elusive Rusty-Spotted Cat was recently spotted in which state?

A Andhra Pradesh

B Uttarakhand

C West Bengal

D Assam

E Madhya Pradesh

Solution

- The elusive rusty-spotted cat was recently spotted in the jungles of West Bengal's Purulia district for the first time.
- It is the world's smallest and lightest cat, weighing less than 1.5 kilograms. Scientifically known as *Prionailurus rubiginosus*, it features a fawn-grey coat with rusty spots, a short rounded head with white streaks by the eyes, and a moderately long, unmarked rusty tail.
- Its large eyes aid its nocturnal habits, while short legs and black-soled feet enhance agility. India holds 80% of its population, and it is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN.

40. **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is published by which ministry?**

A Ministry of Finance

B Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

C Ministry of Consumer Affairs

D Ministry of Rural Development

Solution

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released findings from the second Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES). The survey collects data on household spending on goods and services.
- It helps assess economic well-being, update the Consumer Price Index, and measure poverty and inequality. The Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) is the main indicator for analysis. Urban-rural consumption differences declined in 2023-24 across major states.
- MPCE increased for all household types in both rural and urban areas. Kerala has the lowest urban-rural MPCE gap, followed by Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar.

- Consumption inequality declined across almost all major states. The Gini coefficient fell to 0.237 (rural) and 0.284 (urban) in 2023-24.

41. Which of the following security features is incorporated in the product tested under RBI's regulatory sandbox?

A Private biometric authorization

B One-time passwords (OTP)

C Facial recognition

D CAPTCHA verification

E Voice-based authentication

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a regulatory sandbox for testing 'On Tap' applications under the theme 'Retail Payments'.
- Exto India Technologies Private. Limited. was selected for the Test Phase and evaluated an offline digital payment product.
- The product uses Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) combined with private biometric authorization to enable offline card-to-card and card-to-phone transactions.

- The innovation integrates cryptography of distributed ledgers, on-card biometric authentication, and time-limited balances to prevent double spending.
- The product has been successfully tested and found acceptable under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS).
-

42. What is the main objective of the bancassurance partnership between India Post Payments Bank(IPPB)and PNB MetLife?

A To introduce new banking regulations

B To expand digital banking services

C
To promote financial inclusion by increasing life insurance accessibility

D To merge banking and insurance operations into a single entity

E To provide mutual fund investment services

Solution

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) have launched a bancassurance partnership to expand life insurance accessibility across India.
- The collaboration will leverage IPPB's network of 650 outlets and its customer base of 110 million to promote financial inclusion.
- Bank assurance, also known as bancassurance, is a partnership between a bank and an insurance company to sell insurance products to the bank's customers.

43. **When did Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) issue a detailed registration circular for Virtual Digital Asset Service Providers?**

A March 10, 2023

B **October 17, 2023**

C December 1, 2023

D January 5, 2024

E February 1, 2024

Solution

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹9,27,00,000 (Nine crore twenty-seven lakh rupees) on Bybit Fintech Limited for violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.
- Bybit is a Virtual Digital Asset Service Provider (VDA SP), classified as a ‘reporting entity’ under Section 2(1)(wa) of the PMLA.
- A detailed registration circular for Virtual Digital Asset Service Providers was issued on October 17, 2023.

44. **What is the primary payment service being used for instant money transfers in the “X Money Account”?**

A UPI

B Visa Direct

C PayPal Express

D Google Pay

E Apple Pay

Solution

- X (formerly Twitter) is moving towards becoming an “everything app,” a concept Musk has envisioned for years, and is partnering with Visa to launch real-time payments in 2024, introducing a new digital wallet service called “X Money Account” for peer-to-peer payments.
- The service will be powered by Visa Direct for real-time money transfers.
- Users can transfer funds to their bank accounts.
- Musk’s idea of an “everything app” dates back to the late 1990s with X.com, which later merged into PayPal.

45. Which company has launched India's first-ever ETF replicating the MSCI India Index?

- A** HDFC Asset Management Company
- B** SBI Mutual Fund
- C** Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company
- D** ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
- E** Axis Mutual Fund

Solution

- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund) has launched the Kotak MSCI India exchange-traded fund (ETF), India's 1st-ever fund replicating the MSCI India Index, offering investors a unique opportunity to gain exposure to India's thriving economy.
- The fund, open for public subscription from January 29 to February 12, 2025.
- The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) index is an index used by global investors to track India's growth story.

- It comprises 156 companies from the large and mid-cap segments of the Indian market.

46. Which famous Indian artist's work inspired Nirmala Sitharaman's saree design in the Union Budget 2025 presentation?

A M.F. Husain

B Ravi Varma

C Dulari Devi

D Sudha Murthy

E K. K. Hebbar

Solution

- The Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The government has presented the Union Budget 2025-26 with the theme "Sabka Vikas."
- It marks her eighth consecutive budget presentation, including six annual and two interim budgets.
- Sitharaman has presented the most number of budgets among her predecessors, surpassing figures like Manmohan Singh, Arun Jaitley, P. Chidambaram, Yashwant Sinha, and Morarji Desai.

- Nirmala Sitharaman’s Budget 2025 saree featured a border with Madhubani art, representing India’s cultural heritage.

47. Which of the following statements about India's Ramsar Wetlands is correct based on the details?

A India ranks first globally in the number of Ramsar Wetlands, with 80 sites

B

Tamil Nadu now has 20 Ramsar Wetlands, the highest of any state in India

C

The new Ramsar Wetlands include two sites from Sikkim and one from Jharkhand

D

China has more Ramsar Wetlands than India, making India second in Asia

E

India's Ramsar Wetlands contribute to its environmental leadership, but it is ranked fourth globally

Solution

- India has recently expanded its Ramsar Wetland Sites by adding four new wetlands—Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary and Therthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Khecheopalri Wetland in Sikkim, and Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand.
- With these additions, the total number of Ramsar sites in India has now reached 89, making India the country with the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia, ahead of China (82 sites).

- Globally, India ranks third, following the United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142).
- Total Ramsar Sites in India:89
- India’s Ranking:Third-largest in the world
- Leading State:Tamil Nadu with 20 Ramsar sites

48. How much funding has been approved for the Lightning Safety Project across 50 lightning-prone districts?

A Rs 195.78 crore

B Rs 186.78 crore

C Rs 189.78 crore

D Rs 155.78 crore

E Rs 178.78 crore

Solution

- In a significant move to bolster disaster preparedness and resilience, the Union Home Ministry, under the leadership of Amit Shah, has approved Rs 3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects in multiple states, including Meghalaya.
- Lightning Safety Project
- Funding Approved:Rs 186.78 crore for 50 lightning-prone districts in 10 states.
- Objective: To implement lightning safety measures, including lightning arresters and early warning systems, to reduce fatalities and property damage.

49. **What is the name of the new SuperApp unveiled by the Ministry of Railways?**

A RailConnect

B TrainMate

C RailInfo

D SwaRail

E RailService

Solution

- The Ministry of Railways has unveiled its new SuperApp ‘SwaRail’, designed to be a one-stop solution for all railway-related services.
- Currently in its beta testing phase, the app is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.
- The key focus of this app is to enhance user experience through a seamless interface, integrating various railway services into a single platform, thereby reducing the need for multiple apps and saving space on user devices.
- Developed by: Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)

- The SwaRail SuperApp integrates multiple services, including ticket booking, train status, food orders, and customer support via Rail Madad, making it a comprehensive solution for Indian Railways users.

50. Who is serving as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) of India as of January 2025, according to the Economic Survey 2025?

A Raghuram Rajan

B Urjit Patel

C Arvind Subramanian

D Krishnamurthy Subramanian

E **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran**

Solution

- The Economic Survey 2025 provides a comprehensive review of India's economic performance over the past year and sets the tone for future policy directions.
- It is traditionally presented in Parliament on January 31, 2025 a day before the Union Budget.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to table the survey in the Lok Sabha in 2025.
- The survey is prepared under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India.

- As of January 2025, Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran holds the position of CEA.
- Dr. Nageswaran was appointed in January 2022 and plays a key role in analyzing economic trends and advising the government on policy matters.

51. Which team has partnered with Airtel Payments Bank for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025?

A Mumbai Heroes

B Chennai Rhinos

C Karnataka Bulldozers

D Bengal Tigers

E Telugu Warriors

Solution

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025.
- Airtel Payments Bank will co-sponsor the team and promote safe digital banking solutions to fans across India.
- The partnership highlights Airtel Payments Bank's focus on providing simple, safe, and rewarding banking services, while promoting the passion and energy of the Karnataka Bulldozers.
- The team's dynamic playstyle mirrors the fast and efficient services offered by Airtel Payments Bank to millions of customers.

- CCL 2025 will begin on 8 February 2025, combining cricket and entertainment.

52. What is the impact of the RBI's FX swap auction on the rupee liquidity in the banking system?

- A** Reduces rupee liquidity
- B** Increases rupee liquidity
- C** Has no impact on rupee liquidity
- D** Leads to a rise in interest rates
- E** Lowers the demand for Indian government bonds

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted a \$5 billion 6-month dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction.
- The auction was oversubscribed five-fold, with bids totaling \$25.59 billion from 253 participants.
- The RBI accepted 28 bids, totaling \$5.1 billion.
- The premium cut-off was set at 96.81 paisa, slightly below the prevailing market level before the auction results were announced.
- The swap will infuse rupee liquidity into the banking system.
- This is part of the RBI's measures to inject a total of ₹1.5 trillion of liquidity into the banking system.

53. Under which strategic plan does L&T Finance Limited (LTF) aim to become a digitally enabled, customer-focused retail finance company?

A Vision 2030

B Growth 2025

C Lakshya 2026

D Future Ready 2030

E Digital India 2026

Solution

- L&T Finance Limited (LTF) has launched Knowledgeable AI (KAI), an AI-powered virtual advisor on its redesigned website for home loans.
- KAI aims to simplify the home loan journey, especially for first-time buyers, by addressing challenges like complex terminology and lengthy processes.
- The AI tool uses advanced Large Language Model (LLM) technology to offer personalized home loan guidance, including EMI calculations, loan estimates, and expert answers.

- KAI goes beyond basic chatbots, utilizing RAG technology for accurate information extraction from LTF documents and smooth EMI calculations with interactive sliders.
- L&T Finance Limited (LTF), headquartered in Mumbai, holds an ‘AAA’ credit rating, focuses on sustainability and women’s empowerment through its CSR project “Digital Sakhi”.

54. In how many years is the Kavach system expected to be implemented across the entire Indian railway network?

A 3 years

B 6 years

C 10 years

D 15 years

E 20 years

Solution

- India's railway safety is set for a major transformation with the nationwide rollout of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has confirmed that this ambitious project will cover the entire railway network within six years.
- The goal is to enhance train safety, prevent collisions, and boost passenger confidence in one of the world's largest railway networks.
- Kavach, meaning "shield" in Hindi, is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system designed to prevent train collisions and enhance operational safety.

55. What is the percentage increase in the Agnipath scheme allocation for 2025-26 compared to the previous year?

A 25%

B 32%

C 40%

D 50%

E 60%

Solution

- The Government of India has allocated ₹11,039 crore for the Agnipath scheme in the Defence Budget 2025-26, marking a 32% increase over last year's revised estimate of ₹7,471 crore.
- This enhanced funding reflects the growing number of Agniveers being inducted into the Indian Armed Forces.

56. How much budget has the Indian government allocated for the Nuclear Energy Mission in 2025-26?

A ₹10,000 crore

B ₹15,000 crore

C ₹20,000 crore

D ₹25,000 crore

E ₹30,000 crore

Solution

- In a major step to expand India's nuclear energy sector, the government has launched a ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission aimed at developing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget 2025-26 speech, announced the plan to operationalize at least five indigenous SMRs by 2033, signaling a significant policy shift towards nuclear energy expansion.
- Long-Term Vision: India aims to achieve 100 GW of nuclear energy capacity by 2047.

- SMRs are compact nuclear reactors with capacities of less than 300 MW, unlike conventional nuclear plants that typically generate 500 MW or more.
- Currently, SMRs are in the development phase globally, with experimental reactors operational in only a few countries. The U.S., China, Russia, and South Korea are leading in SMR construction, while India aims to indigenously develop its own SMRs (Bharat SMRs).

57. Which of the following is **NOT** true about Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site?

- A** It is located in Kutch district.
- B** It consists of an inland mangrove ecosystem.
- C** The declaration was made under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- D** The Gujarat Biodiversity Board recommended its declaration.
- E** The site is spread across 32.78 hectares.

Solution

- The 32.78-hectare area of Guneri village in Lakhtar tehsil, Kutch district, has been declared as Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).
- The site is a natural inland mangrove area.
- The Gujarat government made the announcement based on a recommendation from the Gujarat Biodiversity Board.
- The declaration aims to ensure the conservation and enrichment of the area's flora and fauna through a management plan.
- The announcement was made under the provisions of The Biodiversity Act, 2002.

58. How many projects have been sanctioned under the ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)’ initiative in 2024-25?

A 30

B 90

C 50

D 70

E 40

Solution

- The Government of India has sanctioned 40 projects across 23 states under the ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale’ initiative, with a total allocation of ₹3,295.76 crore for the Financial Year 2024-25.
- The primary goal is to develop iconic tourist centres, enhance their global branding and marketing, and elevate them to international standards.

59. Which new species of phytopathogenic fungi was discovered by researchers at Banaras Hindu University?

A *Epicoccum indicum*

B *Aspergillus flavus*

C *Fusarium oxysporum*

D *Trichoderma viride*

E *Penicillium chrysogenum*

Solution

- Researchers at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India discovered a new species of phytopathogenic fungi, *Epicoccum indicum* (Ascomycota, Didymellaceae).
- This fungus is associated with an emerging leaf spot disease in *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (vetiver).
- The species was identified based on morpho-cultural characteristics and multigene molecular phylogenetic analyses.
- The species name refers to India, where it was discovered.
- The voucher specimen is deposited in the Ajrekar Mycological Herbarium in Pune, and the live culture is stored at NFCCI, Pune.

- The discovery was published in Fungal Diversity, a prestigious Q1 journal with an impact factor of 24.5, on December 19.

60. Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed steps to protect investors and ensure that transactions are conducted exclusively with registered intermediaries via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). What will be the format of the proposed UPI IDs for the securities market?

- A** Random alphanumeric codes
- B** “@sebi” combined with the broker name
- C** “@payright” combined with the bank name
- D** “@npci” combined with the intermediary name
- E** “@investment” followed by a number

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed measures to safeguard investors and ensure transactions are made only with registered intermediaries through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Sebi issued the draft circular after consulting with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and two Sebi committees.

- The proposed UPI IDs for the securities market will include the handle name “@payright” combined with the bank name for easy identification by investors.

61. Which finfluencer-led startup became India's first to secure an RIA license from SEBI?

A Groww

B Zerodha

C Sharan Hegde's 1% Club

D Paytm Money

E Upstox

Solution

- The 1% Club, founded by Sharan Hegde, becomes India's first finfluencer-led startup to secure a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) license from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Compliance & Transparency: Achieved after a six-month review process involving legal and compliance experts.
- Market Focus: Aims to serve India's middle-class segment, addressing the gap in professional financial advice.
- SEBI Data: India needs 1 million financial planners, but only 1,300 certified professionals exist currently.

- **Personal CFO Division:** Offers one-on-one financial planning, portfolio reviews, and risk management.

62. Where will India's first white tiger breeding centre be established?

- A** Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- B** Ranthambore, Rajasthan
- C** Sundarbans, West Bengal
- D** Govindgarh, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh
- E** Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

Solution

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has given final approval for India's first white tiger breeding centre, to be established in Govindgarh, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.
- This project is a landmark step in wildlife conservation, as Rewa holds historical significance for being home to the last known wild white tiger.
- Located in Govindgarh, Rewa district, near the Mukundpur White Tiger Safari (10 km away), which is the only existing white tiger tourism facility in Madhya Pradesh.

- Rewa is known as the home of Mohan, the last wild white tiger, discovered in Govindgarh jungle in 1951 by Maharaja Martand Singh Judeo.

63. What percentage increase does the 2025-26 defence budget represent over the 2024-25 budget?

A 5.2%

B 8.75%

C 9.53%

D 10.1%

E 12.25%

Solution

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' and Aatmanirbhar Armed Forces, the Union Budget 2025-26 has allocated ₹6,81,210.27 crore to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- This is a 9.53% increase over the 2024-25 budget and constitutes 13.45% of the total Union Budget, the highest allocation among all ministries.

64. In the Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Union Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the allocation for the Gender Budget was increased by 37.25%. What is the share of the Gender Budget in the total Union Budget for FY 2025-26?

A 7.25%

B 8.86%

C 9.50%

D 6.8%

E 10.00%

Solution

- Union Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025-26, highlighting a historic increase in Gender Budget allocation.
- The share of Gender Budget in the total Union Budget has risen to 8.86% in FY 2025-26, compared to 6.8% in FY 2024-25.
- ₹4.49 lakh crore allocated for women and girls' welfare.
- 37.25% increase from ₹3.27 lakh crore in FY 2024-25.

- 49 Ministries/Departments and 5 UTs have reported allocations, up from 38 Ministries/Departments in FY 2024-25.
- Highest-ever participation in the Gender Budget Statement (GBS).

65. Which company sponsored discussions on UK-India defence collaboration, quantum tech, governance reforms, pharmaceuticals, and decarbonization?

A Tata Group

B Reliance Industries

C Essar Energy Transition (EET)

D BP Plc

E Adani Group

Solution

- Jonathan Reynolds, United Kingdom (UK's) Secretary of State for Business and Trade, to visit India in February 2025 to accelerate FTA negotiations.
- The announcement was made at India Global Forum's (IGF) 7th Annual UK-India Parliamentary Lunch at the House of Lords.
- The UK-India Free Trade Agreement is part of a broader Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the Technology Security Initiative.

- UK-India Future Forum (UKIFF) launched the report ‘Sentiment to Success – Futureproofing UK-India Partnership’, highlighting key growth sectors.
- Essar Energy Transition (EET) sponsored discussions on UK-India defence collaboration, quantum tech, governance reforms, pharmaceuticals, and decarbonization.

66. How many member states remain in ECOWAS after the withdrawal of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso?

A 12

B 7

C 10

D 15

E 18

Solution

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has formally recognized the withdrawal of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso after prolonged tensions.
- The bloc urged its 12 remaining members to continue recognizing passports and trade agreements with the departing nations.
- ECOWAS President Omar Touray emphasized regional solidarity and invited the three nations to a technical meeting for discussions.
- The three nations accused ECOWAS of failing to protect member states and aligning with foreign powers.

- They formed the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and strengthened ties with Russia, Turkey, and Iran for security and strategic interests.

67. Which state is set to establish India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university?

A Karnataka

B Maharashtra

C Tamil Nadu

D Telangana

E Gujarat

Solution

- Maharashtra to establish India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university, announced by IT Minister Ashish Shelar with an Aim to position Maharashtra as a hub for AI education, research, and innovation.
- A task force formed, including experts from academia, industry, and government.
- The university will serve as a centre of excellence for AI research, skill development, and policy formulation.
- Key stakeholders include IIT Mumbai, IIM Mumbai, Google India, Mahindra Group, L&T, and government bodies.

68. What is the main focus of Bhutan's participation in BGBS 2025?

- A** Strengthening trade ties with India
- B** Establishing a new political alliance
- C** Developing a sports partnership
- D** Expanding its military presence in the region
- E** Negotiating a tourism ban

Solution

- Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay to visit Kolkata for the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2025.
- The summit, organized by the West Bengal government, will be held on February 5-6, 2025.
- BGBS 2025 focuses on strengthening trade ties between Bhutan and India.
- Bhutan will showcase its products and services and hold a country session.
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had announced Tobgay as a special guest in October 2024.

- The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and FICCI are organizing industry meetings at the event.

69. As of January 31, 2025, how much value of ₹2000 banknotes remained in circulation?

A ₹10,000 crore

B ₹6,577 crore

C ₹20,000 crore

D ₹50,000 crore

E ₹1 lakh crore

Solution

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced withdrawal of ₹2000 banknotes on May 19, 2023; latest update published on January 1, 2025.
- Deposit/exchange facility at bank branches was available until October 7, 2023.
- RBI's 19 Issue Offices continue to exchange ₹2000 notes since May 19, 2023, and accept deposits from October 9, 2023.
- The public can send ₹2000 banknotes via India Post to RBI Issue Offices for deposit.

- ₹2000 banknotes in circulation dropped from ₹3.56 lakh crore (May 19, 2023) to ₹6,577 crore (January 31, 2025)—98.15% returned.

70. Recently(Feb '25),What is the proposed increase in ATM cash transaction fees beyond the free limit as recommended by NPCI?

A ₹20 to ₹21

B ₹21 to ₹22

C ₹22 to ₹24

D ₹19 to ₹21

E No change recommended

Solution

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) recommends increasing ATM cash transaction fees from ₹21 to ₹22 per transaction beyond the free limit.
- ATM interchange fee hike proposed: ₹17 to ₹19 for cash transactions and ₹6 to ₹7 for non-cash transactions.
- Banks pay interchange fees when their customers use another bank's ATM.
- For non-metro areas, industry players recommend ₹21 per cash transaction and ₹7 for non-cash transactions.

- Current RBI rules allow 5 free ATM transactions per month in non-metro areas and 3 free transactions in metro cities (Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi).

71. How much total fine has SEBI imposed on DB Realty (now Valor Estate) and its promoters for financial misstatements and non-disclosures?

A ₹10 lakh

B ₹15 lakh

C ₹20 lakh

D ₹25 lakh

E ₹30 lakh

Solution

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a total fine of Rs 25 lakh on 8 entities, including DB Realty (now Valor Estate) and its promoters, for violations related to financial misstatements and non-disclosures.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a total fine of Rs 25 lakh on 8 entities, including DB Realty (now Valor Estate) and its promoters, for violations related to financial misstatements and non-disclosures.

- The entities fined include:
- DB Realty Ltd (Valor Estate): Rs 5 lakh.
- Vinod Kumar Goenka (Promoter and Chairperson-MD): Rs 5 lakh.
- Shahid Balwa Usman (Promoter and MD): Rs 5 lakh.
- Asif Yusuf Balwa, Jayvardhan Vinod Goenka, Salim Balwa Usman, Sunita Goenka, Nabil Yusuf Patel: Rs 2 lakh each.

72. Which bank has recently launched two specialized startup current account products to support the Indian startup ecosystem?

A HDFC Bank

B ICICI Bank

C Axis Bank

D South Indian Bank

E Federal Bank

Solution

- South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched two specialized startup current account products to support the growing startup ecosystem in India: SIB Business Startup Current Account and SIB Corporate Startup Current Account.
- South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched two specialized startup current account products to support the growing startup ecosystem in India: SIB Business Startup Current Account and SIB Corporate Startup Current Account.
- The SIB Business Startup Current Account is for sole proprietorships and partnerships, providing essential banking

support during the early stages of a business.

- The SIB Corporate Startup Current Account is aimed at private limited companies, public limited companies, one-person companies, and limited liability partnerships, addressing the more complex financial requirements of larger business entities.

73. Which bank has collaborated with IIT Madras to launch a Cyber Security & FinTech hackathon in April 2025?

A State Bank of India

B Punjab National Bank

C Indian Bank

D Bank of Baroda

E Union Bank of India

Solution

- Indian Bank has announced a Cyber Security & FinTech hackathon in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, set for April 2025.
- Indian Bank has announced a Cyber Security & FinTech hackathon in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, set for April 2025.
- This event is part of a broader hackathon series organized by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under the guidelines of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

- The series focuses on encouraging innovation by partnering with IITs, universities, and scientific institutions to address emerging challenges in financial technology and cybersecurity.

74. Recently, HDFC Life Insurance has approved the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth how much?

A ₹500 crore

B ₹750 crore

C ₹900 crore

D ₹1,200 crore

E ₹1,500 crore

Solution

- HDFC Life Insurance Company has approved the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth Rs 900 crore on a private placement basis.
- This decision was made during a Capital Raising Committee (CRC) meeting held on February 5, 2025.
- Non-convertible debentures (NCDs) are debt instruments that are issued by companies to raise funds.
- HDFC Life Insurance Company has approved the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth Rs 900 crore on a private placement basis.

- This decision was made during a Capital Raising Committee (CRC) meeting held on February 5, 2025.
- Non-convertible debentures (NCDs) are debt instruments that are issued by companies to raise funds.
- Issuance Details: 90,000 NCDs with a face value of Rs 1,00,000 each.
- Part of Larger Fundraising Plan: The issuance is part of a broader plan to raise Rs 2,000 crore, which was approved by the company's Board of Directors on July 15, 2024 and this marks the second series of the fundraising initiative.
- Bonds Listing: The bonds will be listed on the NSE Wholesale Debt Market (WDM) segment.

75. How many projects have been approved by NABARD for Himachal Pradesh for the 2024-25 financial year?

A 100

B 127

C 150

D 175

E 200

Solution

- The Himachal Pradesh government has received approval from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for 127 projects worth ₹903.21 crore for the 2024-25 financial year, as announced by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has received approval from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for 127 projects worth ₹903.21 crore for the 2024-25 financial year, as announced by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.
- The approved projects include:

- 50 MLA-priority schemes under the Public Works Department, valued at ₹412.75 crore.
- 23 MLA-priority schemes under the Jal Shakti Vibhag, worth ₹179.07 crore.

76. What percentage increase in volume was recorded in India's fruit and vegetable exports between 2019-20 and 2023-24?

A 35.2%

B 40.8%

C 47.3%

D 50.5%

E 55.0%

Solution

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Department of Commerce, has significantly contributed to India's fruit and vegetable export growth through its financial assistance schemes.
- Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, exports increased by 47.3% in volume and 41.5% in value, reaching 123 countries and adding 17 new markets in the last three years.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Department of Commerce, has

significantly contributed to India's fruit and vegetable export growth through its financial assistance schemes.

- Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, exports increased by 47.3% in volume and 41.5% in value, reaching 123 countries and adding 17 new markets in the last three years.

77. Which country ranked second in Passenger Load Factor (PLF) for domestic flights in 2024, as per IATA?

A China

B United States

C United Kingdom

D Australia

E Germany

Solution

- India has emerged as the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF) for domestic flights, recording an impressive 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%), according to the latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) report.
- India has emerged as the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF) for domestic flights, recording an impressive 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%), according to the latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) report.
- India's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, highlighting its rapid growth and efficiency.

78. India has inaugurated its first Ferret Research Facility at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, Haryana. This marks a significant milestone in the country's efforts in which field of research?

A Space technology

B Biomedical research

C Artificial intelligence

D Environmental science

E Agricultural development

Solution

- India has inaugurated its first Ferret Research Facility at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, Haryana, marking a major milestone in the country's biomedical research efforts.
- India has inaugurated its first Ferret Research Facility at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, Haryana, marking a major milestone in the country's biomedical research efforts.

- Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Director General of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council, led the inauguration, emphasizing the facility's role in improving India's preparedness for emerging diseases.

79. What new name has been given to Kolkata's Fort William as part of the Indian Army's decolonization efforts?

A Shivneri Fort

B Vijay Durg

C Bharat Durg

D Swaraj Durg

E Shivaji Durg

Solution

- The Indian Army made a significant move towards decolonization by renaming Kolkata's Fort William to 'Vijay Durg'.
- The new name is inspired by Vijaydurg Fort in Maharashtra, a stronghold under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and aligns with the government's push to eliminate colonial-era symbols.
- The Indian Army made a significant move towards decolonization by renaming Kolkata's Fort William to 'Vijay Durg'.
- This decision reflects India's commitment to honoring its indigenous military history while removing colonial imprints.

- The new name is inspired by Vijaydurg Fort in Maharashtra, a stronghold under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and aligns with the government’s push to eliminate colonial-era symbols.

80. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the national-level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra" under which scheme?

- A** Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- B** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- C** National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- D** Watershed Development Component of PMKSY (WDC-PMKSY 2.0)
- E** Soil Health Management Scheme

Solution

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the national-level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra", under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).
- Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the national-level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra", under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).

- The campaign aims to enhance awareness and participation in watershed development, focusing on soil and water conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and boosting agricultural productivity, livelihoods, and environmental health across India.
- The campaign was launched in hybrid mode, enabling nationwide participation.

81. **Recently (Feb'25), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has suggested a framework to enhance the CIRP for related entities. What does CIRP stand for in the context of IBBI regulations?**

A Corporate Investment and Recovery Process

B Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring Plan

C Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process

D Credit Insolvency and Resolution Procedure

E Company Insolvency and Recovery Plan

Solution

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed a mechanism to improve the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) for interconnected entities.
- Currently, the lack of a structured approach for handling multiple related entities undergoing CIRP simultaneously leads to inefficiencies, increased costs, and conflicts.
- The IBBI's discussion paper proposes several amendments, including:

- Joint hearings: For related entities undergoing CIRP.
- Appointment of a common resolution professional: To oversee the CIRP of interconnected entities.

82. Who is heading the RBI committee responsible for evaluating applications for a universal bank license?

A Shaktikanta Das

B Urjit Patel

C **MK Jain**

D Nandan Nilekani

E Viral Acharya

Solution

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a universal bank license.
- This move aims to broaden the financial services Ujjivan can offer its customers.
- The RBI has recently established a committee, headed by former Deputy Governor MK Jain, to evaluate such applications.
- The RBI's "Guidelines for 'on-tap' Licensing of SFBs in Private Sector" outlines the criteria for SFBs transitioning to universal banks.
- A minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore.

- Scheduled status and a satisfactory performance record for at least five years.

83. Which Indian bank is celebrating its 89th Foundation Day on February 10, 2025?

A Punjab National Bank

B Bank of Baroda

C Indian Overseas Bank

D Canara Bank

E Union Bank of India

Solution

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is celebrating its 89th Foundation Day on February 10, 2025, and has announced its commitment to environmental sustainability by joining the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- IOB is one of the early adopters in the Indian banking sector to join this global initiative, reinforcing its dedication to combating climate change and promoting responsible banking.
- The PCAF is a globally recognized collaboration of financial institutions working to harmonize the measurement and disclosure

of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with loans and investments.

84. Which company has signed an MoU with Bank of Baroda to finance residential rooftop solar systems?

A Adani Green Energy

B Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)

C ReNew Power

D NTPC Limited

E Indian Oil Corporation

Solution

- Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Baroda for financing residential rooftop solar systems under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY).
- Loans up to Rs 600,000 at interest rates starting from 7% per annum with fixed and floating options.
- Loans of up to Rs 200,000 for rooftop solar systems of up to 3 kW with minimal documentation and 10% margin.
- Loans of up to Rs 600,000 for systems between 3 kW and 10 kW with 20% margin.

- Loans are collateral-free with a flexible repayment tenure of up to 10 years.

85. What is the projected market value of AI in Audit by 2033, according to the ‘Global AI in Audit’ report?

A USD 5.2 billion

B USD 8.9 billion

C USD 11.7 billion

D USD 15.4 billion

E USD 20.1 billion

Solution

- Poonawalla Fincorp collaborates with ServiceNow to implement AI-powered solutions for audit and governance.
- With the global AI in Audit market projected to reach USD 11.7 billion by 2033 at a CAGR of 27.9%, as mentioned in the market.us ‘Global AI in Audit’ report , many attribute this growth to GenAI’s ability to pinpoint high-risk areas and detect anomalies, enabling a sharper focus on critical issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

86. How many countries are included in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI)?

A 125

B 139

C 144

D 112

E 130

Solution

- India rapidly advances its logistics infrastructure through key initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy (NLP).
- It aims to secure a spot in the top 25 of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2030.
- Currently ranked 38th out of 139 nations, India is witnessing multi-modal logistics transformation and policy-driven advancements to become a global logistics hub
- Projected to surpass Japan by 2026 and become the 4th largest economy.

- LogiMAT India 2025 (Feb 13-15, Mumbai) to showcase the latest logistics innovations.

87. What is the total number of commodities now tradable on e-NAM after the recent expansion?

A 278

B 256

C 231

D 290

E 201

Solution

- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, has expanded the scope of trade under e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) by adding 10 more agricultural commodities.
- Total commodities on e-NAM: Increased from 221 to 231
- Approval: Given by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

88. Which international body did the United States withdraw from through an executive order signed by President Donald Trump?

- A** United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- B** World Health Organization (WHO)
- C** United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
- D** International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- E** World Trade Organization (WTO)

Solution

- United States President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), citing unethical practices by certain “outlier” countries within the UN.
- He criticized the disproportionate financial burden on the U.S., stating that other nations exploit the UN system for their self-interest.
- The executive order also halts U.S. funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the primary UN body providing aid to Palestinian refugees.

89. What is the key demand of the Odisha government to the 16th Finance Commission regarding its share in central taxes?

- A** Increase from 41% to 45%
- B** Increase from 41% to 50%
- C** Decrease from 41% to 35%
- D** Fixed at 42% for all states
- E** Allocation based on per capita income

Solution

- The Odisha government submitted a demand before the 16th Finance Commission to increase the states' share in central taxes to 50%.
- Additionally, it sought 100% funding of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) by the Centre.
- Currently, an 8-member team of the 16th Finance Commission, headed by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, is on a four-day visit to Odisha, holding discussions with state government officials and political parties regarding the state's demands and requirements.

90. On February 2025, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) revised the repo rate for the first time in two years. Which of the following correctly matches the latest RBI monetary policy decisions?

A Repo rate: 6.50%, GDP Growth Projection: 6.7%, Inflation Forecast: 4.5%

B Repo rate: 6.25%, GDP Growth Projection: 6.7%, Inflation Forecast: 4.2%

C Repo rate: 6.00%, GDP Growth Projection: 7.0%, Inflation Forecast: 4.2%

D Repo rate: 6.25%, GDP Growth Projection: 6.5%, Inflation Forecast: 4.2%

E Repo rate: 6.50%, GDP Growth Projection: 6.7%, Inflation Forecast: 4.2%

Solution

- The 6 Member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) revised the repo rate for the first time in two years, unanimously voting for a 25 basis points (bps) cut from 6.50% to 6.25%.
- The MPC held its 53rd meeting from February 5 to 7, 2025 under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra.
- The MPC's meeting marked the final policy review for FY25 and was the first under new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra (26th Governor of RBI), who assumed charge on December 11, 2024.

- The minutes of the MPC's meeting will be published on February 21, 2025.
- The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for April 7 to 9, 2025.

91. Where has the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved the establishment of a white tiger breeding centre?

A Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh

B Ranthambore, Rajasthan

C Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

D Sundarbans, West Bengal

E Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

Solution

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has granted approval for the establishment of a white tiger breeding centre in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.
- The centre will be set up in Govindgarh, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Rewa holds historical significance in white tiger conservation, as India's first white tiger, Mohan, was discovered there in 1951.
- The project aims to preserve this legacy while strengthening biodiversity and conservation efforts.

- The breeding centre is a key component of the revised master plan for the Maharaja Martand Singh Judeo White Tiger Safari and Zoo in Mukundpur.

92. For how long had Zomato been internally using the name “Eternal” before officially announcing the rebranding?

A 6 months

B 1 year

C 5 years

D 3 years

E 2 years

Solution

- Food and delivery giant Zomato has officially rebranded itself as “Eternal”, effective February 6, 2025.
- This move signifies a major corporate shift, consolidating its diverse business verticals under one umbrella while continuing to operate its core food delivery service under the Zomato brand.
- Renaming Decision: Zomato has been internally using the name “Eternal” for over two years before officially announcing the change.

93. Which two companies have signed contracts with the Defence Ministry for ammunition procurement?

- A** Bharat Dynamics Limited and Larsen & Toubro
- B** Economic Explosives Limited and Munitions India Limited
- C** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Tata Advanced Systems
- D** Bharat Forge and Ordnance Factory Board
- E** DRDO and BEL

Solution

- The Defence Ministry has signed two contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for procuring ammunition to enhance the army's firepower.
- The deals, aimed at boosting self-reliance in defence manufacturing, were signed with:
 - Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur
 - Munitions India Limited, Pune
- The procurement includes area denial munition and enhanced range rockets for the Pinaka multi-launcher rocket system.
- The Pinaka rocket system was among the weapons showcased at the 76th Republic Day parade.

94. What is the name of the robot that will be part of India's uncrewed Gaganyaan mission?

A Vikram

B Vyommitra

C Pragyan

D Pioneer

E Agni

Solution

- Gaganyaan Mission: India's first crewed space mission will send astronauts to low-Earth orbit next year.
- Samudrayaan Mission (2026): India plans to launch Samudrayaan to explore the seabed at depths up to 6,000 meters, with three scientists in a submersible.
- Uncrewed Gaganyaan Mission: India will conduct an uncrewed Gaganyaan mission this year with a robot named Vyommitra.
- India is building a 3rd launch pad for heavier rockets and expanding with a new launch site in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district for small satellites.

- India’s space economy is valued at \$8 billion and is projected to reach \$44 billion in the next decade.

95. What is the total capacity of the renewable energy project CleanMax is developing for Amazon?

A 100 MW

B 75 MW

C 150 MW

D 250 MW

E 200 MW

Solution

- CleanMax, a leading renewable energy provider, has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Amazon to develop a 100 MW renewable energy project in India.
- The Brookfield-backed company will develop and operate a wind farm, contributing to Amazon's sustainability goals and supporting India's transition to clean energy.
- Capacity: 100 MW wind energy project.
- Operational Timeline: Expected to be functional by Q2 2026.
- Electricity Generation: 355 million kWh annually.

- CO₂ Offset: Estimated 252,000 tons per year, equivalent to planting 14.8 million trees.

96. Who won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the National Games?

A Swapnil Kumar

B Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar

C **Niraj Kumar**

D Anjum Moudgil

E Abhinav Bindra

Solution

- Indian Navy's Niraj Kumar stunned Paris Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kumar and Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar to win gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the National Games.
- Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Event
- Gold: Niraj Kumar (Services Sports Control Board – SSCB) – 464.1 points
- Silver: Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar (Madhya Pradesh) – 462.4 points
- Bronze: Swapnil Kumar (Maharashtra) – 447.7 points

- Training: Niraj trained at the Elite Shooting Academy, Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, Bangalore.

97. Which Indian cricketer has been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for January 2025?

A Jasprit Bumrah

B Ravindra Jadeja

C Varun Chakravarthy

D Rohit Sharma

E Suryakumar Yadav

Solution

- The Indian cricketer nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for January 2025 is Varun Chakravarthy.
- He earned this nomination following his exceptional performances in India's T20I series against England, where he took 12 wickets in four matches at an average of 9.41.
- His standout performance was a five-wicket haul, taking 5 for 24 in Rajkot, marking his best figures in a home T20I.

98. **Who officially launched the book “Hearts and Heroes: Lives that Shaped Us”?**

A Farooq Abdullah

B Manoj Sinha

C Omar Abdullah

D Mehbooba Mufti

E Rajnath Singh

Solution

- Chief Minister of J&K Omar Abdullah officially released the book “Hearts and Heroes: Lives that Shaped Us”, authored by Kulbhushan Kumar, a JKAS officer currently serving as Director of Finance in Disaster Management, Relief & Rehabilitation Department.
- The book launch event took place at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu, attended by colleagues and well-wishers of the author.
- Theme & Content: A poetic tribute to visionaries, leaders, and unsung heroes who have significantly impacted society.

- Focuses on love, kindness, and determination, drawing inspiration from global icons.

99. Who is the Governor of Odisha (as of 2025)?

A Ganeshi Lal

B Ramesh Bais

C Hari Babu Kambhampati

D Arif Mohammed Khan

E Anusuiya Uikey

Solution

About Odisha:

- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Parks: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

100. Who currently serves as the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)?

A António Guterres

B Michelle Bachelet

C Volker Türk

D **Filippo Grandi**

E Audrey Azoulay

Solution

About UNHRC :

- The UNHRC, a 47-member body, meets annually in Geneva, Switzerland, to address global human rights issues.
- Established in 2006, it serves as a platform for discussions among UN officials, member states, and experts.
- The UN Human Rights Office is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Filippo Grandi currently serves as the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

101. Who is leading the RBI working group formed to review trading and settlement timings?

A Shaktikanta Das

B Michael D. Patra

C Radha Shyam Ratho

D M. Rajeshwar Rao

E T. Rabi Sankar

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a working group led by Executive Director Radha Shyam Ratho to review trading and settlement timings of financial markets regulated by the RBI, with a report due by April 30, 2025.
- The review aims to synchronize market and settlement timings for efficient price discovery and liquidity management, considering technological advancements such as increased electronification of trading, 24×5 forex and derivatives markets, and 24×7 payment systems.

- India's financial markets currently operate between 9 AM and 5 PM, and the group will assess the impact of these timings on price transmission, liquidity, volatility, and trade distribution.

102. What is the new deadline for the implementation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and project financing norms?

A March 31, 2026

B December 31, 2025

C March 31, 2025

D June 30, 2026

E March 31, 2027

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred implementation of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and project financing norms by a year, new deadline: March 31, 2026.
- Decision taken due to concerns that the March 2025 deadline was too soon and could disrupt the financial system.
- Public and private sector banks had opposed the norms, fearing a liquidity crisis.
- New LCR norms would have required banks to divert over ₹4 lakh crore into government bonds instead of lending to businesses and individuals.

- RBI consulted banks in January 2025 to assess the impact of LCR changes.

103. According to the World Gold Council (WGC) report, how much did India's gold investment demand reach in 2024?

A 185 tonnes

B 200 tonnes

C 239 tonnes

D 260 tonnes

E 300 tonnes

Solution

- Gold investments in India surged by 60% in 2024, reaching \$18 billion (~₹1.5 lakh crore), compared to 2023, according to a report.
- The World Gold Council (WGC) report added that gold investment demand stood at 239 tonnes, marking its highest level since 2013.
- This was a 29% increase from the 185 tonnes recorded in 2023.
- Gold investment remained strong in the October-December quarter, with demand reaching 76 tonnes, nearly matching the previous quarter's performance, the report highlighted.
- At 239 tonnes, the country's gold investment accounted for 20% of the global demand in this category, which stood at 1,180 tonnes in

2024.

104. **Why did RBI decide to implement the ‘bank.in’ and ‘fin.in’ domains now?**

A Due to an increase in AI-driven banking frauds and phishing scams

B Because traditional banking is becoming obsolete

C To force all banks to migrate their websites immediately

D Due to customer demand for a new online banking platform

E To compete with private cybersecurity firms

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launches an exclusive internet domain ‘bank.in’ for registered banks to enhance cybersecurity and prevent phishing scams.
- Registration for ‘bank.in’ starts in April 2025.
- RBI plans to introduce another dedicated domain, ‘fin.in’, to secure the broader financial sector.
- Cybersecurity measures align with RBI’s broader strategy to combat AI-driven frauds, deepfake scams, and advanced malware attacks.

105. What is the name of Rediff.com's digital payment platform that will now offer UPI services?

A Rediff Pay

B Infibeam Pay

C Rediff Wallet

D NPCI Pay

E UPI-Rediff

Solution

- Indian fintech company, Infibeam Avenues has achieved a significant milestone through its subsidiary, Rediff.com, which has secured a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for its digital payment platform, RediffPay.
- This move enables RediffPay to offer Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services, marking Infibeam's strategic entry into the consumer-facing digital payments sector.
- Definition: A Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) is a company that offers applications or platforms enabling users to initiate and

receive payments via Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

- License Approval: NPCI's approval was confirmed, with Axis Bank as the Payment System Provider (PSP).

106. When did PhonePe receive final approval from RBI to operate as an Account Aggregator?

A January 2023

B March 2023

C June 2023

D October 2023

E December 2023

Solution

- PhonePe Group announced its decision to exit the Account Aggregator business and instead collaborate with other account aggregators in the market.
- The company will surrender its NBFC-AA license to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and has initiated the wind-down of its account aggregator operations.
- In 2023, PhonePe, owned by Walmart, received in-principle approval from the RBI to operate as an Account Aggregator, followed by the final license in June 2023.

107. What is the primary goal of allowing SEBI-registered non-bank brokers access to NDS-OM?

- A** To improve price volatility
- B** To restrict participation in government securities
- C** To widen market access and improve participation
- D** To encourage only retail investors to invest in government bonds
- E** To allow foreign investors direct access to government securities

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allows Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered non-bank brokers to access NDS-OM (Negotiated Dealing System – Order Matching) for secondary market transactions in government securities.
- Currently, only regulated entities, banks, and standalone primary dealers have access to NDS-OM.
- The move aims to widen market access and improve participation.
- SEBI-registered brokers can access NDS-OM subject to RBI regulations and conditions.

108. Which Indian company has approved the incorporation of a wholly owned subsidiary in the United Kingdom?

- A** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- B** New India Assurance
- C** General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)
- D** United India Insurance
- E** SBI General Insurance

Solution

- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)'s board of directors has approved the incorporation of a wholly owned subsidiary—GIC Re, India Service Company—in the United Kingdom.
- Board Approval: The approval was granted during the board meeting held on 3 February 2025.
- Capital Requirement: The subsidiary will have a minimal capital requirement, with the unit potentially being set up with a capital of GBP 1 (approximately \$1.24).

- **Business Activities:** The UK-based subsidiary will focus on insurance-related activities and services.

109. Recently(Feb '25), The BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 is scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from February 7 to 11, 2025. What is the theme of the BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025?

A "Regional Growth through Digital Innovation"

B "Stronger Together: Youth for a Sustainable Future"

C "Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange"

D "Future Leaders: Building a New Asia"

E "Empowering Young Entrepreneurs in South Asia"

Solution

- The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Youth Summit 2025 will take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 7 to 11 February 2025.
- It will bring together young leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- The summit, inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on 8th February, aims to foster youth collaboration, innovation, and regional development.

- **BIMSTEC Background:** Established on 6th June 1997 under the Bangkok Declaration, BIMSTEC promotes economic and social development across its seven member nations.

110. Under which act has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanctioned the recent UCB amalgamations?

A Banking Regulation Act, 1949

B Companies Act, 1956

C Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

D Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

E Cooperative Societies Act, 1912

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved two voluntary amalgamations in the urban co-operative bank (UCB) sector:
- The Citizen Co-operative Bank (Vasco-De-Gama, Goa) → Merging with TJSB Sahakari Bank (Thane, Maharashtra).
- Pune Commercial Co-operative Bank (Satara, Maharashtra) → Merging with Pimpri Chinchwad Sahakari Bank (Pune, Maharashtra).
- The amalgamations have been sanctioned under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and will be effective from February 10, 2025.

111. Which company developed the AI avatar of Amitabh Bachchan for IDFC FIRST Bank?

A Infosys

B Ikonz Studios

C Tata Consultancy Services

D Wipro

E HCL Technologies

Solution

- IDFC FIRST Bank, in collaboration with Ikonz, has expanded its use of the latest artificial intelligence (AI) avatar of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan to 10 more branches across five new cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.
- Previously, Ikonz and IDFC FIRST Bank introduced Bachchan's AI avatar at the Juhu Branch in Mumbai, where it quickly gained acceptance and improved customer trust and banking efficiency.
- Ikonz Studios, based in Hyderabad, is known for its expertise in hyper-realistic, multilingual intelligent avatars and holographic

technologies.

112. In Feb 2025, which company has Paytm partnered with to expand its travel services?

A MakeMyTrip

B Yatra

C Agoda

D Expedia

E Cleartrip

Solution

- One 97 Communications Limited (Paytm) has teamed up with Agoda, a prominent digital travel platform under Booking Holdings, to enhance its travel services.
- This collaboration enables Paytm Travel to offer hotel bookings alongside its existing services, which include flights, buses, and trains.
- Travelers can now access Agoda's vast selection of accommodations across both Indian and international destinations directly through the Paytm app.

- With Agoda’s integration, Paytm Travel ensures a seamless booking experience, offering a broad range of hotels, exclusive deals, and efficient stay planning.

113. What is the name of the new insurance plan introduced by Policybazaar and HDFC Life?

- A** HDFC Life Secure Future Plan
- B** **HDFC Life Click 2 Protect Ultimate**
- C** Policybazaar Life Shield Plus
- D** HDFC Life Smart Saver Plan
- E** Click 2 Secure Pro

Solution

- In a groundbreaking move, Policybazaar has partnered with HDFC Life, a leading player in India's life insurance sector, to launch the HDFC Life Click 2 Protect Ultimate.
- This collaboration is poised to set new standards in the insurance domain, positioning both Policybazaar and HDFC Life at the forefront of innovation and customer satisfaction.
- The HDFC Life Click 2 Protect Ultimate is designed to address critical consumer concerns, such as ease of acquiring insurance and a seamless claims process for beneficiaries.

- The product offers a Return of Premium on Maturity, meaning policyholders receive all premiums paid at maturity.
- It also includes a Terminal Illness Benefit, providing accelerated death benefits in case of specified illnesses, with a six-month waiting period.

114. Which Indian-made fighter jet will be a key attraction at the Aero India 2025 show held in Bengaluru?

A LCA Mark I

B HAL HF-24 Marut

C Tejas Mark II

D Rafale M

E MiG-29 UPG

Solution

- India has reached a historic milestone in its defence sector, with domestic defence production surpassing ₹1.27 lakh crore.
- The announcement was made by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, ahead of the Aero India 2025 show in Bengaluru.
- Su-57 (Russia) & F-35 (USA) – Advanced fighter jets.
- LCA Mark I (Light Combat Aircraft) – A major milestone in India's defence production.

115. What is the name of the global public-private AI partnership being launched at the Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence held in Paris?

A AI for All

B Future AI Consortium

C Current AI

D Global AI Alliance

E AI Ethics Network

Solution

- The “Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence” has officially begun in Paris, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron co-chairing the high-profile event.
- The summit includes heads of state, top government officials, CEOs, and scientists from around 100 countries.
- Notable attendees include US Vice President JD Vance, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, and French President Emmanuel Macron.

- The focus is on AI advancements in sectors like health, education, environment, and culture.
- A global public-private partnership, "Current AI," will be launched to serve the general interest.

116. What is the name of the scheme launched for economically weaker sections in Odisha in Feb 2025?

- A** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- B** Odisha Welfare Housing Scheme
- C** Antyodaya Gruha Yojana
- D** Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana
- E** Odisha Urban Development Mission

Solution

- The Odisha government has decided to implement the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), 'Antyodaya Gruha Yojana' for economically weaker sections of society.
- Employees can choose between UPS and National Pension System (NPS).
- Pension benefits include 50% of average basic pay (last 12 months before retirement) for those with 25+ years of service.
- Minimum pension amount set at ₹10,000 for retirees with at least 10 years of service.

- Family pension benefits include 60% of the pension amount drawn by the deceased retiree.

117. What was the primary reason behind N Biren Singh's resignation?

A Health issues

B Two years of ethnic violence in Manipur

C Corruption allegations

D Loss in state elections

E Personal reasons

Solution

- N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of violence-hit Manipur, resigned on February 9, 2025.
- Resignation follows two years of ethnic violence, causing hundreds of deaths and mass displacement.
- Singh faced pressure from within and outside the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- Singh met Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla before submitting his resignation.

118. Who submitted her resignation as Delhi's Chief Minister after AAP's defeat in the 2025 elections?

A Manish Sisodia

B Arvind Kejriwal

C Atishi

D Saurabh Bharadwaj

E Raghav Chadha

Solution

- Atishi submitted her resignation to Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena, a day after Aam Aadmi Party's heavy defeat in the Delhi assembly elections.
- As Delhi is a Union Territory, the President of India (Droupadi Murmu) is the appointing authority for the Chief Minister.
- LG Saxena forwarded Atishi's resignation to the President and asked her to continue as caretaker CM until the new government is formed.
- BJP secured a majority, winning 48 out of 70 seats.
- AAP's seat count fell to 22, down from 62 in 2020.

119. **Who was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon in 2025?**

A Saad Hariri

B Hassan Diab

C Michel Aoun

D Nawaf Salam

E Gebran Bassil

Solution

- Lebanon's new government was formed with Nawaf Salam as Prime Minister after weeks of negotiations.
- The formation follows strong U.S. intervention aimed at reducing Hezbollah's influence and ensuring political balance.
- The cabinet comprises 24 ministers, prioritizing financial reforms, reconstruction, and stability on the Lebanon-Israel border.
- Shi'ite ministers were a key point of contention, with Hezbollah and its ally Amal insisting on their nominees.
- Amal, led by Speaker Nabih Berri, was allowed to pick four ministers, including Finance Minister Yassin Jaber, and approve a

fifth.

120. According to the report, what is the primary objective of SEBI's proposed changes to related party transaction (RPT) norms?

A To reduce ambiguity and improve transparency

B To increase the number of transactions allowed

C To remove the requirement for secretarial audits

D To limit transactions between listed companies

E To increase penalties for non-compliance

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has unveiled a series of proposals aimed at reducing ambiguity in related party transaction (RPT) norms and improving transparency in secretarial audit reports.
- These measures come amid allegations that several listed companies have engaged auditors with limited experience.
- Annual Secretarial Compliance Report (ASCR): SEBI has proposed changes to improve the format and content of the ASCR to ensure explicit compliance with securities laws.

- **Mandatory ASCR Inclusion:** The ASCR would become a mandatory part of the annual report, improving enforcement mechanisms and transparency.
- **Auditor Appointment Criteria:** Proposals to align eligibility with the company's size and complexity, ensuring auditors' qualifications and experience are fit for the listed entity.

121. With the addition of 10 new commodities, what is the total number of agricultural commodities now available on e-NAM?

A 231

B 278

C 244

D 212

E 270

Solution

- The Indian government has expanded the scope of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) by adding 10 new agricultural commodities for trading.
- Thus, the total number of commodities on the platform has reached 231.
- The aim is to improve price realization for farmers and ensure a more transparent and efficient trade system.

122. When will India host the first-ever World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)?

A April 10-14, 2025

B May 1-4, 2025

C June 5-9, 2025

D March 15-18, 2025

E July 20-24, 2025

Solution

- India will host the first-ever World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025.
- The event aims to establish India as a global media and entertainment hub, attracting media CEOs, entertainment professionals, and creative leaders from around the world.
- WAVES is envisioned as the Davos for the entertainment industry, fostering collaboration, investment, and innovation.
- The summit will focus on animation, gaming, visual effects, and filmmaking, highlighting future trends and industry growth.

123. **By what percentage has the exhibition space increased for this year's World of Coffee Dubai event?**

A 20%

B 25%

C 33%

D 40%

E 50%

Solution

- The 4th edition of World of Coffee Dubai will take place from February 10 – 12, 2025, at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC).
- This year's event is the largest to date, with a 33% increase in exhibition space, covering 20,000 square meters.
- More than 1,650 exhibitors from 120 countries will participate, with over 13,000 coffee professionals expected to attend.
- New features include the Intro to Cupping Workshop and the Dubai Coffee Auction.

124. What is the name of the operation launched by Bangladesh's interim government to address attacks on protesters?

A Operation Clean Sweep

B Operation Blue Thunder

C Operation Devil Hunt

D Operation Justice Strike
Operation Restore Peace

Solution

- Operation Devil Hunt was launched by Bangladesh's interim government in response to attacks on protesters allegedly carried out by supporters of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party.
- Over 1,300 people were detained in two days after the launch of the operation.
- The operation led to the arrest of Chayan Islam, a former MP of Sirajganj-6, and Awami League members.
- Gazipur Police made at least 100 arrests on the second day of the operation.
- The operation aims to restore order and ensure public safety across Bangladesh.

- The interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, came to power after Hasina’s ouster in August 2024.

125. What is the primary goal of the ‘Har Khet-Swasth Khet’ campaign in Haryana?

A To increase crop production using chemical fertilizers

B

To collect soil samples from every acre and provide farmers with soil health cards

C To promote organic farming practices exclusively

D To distribute free farming equipment to farmers

E To encourage large-scale water conservation

Solution

- The ‘Har Khet-Swasth Khet’ campaign aims to collect soil samples from every acre of Haryana and provide farmers with soil health cards.
- The target is to achieve this within the next 3-4 years.
- So far, 70 lakh soil samples have been collected.
- 55 lakh soil samples have been analyzed.
- 86.65 lakh soil health cards have been distributed under the Soil Health Card Scheme.

- 17 new permanent soil and water testing laboratories have been established.
- 54 new small soil testing laboratories have been opened in various mandis.
- 240 small soil testing laboratories have been set up in government senior secondary schools and government colleges.

126. Which bank appointed Dr. Madhavankutty G as Chief Economist?

A State Bank of India

B Bank of Baroda

C Canara Bank

D Punjab National Bank

E Union Bank of India

Solution

- Canara Bank appointed Dr. Madhavankutty G as Chief Economist, effective January 2025.
- He will provide strategic advice on domestic and global economic and financial sector developments.
- Has over two decades of experience in economic research across banking, conglomerates, and academia.
- Previously worked as a senior economist at Bank of India, Aditya Birla Group, and Times Group.

127. Recently(Feb '25), Nokia has announced that Pekka Lundmark will step down as CEO, with Justin Hotard set to assume the role on April 1, 2025. What is the main reason for Nokia's shift in focus to AI and data centers?

- A** Increased smartphone demand
- B** Decline in 5G equipment sales
- C** Merger with another telecom giant
- D** Strong government regulations on telecom gear
- E** New government incentives for AI companies

Solution

- Nokia announced that Pekka Lundmark will step down as CEO, and Justin Hotard will take over from April 1, 2025.
- Hotard is currently EVP & GM of Data Center & AI Group at Intel.
- Telecom gear makers are struggling with lower 5G equipment sales and are shifting focus to AI and data centres.
- Nokia Chair Sari Baldauf highlighted Hotard's expertise in AI and data centres as crucial for the company's future growth.

128. **Who won the first round of Romania's presidential election before it was annulled?**

A Klaus Iohannis

B Calin Georgescu

C Dan Barna

D Dacian Cioloș

E George Simion

Solution

- Romanian President Klaus Iohannis announced his resignation, effective February 12, 2025 after mounting pressure from populist opposition groups.
- His presidency was extended in December 2024 after the Constitutional Court annulled the presidential election, just before the December 8 runoff.
- The annulment followed far-right populist Calin Georgescu's unexpected first-round victory, amid allegations of Russian interference and electoral violations.

- Far-right and nationalist parties, including AUR, S.O.S, and the Party of Young People, along with some members of the reformist USR party, pushed for Iohannis' ouster through a parliamentary motion.

129. When was the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) launched?

A August 2016

B January 2015

C August 2014

D March 2017

E December 2013

Solution

- Notably, 55.7% of these accounts belong to women, showcasing the scheme's role in financial inclusion, especially among marginalized communities.
- Launched in August 2014 to provide universal access to banking services.
- Initially focused on providing basic savings accounts, debit cards, and banking access for unbanked households.
- Now ensures financial inclusion for every unbanked adult.
- 30.37 crore women have opened accounts, enhancing their economic participation.

- Integrated with insurance, pensions, and direct benefit transfers (DBT) to reduce dependency on cash transactions.

130. **Who organized the Export Pathshala workshop aimed at enhancing agri and allied exports through FPOs?**

A Ministry of Agriculture

B

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) & Palladium Consulting India Private Limited (PCIPL)

C Food Corporation of India (FCI)

D Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

E

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

Solution

- The Export Pathshala workshop aimed at enhancing agri and allied exports through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) was organized by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in collaboration with Palladium Consulting India Private Limited (PCIPL).
- The workshop provided training on export procedures, quality compliance, and market linkages, with a focus on fruits, vegetables,

and spices exports from Odisha.

- Participants included policymakers, financial institutions, exporters, FPOs, and industry experts.
- Key sessions included topics on export documentation, compliance, post-harvest management, packaging for export readiness, value chain development, and risk mitigation for perishable goods.

131. What is the revised External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) of Union Bank of India effective from February 11, 2025?

A 8.50%

B 8.75%

C 9.25%

D 9.00%

E 9.50%

Solution

- Public-sector lender Union Bank of India has revised its External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) to 9.0% from February 11, 2025.
- This follows Reserve Bank of India's decision to reduce policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% on February 07, 2025.
- Another Mumbai-based lender Bank of India has revised its repo-based lending rate (RBLR) to 9.10% (repo rate – 6.25% plus mark up of 2.85%).
- EBLR is linked to external benchmarks, like the repo rate set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

132. According to SEBI's proposal, what will happen if a client is unreachable or funds cannot be credited to their bank account?

- A** The amount will be written off as a loss
- B** The funds will be used for government welfare schemes
- C** The accounts will be placed under “enquiry status”
- D** The stockbroker will keep the funds indefinitely
- E** The client's trading privileges will be revoked

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a new framework to address unclaimed funds and securities lying with stock brokers to protect investors' interests.
- As of January 31, the total value of unclaimed funds had reached ₹323 crore, while unclaimed securities were valued at ₹182 crore.
- Unclaimed securities arise due to incomplete or incorrect demat account details or the non-traceability of clients, legal heirs, or nominees.
- SEBI has proposed that if a client is unreachable or funds cannot be credited to their bank account, the accounts will be placed under

“enquiry status”.

- Stock brokers must attempt to contact clients through all available means and transfer such funds to clearing corporations.

133. What is the total penalty amount imposed by RBI on Federal Bank Limited and Karur Vysya Bank Limited?

A Rs 25.50 lakh

B Rs 32.40 lakh

C Rs 38.00 lakh

D Rs 40.20 lakh

E Rs 35.60 lakh

Solution

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 35.60 lakh on Federal Bank Ltd and Karur Vysya Bank Ltd for non-compliance with RBI directions.
- Federal Bank received the highest penalty of Rs 27.30 lakh for non-compliance with directions on interest rates of deposits.
- A statutory inspection by RBI revealed that Federal Bank opened certain savings deposit accounts in the name of ineligible entities.
- Karur Vysya Bank was fined Rs 8.30 lakh for failing to comply with directions regarding loan systems for bank credit delivery.

134. How much liquidity did the Reserve Bank of India inject into the banking system through the Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction?

A Rs 1,00,000 crore

B Rs 1,50,000 crore

C Rs 2,00,000 crore

D Rs 2,50,000 crore

E Rs 3,00,000 crore

Solution

- Reserve Bank of India injects Rs 2,50,000 crore to enhance banking system liquidity through a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction.
- The Rs 2,50,000 crore amount was decided based on an assessment of liquidity conditions.
- Daily VRR auctions will continue in Mumbai on all working days, with reversal occurring on the next working day until further notice.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra assured that the central bank is committed to providing sufficient liquidity and will take steps to ensure durable liquidity.

- The RBI is closely monitoring the rupee and taking steps to keep the Indian currency stable.

135. Which ministry has launched the ‘Culinary, Crafts & Clicks—Moods & Magic’ festival?

A Ministry of Tourism

B Ministry of Culture

C Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

D Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

E Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Solution

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in collaboration with MyGov, has introduced the ‘Culinary, Crafts & Clicks—Moods & Magic’ festival.
- This initiative aims to showcase India’s rich cultural heritage through food, traditional arts, and photography.
- The festival, which is being held at key locations like Kartavya Path and Amrit Udyan, features artisans, photographers, and food enthusiasts.

136. Recently (Feb '2025), President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates International Conference on Unani Medicine in New Delhi. What was the theme of the International Conference on Unani Medicine?

A “Traditional Medicine and Modern Science”

B “Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward”

C “The Future of Ayurveda and Unani Practices”

D “Revolutionizing Healthcare with Herbal Medicine”

E “Unani Medicine: Past, Present, and Future”

Solution

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Conference on Unani Medicine at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) under the Ministry of Ayush.
- Themed “Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward”, the event marked Unani Day celebrations and emphasized the role of Unani medicine in modern healthcare.

- Unani Day is observed in honor of Hakim Ajmal Khan, a legendary Unani physician, freedom fighter, and educationist.

137. What is the maximum capital expenditure support available for companies setting up Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Gujarat?

A ₹50 crore

B ₹100 crore

C ₹150 crore

D ₹200 crore

E ₹250 crore

Solution

- Gujarat's Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy 2025-30 was unveiled by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at GIFT City on February 11, 2025.
- The policy aims to attract 250 new GCCs, generate over 50,000 jobs, and bring in ₹10,000 crore in investments.
- Companies setting up GCCs in Gujarat will receive capital expenditure support of up to ₹200 crore, depending on the scale of investment. Additionally, operational expenditure assistance of up to ₹40 crore is assured.

138. On 24th February, Assam will host the world's largest Jhumur dance (also called Jhumoir). Which event will take place in Assam on February 25-26 to attract investors?

A Assam Business Summit

B North-East Growth Conclave

C Invest Assam 2025

D Advantage Assam

E Assam Startup Expo

Solution

- Assam will host the world's largest Jhumur dance (also called Jhumoir) on 24th February, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The performance aims to set a Guinness World Record, featuring over 7,500 dancers and artistes.
- The two-day investment summit Advantage Assam will take place on February 25-26, showcasing Assam's rich traditions and attracting investors.

139. Which company is responsible for developing the Commercial Operations of 660-MW Unit Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant?

A NTPC Ltd

B Tata Power

C Adani Power

D THDC India Ltd (THDCIL)

E NHPC Ltd

Solution

- THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) has entered the domestic thermal energy sector by commencing commercial operations of a 660-MW unit at the Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant (STPP) in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.
- The project, with a total capacity of 1,320 MW (2×660 MW) and an investment of ₹13,000 crore, marks a significant milestone for THDCIL.
- The second unit is expected to begin operations soon.
- THDCIL's first venture into thermal power, after operating in hydro, wind, and solar energy.

140. Recently, Easebuzz Secured Reserve Bank of India's License for Online Payment Aggregation. What is the annual Gross Transaction Value (GTV) currently processed by Easebuzz?

A USD 10 billion

B USD 20 billion

C USD 30 billion

D USD 40 billion

E USD 50 billion

Solution

- Easebuzz, a full-stack payment solutions provider, has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- This approval enables Easebuzz to continue facilitating digital payments for businesses across sectors like eCommerce, Education, Real Estate, and Travel & Tourism.
- Easebuzz joins a select group of approved payment aggregators in India, authorized under RBI's regulatory framework.

- The platform is currently processing an annual Gross Transaction Value (GTV) of USD 30 billion.

141. Which of the following international organizations is responsible for compiling the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

A United Nations

B Transparency International

C World Trade Organization

D International Monetary Fund

E World Bank

Solution

- Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024, ranking India at 96th position out of 180 countries with a score of 38.
- This marks a decline from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022, reflecting growing concerns over public sector corruption.
- The CPI measures perceived levels of corruption on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

142. What is India's rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023 for International Shipments?

A 38th

B 32nd

C 25th

D 30th

E 22nd

Solution

- India has made significant progress in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023, achieving:
- 22nd Rank in the International Shipments category, 38th Rank in Overall Logistics Performance
- This reflects India's enhanced efficiency in logistics, particularly in port operations and freight movement.
- India's ports have significantly reduced their turnaround time to 0.9 days, surpassing several developed nations.

143. As per the report, Adani Defence & Aerospace and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) unveiled India's Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System at Aero India 2025. Under which framework was the Counter-Drone System developed?

- A** Defence Innovation Programme
- B** Transfer of Technology (ToT) framework
- C** Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative
- D** Advanced Defence Manufacturing Scheme
- E** Indian Military Modernization Programme

Solution

- India's Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System was launched at Aero India 2025 under a public-private partnership, developed under DRDO's Transfer of Technology (ToT) framework.
- The system enhances India's self-reliance in defence and strengthens protection against asymmetric drone threats, reinforcing India's position as a global defence leader.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace, in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) unveiled the

system in Bengaluru.

- The launch event was led by Dr. B.K. Das, Director General (Electronics & Communication System), DRDO, with the presence of defence experts and industry partners.

144. Which Indian institute, in collaboration with ISRO, has successfully developed and booted an Atmanirbhar aerospace-quality SHAKTI-based semiconductor chip?

A IIT Bombay

B IIT Madras

C IIT Kanpur

D IISc Bangalore

E IIT Delhi

Solution

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and Indian Space Research Organisation have successfully developed and booted an Atmanirbhar aerospace-quality SHAKTI-based Semiconductor Chip.
- The SHAKTI microprocessor project is led by Prof. V. Kamakoti at the Prathap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PSCDISHA), IIT Madras.
- The SHAKTI systems are based on RISC-V, an open-source Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) for custom processor design.

145. Which Russian organization has proposed the production of Su-57E in India?

A Rostec

B Rosoboronexport

C Roscosmos

D UAC (United Aircraft Corporation)

E Sukhoi Design Bureau

Solution

- Russia has extended an important offer to India regarding advanced fighter jet production, highlighting a new phase of defence collaboration between the two nations.
- Russia's state-owned defence export company, Rosoboronexport, has proposed the localized production of the Su-57E, the export version of Russia's 5th-generation fighter jet.
- The offer also includes valuable technological assistance for indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project.

146. Which state has been officially announced by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to host the 39th edition of the National Games in 2027?

A Assam

B Meghalaya

C Arunachal Pradesh

D Nagaland

E Tripura

Solution

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially announced that Meghalaya will host the 39th edition of the National Games in February/March 2027.
- The decision was conveyed by IOA President PT Usha to Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, marking a major milestone for the northeastern state.
- Meghalaya has been granted hosting rights for the 39th National Games in 2027 by the IOA.

- Meghalaya will receive the IOA flag during the closing ceremony of the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand (Haldwani).

147. Who did Pankaj Advani defeat in the final to win his 10th men's snooker championship held at Yashwant Club?

A Aditya Mehta

B Sourav Kothari

C Brijesh Damani

D Laxman Rawat

E Dhruv Sitwala

Solution

- Pankaj Advani, India's most decorated cueist, secured his 36th national title and 10th men's snooker championship at Yashwant Club.
- In an impressive comeback, he defeated Brijesh Damani in the final, avenging his group-stage loss.
- This victory guarantees his place in upcoming international championships, further solidifying his status as a cue sports legend.
- Secured 36th national gold medal and 10th men's snooker title.

148. In which year did UNESCO officially proclaimed World Radio Day observed on February 13?

A 2005

B 2007

C 2011

D 2013

E 2015

Solution

- World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February is a date proclaimed by UNESCO to celebrate radio broadcasts, improve international cooperation among radio broadcasters and encourage decision-makers to create and provide access to information through radio, including community radios.
- Broadcasting over radio went digital in 1994 when radio streaming started via the internet. This was accompanied by the first internet-only 24-hour radio station. In 2011, at the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference, February 13 was proclaimed as World Radio Day.

149. What does EBLR stand for?

- A** External Banking Loan Rate
- B** External Benchmark Lending Rate
- C** Economic Benchmark Loan Ratio
- D** Equity-Based Lending Rate
- E** Exchange-Based Loan Rate

Solution

- EBLR is linked to external benchmarks, like the repo rate set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- EBLR is used to determine interest rates for home loans, retail loans, and micro and small business loans.
- When the repo rate changes, the EBLR also changes.
- This directly affects how much you pay on your loans.

150. Which app developed by the students was recognized at the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025?

A GovAssist

B AIHelp

C AccessWay

D SmartConnect

E DigiEase

Solution

- Three Indian Computer Science students from Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, New Delhi, secured the Bronze Award at the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 during the World Government Summit (WGS) in Dubai.
- Their AI-powered app, AccessWay, was recognized for its role in enhancing mobile government services and social inclusion for individuals with disabilities.
- The award was presented by Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE, along with a cash prize of \$10,000.

151. Which entities will manage the MITRA platform as agents of Asset Management Companies (AMCs)?

A National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

B Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and SEBI

C Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) and KFIN Technologies Limited

D Mutual Fund Distributors and Stockbrokers

E Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and RBI

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator, has launched the Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant (MITRA) platform to help investors trace inactive mutual fund folios.
- The platform will be managed by Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) and KFIN Technologies Limited as agents of Asset Management Companies (AMCs).

- Inactive mutual fund folios are those with no transactions for 10 years but still holding unit balances.
- The platform must be made active within 15 working days from SEBI's circular dated February 12, 2024.

152. What is the ‘pledge release for pay-in’ system introduced by SEBI intended to do?

A It will reduce broker commissions

B
It will allow for automatic unpledging and settlement, reducing manual intervention

C It will allow brokers to pledge securities on behalf of clients

D It will increase the margin requirement for clients

E It will prevent clients from pledging securities

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed amendments to the margin pledge system to enhance transparency and prevent misuse of clients' securities.
- The market regulator has invited public feedback on the draft circular by March 4, 2025.
- SEBI aims to address operational inefficiencies by introducing a 'pledge release for pay-in' system, allowing automatic simultaneous unpledging and settlement, reducing manual intervention.

153. What was the primary reason for RBI imposing restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- A** Excessive lending to real estate companies
- B** Violation of priority sector lending norms
- C** IT and cybersecurity concerns
- D** Failure to meet capital adequacy requirements
- E** Non-compliance with KYC guidelines

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 12, 2025 lifted the restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank, allowing it to issue new credit cards and onboard new customers through its website and mobile app, nearly 10 months after an embargo was imposed on it.
- The restrictions were imposed on April 24, 2024, under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, due to IT and cybersecurity concerns.
- RBI's 2022-23 IT Examination found serious deficiencies in areas such as IT inventory management, patch and change management,

user access management, vendor risk management, data security, and disaster recovery.

154. Recently(Feb '25), the Small Finance Banks get Reserve Bank of India's nod to provide credit lines on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). How does this new UPI feature benefit customers compared to traditional credit cards and loans?

A

It offers a cost-effective alternative with potentially lower interest rates

B

It eliminates the need for internet banking

C

It provides cashback on every transaction

D

It replaces the need for physical debit cards

E

It restricts spending limits for all users

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by allowing transactions using pre-sanctioned credit lines at Small Finance Banks (SFBs), enabling customers to use pre-approved credit lines for UPI transactions.
- Eligible Payment Accounts: Savings accounts, overdraft accounts, prepaid wallets, credit cards, and now credit lines can be linked to UPI.

- **Customer Consent Required:** Customers must provide explicit consent before using their pre-approved credit lines through UPI, ensuring transparency and preventing unauthorized usage.
- **Bank-defined Terms:** Banks will define the terms for these credit lines, including aspects like credit limit, interest rates, and credit periods, offering a cost-effective alternative to traditional credit cards and loans.

155. How much loan has Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) raised through SACE, Italy's export credit agency?

A \$250 million

B \$400 million

C \$500 million

D \$750 million

E \$1 billion

Solution

- Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) has raised a \$500 million loan through SACE, Italy's export credit agency, making it the first Indian NBFC to secure such funding.
- The 10-year External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) facility will be used to finance new and used Italian vehicles under SFL's Social Finance Framework.
- The loan was arranged with support from HSBC, Deutsche Bank, KfW IPEX-Bank, ING Bank, and J.P. Morgan, highlighting confidence in SFL's financial strength.

- SACE, Italy's Export Credit Agency, operates under the Ministry of Economy and Finance and supports Italian exporters and the banking sector with financial guarantees.

156. As per the report, the Government announces ₹100 Special Coin in Tribute to Mohammed Rafi's Legacy. What will be featured on the reverse side of the ₹100 commemorative coin?

A The Indian Parliament

B The image of Mahatma Gandhi

C
An image of Mohammed Rafi with inscriptions in English and Devnagari

D A musical note symbolizing Indian cinema

E A quote from Mohammed Rafi's famous songs

Solution

- To celebrate the centenary of legendary playback singer Mohammed Rafi, the Government will issue a ₹100 commemorative coin.
- Reverse Side: Features an image of Mohammed Rafi with inscriptions "Mohammed Rafi Ki Janam Shatabdi" (in Devnagari) and "BIRTH CENTENARY OF MOHAMMED RAFI" (in English), and the year "1924-2024".

157. According to the Reserve Bank of India Set to Launch ₹50 Denomination Banknotes with Updated Signature. What changes have been made to the design of the new ₹50 banknotes?

- A** The color has been changed to green
- B** The size has been reduced
- C** The design remains identical to the existing ₹50 banknotes
- D** A new security feature has been added
- E** A hologram of Mahatma Gandhi has been introduced

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon release ₹50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series with the signature of newly appointed Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- No Change in Design: The design of the new ₹50 notes will remain identical to the existing notes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- Legal Tender Status: All previously issued ₹50 banknotes by the RBI will continue to be legal tender.
- Sanjay Malhotra's Appointment: Malhotra, a 56-year-old civil servant, was appointed as the RBI Governor for a three-year term on

December 11, 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das, who served for six years.

158. How much credit has been signed between Sidbi and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France?

A USD 50 million

B USD 75 million

C USD 150 million

D USD 100 million

E USD 200 million

Solution

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France signed a USD 100 million credit facility agreement (CFA) to support Green Finance solutions for Indian MSMEs.
- The agreement aims to help MSMEs transition to energy-efficient and climate-friendly business models.
- AFD will provide a USD 100 million credit line to SIDBI for affordable loans in renewable energy and sustainability projects.
- This initiative aligns with India's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070.

159. Which of the following is the main objective of the Income Tax Bill, 2025, introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha?

- A** To increase tax rates on corporate income
- B** To replace the Income Tax Act, 1961, and simplify tax provisions
- C** To introduce new taxes on income from foreign investments
- D** To eliminate tax exemptions for small businesses
- E** To reduce income tax rates across all tax slabs

Solution

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session.
- The bill aims to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961, simplifying tax provisions, improving clarity, and modernizing the law to align with global tax systems.
- Despite opposition protests, the bill was introduced through a voice vote, and the Lok Sabha was adjourned until March 10, 2025, for the second half of the Budget session.

160. Recently, India's retail inflation eases to 4.3% in January 2025. What was the main reason behind the decline in retail inflation in January 2025?

A Decrease in oil prices

B Decline in vegetable prices

C Reduction in education costs

D Fall in cereal prices

E Lower health costs

Solution

- Retail inflation fell to 4.3% in January 2025, a 91 basis points (bps) drop from December 2024.
- This is a five-month low, primarily due to a sharp decline in vegetable prices.
- Economists suggest this could create scope for another rate cut by the RBI in April.
- Food inflation dropped by 237 bps in January, reaching its lowest level since August 2024.

- Categories with lower inflation: Vegetables, Eggs, Pulses & products, Cereals & products, Education, Clothing, Health.
- Rural inflation fell to 4.64% in January from 5.76% in December.
- Rural food inflation: 6.31% (down from 8.65%).
- Urban inflation dropped to 3.87% from 4.58%.
- Urban food inflation: 5.33% (down from 7.9%).
- Core inflation (excluding food & fuel) inched up slightly to 3.7%.

161. Which country announced a 25% retaliatory tariff on American imports in response to U.S. trade policies?

A China

B Canada

C Mexico

D Germany

E None of the above

Solution

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a 25% tariff on American imports in response to tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.
- The new tariffs will apply to 30 billion dollars worth of U.S. goods immediately, followed by an additional 125 billion dollars in 21 days.
- Canada imposed these tariffs as a retaliatory measure against U.S. trade policies.
- China also opposed the U.S. decision to levy a 10% tariff on Chinese imports.

- As stated by President Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico has also announced countermeasures against U.S. tariffs.

162. What new feature has the RBI introduced for international transactions to enhance security?

A Biometric Authentication for domestic transactions only

B Dynamic Currency Conversion

C Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA)

D One-Time Password (OTP) for all online transactions

E None of the above

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) for international transactions to enhance security.
- RBI's new move introduces AFA for cross-border "Card Not Present" (CNP) transactions.
- AFA will bring international transactions made with Indian-issued cards under the same security standards applied to domestic transactions.
- The AFA will ensure that international transactions are secured with OTP or biometric authentication, reducing the risk of fraud.

- This decision comes as online shopping and international digital payments have surged in India, leading to increased fraud risks.

163. Which beverage brand replaced Thums Up as the co-presenter of IPL 2025?

A Limca

B Pepsi

C Campa

D Sprite

E None of the above

Solution

- Campa Cola secures ₹200 crore deal to become IPL 2025 co-presenter, replacing Thums Up.
- Move marks a significant shift in India's beverage industry, positioning Reliance Consumer Products as a challenger to global brands.
- IPL 2025 ad revenue projected to grow 8-10% to ₹4,500 crore, making co-presenting rights highly competitive.
- Campa Cola's partnership places it among IPL's top sponsors, competing with major industry players like Coca-Cola.

- Thums Up previously held the co-presenting rights for the same ₹200 crore amount before Campa Cola's acquisition.

164. Who has been appointed as the Director in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas? (Feb 2025)

A Rakesh Manchanda

B Ravi Kumar

C Sagar Singh Kalsi

D Rajeev Mishra

E Vikram Patel

Solution

- Sagar Singh Kalsi, an IPS officer from the 2010 batch of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- His appointment is for a period of five years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs recommended Kalsi for central deputation.
- Kalsi has been directed to be relieved of his current duties immediately to take up his new assignment in Delhi.

165. What is the new implementation date for the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms as per RBI's latest announcement in February 2025?

A April 1, 2025

B January 1, 2025

C March 31, 2026

D December 31, 2025

E None of the above

Solution

- The RBI has deferred the implementation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms and project financing guidelines by one year, pushing the deadline to March 31, 2026.
- The original deadline for implementing LCR norms was April 1, 2025.
- Banks opposed the early rollout, fearing a liquidity crisis as they would need to divert ₹4 lakh crore to buy government bonds instead of issuing loans.

- The RBI reviewed the concerns and decided to delay the implementation to ensure a smooth transition.
- LCR norms require banks to maintain high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to cover potential liquidity stress situations.

166. Which tech giant officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the “Gulf of America” for American users?

A Microsoft

B Apple

C Google

D Amazon

E Meta

Solution

- Tech giant Google has officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the ‘Gulf of America’ on Google Maps for American users.
- For Mexican users, it will still be displayed as the Gulf of Mexico.
- For the rest of the world, both names will appear on Google Maps.
- Executive Order 14172, titled ‘Restoring Names That Honour American Greatness’, was signed by U.S. President Donald Trump.
- The order directs the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to formalize the name change within 30 days.

167. Which event was the platform for India signing multiple strategic agreements in the energy sector in 2025?

A Vibrant Gujarat Summit

B India Energy Week

C World Economic Forum

D International Solar Alliance Summit

E G20 Energy Conference

Solution

- At India Energy Week 2025, India signed multiple strategic agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs) to enhance energy security, diversify supply sources, and foster innovation in the oil and gas sector.
- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, highlighted these agreements as crucial for ensuring a resilient and sustainable energy future.
- BPCL & Petrobras (Brazil): Optional term contract to import up to 6 million barrels of crude.

- IOCL & ADNOC (UAE): USD 7 billion contract to source 1.2 MMTPA LNG for 14 years (from 2026).

168. Which country is set to purchase India's Akash short-range missile system for \$200 million?

A Vietnam

B Indonesia

C Philippines

D Thailand

E Malaysia

Solution

- The Philippines is set to place an order worth \$200 million for India's indigenously developed Akash short-range missile system in the upcoming financial year.
- This move comes amid rising tensions with China in the South China Sea.
- The Akash missile system, developed by DRDO, has a range of up to 25 km.
- The Philippine deal is expected to be bigger than the \$230-million Armenian deal signed last year.

- The exact number of missiles and radar systems involved has not been disclosed.
- This will be India's second major defence export to Manila after the \$375-million BrahMos missile deal (2022).

169. Recently (Feb'25), the DPIIT has partnered with which two organizations to support startups?

- A** Sequoia Capital & Startup India
- B** Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation & Rukam Capital
- C** ISRO & Nasscom
- D** Paytm & PhonePe
- E** NITI Aayog & World Bank

Solution

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has announced a strategic partnership with Rukam Capital and Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation to drive the holistic growth of India's startup ecosystem.
- This collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and aims to create dedicated programs and initiatives for product startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs.
- The primary goal of this initiative is to empower startups by providing access to crucial resources, including infrastructure,

mentor networks, funding opportunities, market linkages, and a knowledge repository.

170. What is the new name of the merged streaming platform formed by JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar?

A JioCinema+

B JioHotstar

C Hotstar Max

D JioDisney

E JioStream

Solution

- On February 14, 2025, JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar officially merged to form JioHotstar, creating one of India's largest streaming platforms.
- Content Library: JioHotstar offers nearly 300,000 hours of entertainment, combining the extensive libraries of both JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar.
- Subscription Plans: The platform has introduced new subscription plans to cater to diverse audience needs:
- Mobile Plan: ₹149 for 3 months or ₹499 per year; allows streaming in HD (720p) on one mobile device.

171. Why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) impose penalties on Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, and Nainital Bank?

- A** For engaging in fraudulent transactions
- B** For failing to meet RBI's minimum capital requirements
- C** For non-compliance with regulatory norms
- D** For unauthorized international transactions
- E** For failing to submit financial statements on time

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Shriram Finance, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, and Nainital Bank for non-compliance with regulatory norms.
- Penalty on Shriram Finance: A fine of ₹5.80 lakh was levied for failing to implement a system for periodic review of risk categorization of accounts, among other issues.
- Penalty on Ujjivan Small Finance Bank: The bank received a penalty of ₹6.70 lakh on Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

- **Penalty on Nainital Bank:** A penalty of ₹61.40 lakh was imposed due to non-compliance with directives on interest rates for advances and customer service.

172. How much capital has UGRO Capital raised through Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)?

A INR 1,500 million

B INR 2,000 million

C INR 2,600 million

D INR 3,200 million

E INR 5,000 million

Solution

- UGRO Capital, a leading DataTech NBFC focused on MSME lending, announced its latest strategic financing collaboration with FMO.
- UGRO Capital has raised ~INR 2,600 million through Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs).
- Purpose of Funds: The proceeds will support women empowerment, territorial inequality reduction, and youth empowerment initiatives.
- Investor Participation: The INR-denominated NCDs were fully subscribed by FMO, highlighting its commitment to inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

- **Previous NCD Issuance:** In December 2023, UGRO Capital raised USD 30 million (~INR 2,490 million) in an unlisted NCD issuance, primarily for green financing.

173. Who graced the inaugural session of the International Women's Conference organized by The Art of Living in Bengaluru?

- A** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- C** **President Droupadi Murmu**
- D** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar
- E** Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai

Solution

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the inaugural session of the International Women's Conference organised by The Art of Living in Bengaluru.
- In her address, she emphasized the rising power of Indian women (Nari Shakti) and their growing influence in science, sports, politics, arts, and culture.
- Women Breaking Barriers & Achieving Excellence
- Indian women are confidently advancing, making their families, institutions, and the nation proud.

174. Recently, India hosted the First-Ever Regional Dialogue on Global Coalition for Social Justice in New Delhi. Which ministry is organizing the Regional Dialogue on Social Justice?

A Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

B Ministry of Labour and Employment

C Ministry of Home Affairs

D Ministry of Education

E Ministry of Women and Child Development

Solution

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the first-ever Regional Dialogue on Social Justice, which is set to take place on February 24-25 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- This landmark event is organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Employers' Federation of India (EFI).
- The dialogue aims to bring together global stakeholders to discuss inclusive and sustainable social policies.
- Promote fair employment opportunities and social security.

175. The 12th All India Pension Adalat will focus on grievances pending for over how many days?

A 30 days

B 60 days

C 90 days

D 120 days

E 180 days

Solution

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, will chair the 12th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi.
- Organized by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), this initiative aims to address long-pending pension grievances of retired Central Government employees.
- With 180 cases under review, the session will focus on grievances that have been pending for over 120 days, ensuring quick and effective resolutions.

176. Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Narendra Modi and Elon Musk Meet in Washington, D.C.. What did Elon Musk give to PM Modi during the meeting?

A A Tesla Model X

B A SpaceX astronaut helmet

C A hexagonal ceramic heatshield tile from Starship Test Flight 5

D A prototype of Tesla's Cybertruck

E A Neuralink brain-chip prototype

Solution

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk at Blair House, Washington, D.C.
- Their discussion focused on space exploration, electric vehicles (EVs), and innovation, further strengthening India's engagement with Musk's ventures.
- Elon Musk's Gift to PM Modi: A hexagonal ceramic heatshield tile from SpaceX's Starship Test Flight 5 (October 13, 2024), engraved with mission details.

- **Significance:** The tile is designed to withstand extreme temperatures during spacecraft re-entry, showcasing SpaceX's advancements in reusable space technology.

177. What is the main objective of integrating Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) with Common Service Centres (CSCs) in Andhra Pradesh?

- A** To promote urban banking services
- B** To advance rural financial inclusion
- C** To create a new tax policy for farmers
- D** To reduce agricultural subsidies
- E** To introduce cryptocurrency in rural banking

Solution

- In Andhra Pradesh, the integration of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) with Common Service Centres (CSCs) has significantly advanced rural financial inclusion.
- This collaboration has resulted in the disbursement of ₹12,905 crore in loans, benefiting approximately 6.78 lakh individuals.
- This effort aligns with the broader objectives of the Digital India program, which seeks to enhance digital infrastructure and services across the country.

- **E-Cabinet:** In 2014, Andhra Pradesh conducted the country's first paperless e-Cabinet meeting, enabling ministers to access meeting agendas electronically.

178. What is the priority sector credit potential projected by NABARD for Rajasthan in FY 2025-26?

A ₹3.50 lakh crore

B ₹4.00 lakh crore

C ₹4.40 lakh crore

D ₹5.00 lakh crore

E ₹5.50 lakh crore

Solution

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has projected a priority sector credit potential of ₹4.40 lakh crore for Rajasthan in the fiscal year 2025-26.
- This projection was unveiled during the State Credit Seminar 2025-26, where NABARD released the State Focus Paper (SFP) for the upcoming financial year.
- The SFP serves as a comprehensive document, consolidating district-wise loan potentials across Rajasthan in both physical and financial terms.

179. What is the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate reported for January 2025?

A 1.89%

B 2.31%

C 2.75%

D 3.10%

E 3.50%

Solution

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India has released the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for January 2025, reporting an annual inflation rate of 2.31% (provisional) compared to January 2024.
- Inflation increase is mainly due to rising prices in manufactured food products, food articles, non-food articles, and textiles.
- Month-over-month (MoM) WPI change for January 2025 stood at (-) 0.45%, indicating a marginal decline from December 2024.

180. Recently, the New Unified Payments Interface (UPI) rule on automatic acceptance, rejection of chargebacks from February 15, 2025. What is a chargeback in the context of UPI transactions?

A A refund initiated by the merchant.

B The reversal of a completed UPI transaction due to disputes, fraud, or technical errors.

C A penalty imposed on banks for failed transactions.

D A new payment feature introduced by NPCI.

E A cashback reward for UPI transactions.

Solution

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced new guidelines for UPI chargebacks, effective February 15.
- Definition of Chargeback: A chargeback is the reversal of a completed Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transaction due to disputes, fraud, or technical errors, initiated by the payer's bank.

181. As per the report, the NTPC Limited won the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in which category?

A Renewable Energy Innovation

B Water Resilience

C Carbon Emission Reduction

D Energy Efficiency

E Sustainable Infrastructure

Solution

- NTPC Limited., India's largest integrated power utility, has been honoured with the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category.
- The award was presented by the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) at a ceremony in Chennai.
- Aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Supplies nearly 25% of India's electricity.
- Installed power generation capacity: 77 GW.
- 29.5 GW under construction, including 9.6 GW renewable projects.

182. Under which regulatory framework must shareholder approval be obtained for RBL Bank's CEO reappointment?

A RBI Act, 1934

B

SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

C Banking Regulation Act, 1949

D Companies Act, 2013

E Basel III Norms

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of R Subramaniakumar as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Ratnakar Bank.
- The reappointment is for three years, from June 23, 2025, to June 22, 2028.
- The reappointment will be subject to shareholder approval as per RBI and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

- Subramaniakumar has been serving as MD & CEO of RBL Bank since June 23, 2022.
- His current term ends on June 22, 2025, and the reappointment will take effect thereafter, subject to shareholder approval.

183. Who has been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Future Generali India Insurance?

A R Subramaniakumar

B **Kanika Garg**

C Uday Kotak

D Aditya Puri

E Arundhati Bhattacharya

Solution

- Future Generali India Insurance has appointed Kanika Garg as its Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- She assumed the role in December 2024 and has since been instrumental in driving growth, innovation, and operational excellence within the company.
- With a robust background in the insurance sector, Garg brings extensive experience in operational leadership.
- Garg's appointment aligns with Future Generali's strategy to enhance operations, streamline processes, and boost overall business efficiency.

- Her expertise spans various domains, including business strategy, digital transformation, and customer experience enhancement.

184. Which Indian company has signed an MoU with Saab for the local manufacturing of the LWS-310 laser warning system?

A Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

B Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

C Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

D Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

E Tata Advanced Systems

Solution

- Saab and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the local manufacture of Saab's LWS-310 laser warning system in India.
- The agreement includes the Transfer of Technology (ToT), enabling HAL to set up necessary infrastructure, conduct training programs, and gain technical expertise from Saab for long-term support of the system.
- The collaboration strengthens India's defence self-reliance under the 'Make in India' initiative and enhances HAL's capability to manufacture and support the LWS-310 system.

185. What type of technology is primarily involved in the Tata Elxsi-Garuda Aerospace partnership?

- A** Artificial Intelligence for Chatbots
- B** Satellite-based Internet Services
- C** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology
- D** Blockchain for financial security
- E** Hydrogen Fuel Cell development

Solution

- Tata Elxsi, a global leader in design and technology services, and Garuda Aerospace, a pioneering UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) manufacturer, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Aero India 2025, Asia's biggest Airshow, held from February 10th–14th.
- This partnership establishes a dedicated UAV design, engineering, and certification center to develop indigenous drone technologies for Indian defence applications, agriculture, and smart cities, supporting the 'Make in India' initiative.

- Tata Elxsi and Garuda Aerospace are showcasing prototypes, designs, and operational UAVs at Aero India 2025.

186. Recently, the 38th National Games 2025 ended on a grand note in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, marking a significant milestone in India's growing sports culture. What was the theme of the 38th National Games 2025?

A 'One Nation, One Sport'

B 'Green Games'

C 'Sports for All'

D 'Rising India in Sports'

E 'Sustainable Sports Movement'

Solution

- The 38th National Games 2025 ended on a grand note in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, marking a significant milestone in India's growing sports culture.
- Held from January 28 to February 14, 2025, the event saw participation from over 10,000 athletes across 35 sports disciplines, making it one of the largest sporting events in India.
- This edition of the National Games stood out for its sustainability initiatives, aligning with the theme 'Green Games' to minimize

environmental impact.

- The Home Minister announced that the 39th National Games will be held in Meghalaya.

187. How much did Jon Rahm earn in 2025, securing the second spot in the highest-paid athletes list?

A \$150 million

B \$180 million

C \$200 million

D \$218 million

E \$230 million

Solution

- Cristiano Ronaldo has once again secured his place as the highest-paid athlete in the world, earning a staggering \$285 million in 2025.
- His earnings come from: \$200 million annual salary from Al Nassr (Saudi Arabia)
- \$65 million from endorsements and business ventures
- This reinforces football's growing commercial appeal and the significant investments from Middle Eastern clubs in global sports.

188. Recently, Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam recently became the joint-fastest player to reach how many runs in ODIs?

A 5,000

B 6,000

C 7,000

D 8,000

E 10,000

Solution

- Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam has achieved another milestone by becoming the joint-fastest player to reach 6,000 runs in One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- He reached this landmark during the final of the ODI tri-series against New Zealand at the National Stadium.
- Babar reached 6,000 runs in just 123 innings, equaling the record set by South African legend Hashim Amla.
- He surpassed Virat Kohli to become the fastest Asian to achieve this feat, as Kohli had taken 136 innings.

189. As per the news, Sukri Bommagowda, who recently passed away, was famous for which field?

A Classical Dance

B Folk Singing

C Literature

D Theatre

E Painting

Solution

- Sukri Bommagowda, a celebrated folk singer and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at 84 in Badageri village, Uttara Kannada.
- She had been receiving medical care in Manipal before returning home, where she took her last breath.
- Fondly known as Sukrajji, she was a revered figure in the Halakki Vokkaliga community.
- She played a crucial role in preserving Halakki folk heritage and had a repertoire of nearly 5,000 folk songs.
- Often described as a “walking encyclopedia” of Halakki culture.

190. Who was recently awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for contributions to UK-India business relations?

A Mukesh Ambani

B Gautam Adani

C Ratan Tata

D **N. Chandrasekaran**

E None of these

Solution

- Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran received the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for strengthening UK-India business ties.
- He expressed gratitude to King Charles III and highlighted Tata's strong presence in the UK across sectors like technology, steel, automotive, and hospitality.
- Tata Group employs over 70,000 people in the UK and collaborates with Oxford, LSE, Warwick, and Swansea universities.
- Other notable OBE recipients include Eric Schmidt (Google), Jason Furman (Harvard), and Dagmar Dolby.

191. A penalty of ₹68.1 lakh has been imposed by RBI on which of the following banks?

- A** Bandhan Bank and Nainital Bank
- B** Nainital Bank and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- C** Union Bank of India and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- D** Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank
- E** None of the above

Solution

- ₹68 lakh penalty has been imposed by RBI on two banks.
- A penalty of ₹68.1 lakh has been imposed by RBI on Nainital Bank and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- A penalty of ₹61.40 lakh has been imposed on Nainital Bank.
- This penalty was imposed for non-compliance with 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Customer Service in Banks' directions.
- A fine of ₹6.70 lakh was imposed on Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- This was imposed for non-compliance with 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions' directions of RBI.
- A ₹5.80 lakh penalty has been imposed on Shriram Finance.

- This fine has been imposed for non-compliance with KYC guidelines and credit information furnishing provisions.

192. How many non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have surrendered their certificate of registration?

A 34

B 20

C 26

D 32

E None

Solution

- Registration certificates have been surrendered by 20 NBFCs to RBI.
- RBI said 20 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have surrendered their certificate of registration (CoR).
- These NBFCs include Reliance Commercial Finance and IDFC Limited.
- Two NBFCs surrendered CoR after they exited non-banking financial institution business.
- These NBFCs are Manoway Investments Private Limited and Reliance Commercial Finance Limited.

- The CoRs have been surrendered by IDFC Ltd, IDFC Financial Holding Company Ltd, and 16 other entities due to amalgamation or merger.

193. RBI has given approval to _____ to establish an IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City.

A SBI

B Union Bank of India

C Bandhan Bank

D Karnataka Bank

E Bank of Maharashtra

Solution

- RBI has given approval to Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) to establish an IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- This International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit will be Bank of Maharashtra's first international branch.
- This will focus on offshore banking operations from India.
- The IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City will provide Bank of Maharashtra access to international financial markets.
- IBU will also provide the bank access to foreign currency funding products for clients.

- The products like External Commercial Borrowings can now be offered by Bank to its customers.

194. Which of the following has won Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025?

A CIL

B ONGC

C ISRO

D NTPC Ltd.

E DRDO

Solution

- NTPC Ltd. has won Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025.
- The company has won award in the Water Resilience category.
- UN Global Compact Network India presented the award to Shri Harekrushna Dash and Shri K Karthikeyan.
- The award recognizes efforts of NTPC in water conservation and sustainable water management.
- Forward Faster Sustainability Awards recognise organizations developing and improving sustainability.
- Forward Faster Sustainability Awards recognise organizations aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

195. With the income of _____ in 2024, Cristiano Ronaldo was the highest-paid athlete on the list of the top 100.

A \$220 million

B \$230 million

C \$240 million

D \$250 million

E \$260 million

Solution

- With \$260 million in 2024, Cristiano Ronaldo was the highest-paid athlete on the list of the top 100.
- There are no female athletes on the list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world in 2024.
- Sportico made this list. There aren't any Indian athletes in the top 100.
- Athletes in football, basketball, golf, and boxing top the list.
- Last year, the leading 100 made an estimated \$6.2 billion in total income.

- The second-highest earner on the list, Stephen Curry, made \$153.8 million.

196. WPI based inflation declined to _____ in January 2025.

A 2.27%

B 2.31%

C 2.34%

D 2.38%

E 2.45%

Solution

- WPI based inflation declined from 2.37% in December 2024 to 2.31% in January 2025.
- Steep decline in food prices helped in fall of WPI based inflation in January 2025.
- January 2025 WPI is more than January 2024 WPI based inflation of 0.33%.
- Food index inflation declined from 8.89% in December 2024 to 7.47% in January 2025. This was a five-month low level.
- Vegetable inflation decrease to 8.4%. This decrease was mainly due to fall in tomato prices by 18.9%.

- Onion inflation increased to 28.3%. Potato inflation increased to 74.3%.
- Manufactured products inflation increased from 2.1% in December 2024 to 2.5% in January 2025.

197. According to The International Cricket Council (ICC), Beth Mooney, who won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for January 2025, represents which country?

A England

B New Zealand

C Australia

D South Africa

E Srilanka

Solution

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Jomel Warrican (West Indies) and Beth Mooney (Australia) as the Players of the Month for January 2025, recognizing their exceptional performances in international cricket.
- India's leading Test bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, and Australia's talented all-rounder, Annabel Sutherland, have been named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for December 2024.

198. Recently, Bangladesh’s Shohely Akhter Becomes First Woman Cricketer Banned by ICC for Corruption. Under which ICC Anti-Corruption Code article deals with “Attempting to fix matches or influence their outcome”?

A Article 2.1.1

B Article 2.1.3

C Article 2.1.4

D Article 2.4.4

E Article 2.4.7

Solution

- Bangladesh’s Shohely Akhter has become the first woman cricketer to be banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for corruption charges.
- The 36-year-old off-spinner was found guilty of attempting to fix matches during the 2023 Women’s T20 World Cup and has been banned for five years from all forms of cricket, effective February 10, 2025.

- The ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) found Shohely Akhter guilty of violating five provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code:
Article 2.1.1: Attempting to fix matches or influence their outcome.
- Article 2.1.3: Engaging in corrupt conduct by making improper approaches to fellow players.
- Article 2.1.4: Offering money to manipulate match outcomes.
- Article 2.4.4: Failing to report corrupt approaches to the ICC.
- Article 2.4.7: Trying to obstruct investigations into corruption.

199. Which Indian cricketer has been announced as one of the official event ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025?

A Virat Kohli

B Rohit Sharma

C MS Dhoni

D Sachin Tendulkar

E Shikhar Dhawan

Solution

- The ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled from February 19 to March 9 in Pakistan and Dubai, has gained further excitement with the announcement of Shikhar Dhawan as one of its official event ambassadors.
- The only player to win the Golden Bat in two consecutive editions (2013 & 2017).
- Other Iconic Ambassadors for ICC Champions Trophy 2025
 - Sarfaraz Ahmed – Pakistan’s 2017 Winning Captain
 - Shane Watson – Australia’s Champion All-Rounder
 - Tim Southee – New Zealand’s Bowling Spearhead

200. **Who is the Prime Minister of Greece (as of 2025)?**

A Alexis Tsipras

B **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**

C Antonis Samaras

D Constantine Karamanlis

E Evangelos Venizelos

Solution

- About Greece:
- Capital: Athens
- Currency: Euro (€)
- President: Constantine Tassoulas
- Prime Minister: Kyriakos Mitsotakis

201. According to the IPPB report, how many key locations have been set up with service counters, mobile banking units, and customer assistance kiosks at Mahakumbh 2025?

A Three

B Four

C Five

D Six

E Seven

Solution

- India Post Payments Bank is providing comprehensive banking services for millions of pilgrims at the Mahakumbh 2025, ensuring convenience and security for all financial transactions.
- Service counters, mobile banking units, and customer assistance kiosks have been set up at five key locations across Mahakumbh.
- IPPB's Daak Sevaks are providing doorstep banking, enabling devotees to withdraw cash from Aadhaar-linked accounts through Aadhaar ATMs (AePS).

- Devotees can also access a variety of banking services by calling 7458025511.
- IPPB is fostering a cashless ecosystem by enabling local vendors and small businesses to accept digital payments via DakPay QR Cards, supporting the government's Digital India vision.

202. What is the name of India's first AI-powered credit card expert launched by CheQ?

A CardBuddy

B Wisor

C FinGenie

D CreditMax

E SmartPay

Solution

- CheQ's launch of Wisor, India's first AI-powered credit card expert, is a significant step forward in simplifying and streamlining credit card management for Indian users.
- Wisor provides a Q&A chat interface where users can instantly receive human-like responses to their credit card inquiries, eliminating the need for users to search through various bank websites or forums.
- Wisor also aggregates spending data across multiple credit cards and merchants in one view, making it easier for users to track and analyze their expenses month-over-month.

- Additionally, Wisor centralizes credit card rewards, including points, cashback, and benefits, offering personalized advice on how to maximize these rewards, ensuring users don't miss out on opportunities.

203. As per the Feb'25 report, Which financial entity's Certificate of Registration (CoR) was canceled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A Bajaj Finserv Ltd

B X10 Financial Services Ltd

C Muthoot Finance Ltd

D Shriram Finance Ltd

E Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of X10 Financial Services Ltd (formerly Abhishek Securities Ltd) under Section 45-IA (6) of the RBI Act, 1934, due to serious violations in its lending practices, particularly in digital lending operations.
- X10 Financial Services, based in Mumbai, was issued its CoR on 2 June 2015.
- Over the years, it outsourced key functions of its digital lending operations to various service providers, including Wecash

Technology Pvt Ltd (WeRupee) and Mobicred Technology Pvt Ltd
(Cashcred).

204. Which insurance company has partnered with CARS24 Financial Services in a corporate agency tie-up?

A ICICI Prudential Life

B SBI Life Insurance

C **HDFC Life**

D Max Life Insurance

E Bajaj Allianz Life

Solution

- HDFC Life has partnered with CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited. in a corporate agency tie-up, aiming to provide life insurance solutions to CARS24 customers.
- CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited (“CARS24 Financial Services”) is a professionally managed Non-Banking Financial Company (“NBFC”) registered with the Reserve Bank of India and with IRDAI as an Insurance Corporate Agent.
- The Company is a part of CARS24 group and offers a variety of vehicle financing solutions to customers.

- INSURE24, a major milestone for CARS24, is set to transform the digital insurance landscape for India’s rapidly growing online consumer base.

205. In how many states will PNB MetLife's Group Credit Life Insurance be available through Truhome Finance?

A 17

B 12

C 22

D 16

E 21

Solution

- PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has announced a strategic partnership with Truhome Finance (formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) to offer Group Credit Life Insurance to Truhome Finance's home loan customers.
- The insurance solutions will be available across 165 Truhome Finance branches in 17 states, providing financial protection to homeowners and their families by covering outstanding loan liabilities in unforeseen circumstances.

206. Recently, In which rural areas, both Liberty General Insurance & Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking Boost Insurance Awareness expanded its outreach?

A Villages in Rajasthan

B Gram Panchayats in Punjab

C Small towns in Maharashtra

D Tribal areas in Jharkhand

E Coastal regions of Tamil Nadu

Solution

- Liberty General Insurance, in collaboration with Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking Pvt Ltd, is committed to enhancing insurance awareness and accessibility through its ‘Bima Prachaar Aur Prasaar’ initiative.
- This program promotes financial literacy and the significance of insurance protection in both urban and rural regions, aligning with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India’s (IRDAI) vision of ‘Insurance for All by 2047’.

- As the non-life insurer for Delhi, Liberty is extending its outreach to underserved communities in Punjab, such as in Gram Panchayats, with programs like free vehicle inspections, eye check-ups, and educational sessions on insurance.

207. According to the report, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Unveils ‘Bima Trinity’ Plan, Reviews Insurance Sector at 9th Bima Manthan. Which of the following is not a component of Bima Trinity?

A Bima Sugam

B Bima Vistaar

C Bima Vahaak

D Bima Shakti

E None of the above

Solution

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) held the 9th edition of Bima Manthan, its quarterly review meeting with insurance company CEOs, on February 13-14.
- Bima Trinity consists of 3 key components
- Bima Sugam: A unified digital marketplace for selling, servicing, and claiming insurance policies across insurers.
- Bima Vistaar: A first-of-its-kind composite insurance product covering life, accident, property, and hospitalisation.

- **Bima Vahaak:** A women-centric, localised insurance distribution model to boost insurance penetration.

208. What is the main objective of the Deregulation Commission announced by Prime Minister Modi?

- ☐ **A** To create new tax regulations
- ☒ **B** To minimize state intervention in governance
- ☐ **C** To implement stricter regulatory policies
- ☐ **D** To enforce labor laws
- ☐ **E** To nationalize private industries

Solution

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the establishment of a Deregulation Commission to minimize state intervention in governance and enhance the ease of doing business.
- Modi underlined property rights reform as a critical step toward economic empowerment in rural areas. The Svamitva Yojana, launched on April 24, 2020, aims to provide legal documentation for properties in village Abadi areas.

209. Recently, Madhya Pradesh introduced India's First Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy 2025. Which cities are highlighted as key players in the GCC Policy 2025?

A Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru

B Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur

C Pune, Ahmedabad, and Chennai

D Kolkata, Jaipur, and Hyderabad

E Lucknow, Chandigarh, and Surat

Solution

- Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state in India to introduce the Global Capability Centre Policy 2025.
- Aims to position the state as a global hub for innovation and collaboration.
- It Supports decentralization by encouraging businesses to expand beyond metro cities into tier-2 cities.
- The GCC Policy 2025 offers incentives for capital expenditure, payroll, upskilling, and R&D, with a focus on IT, finance, engineering, HR, AI, and cybersecurity.

- The policy aims to attract 50+ GCCs and create 37,000+ direct jobs. Infrastructure development includes five SEZs and 15+ IT parks, with key cities like Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur playing a central role.

210. Recently (Feb'25), Which bank has received approval from the RBI to establish an IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City, Gujarat?

A Punjab National Bank

B Bank of Baroda

C State Bank of India

D Bank of Maharashtra

E HDFC Bank

Solution

- The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- This will be BoM's first international branch, enabling offshore banking operations from within India.
- The IFSC Banking Unit will provide BoM access to international financial markets, enabling the bank to offer a comprehensive range of products, including External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), to clients with foreign currency funding requirements.

- GIFT City, India's first IFSC, aims to transform the nation's financial landscape by offering world-class banking services domestically, reducing reliance on offshore financial hubs.

211. Which digital payment method can be used to create a fixed deposit through ‘SIB Quick FD’?

A Credit Card Payments

B UPI Transactions

C Cheque Deposits

D Demand Drafts (DD)

E Bank Transfer via NEFT only

Solution

- South Indian Bank has rolled out a new service, ‘SIB Quick FD’, which allows individuals to start a fixed deposit without needing to open a savings account with the bank.
- This new feature provides a hassle-free digital banking experience for both existing customers and non-customers alike.
- The process is entirely paperless, and users can make their fixed deposits via UPI transactions.
- All that is required for documentation is the individual’s PAN and Aadhaar details.

- With no need for traditional paperwork or in-person visits, the service promises to be a convenient and accessible way for anyone to invest in fixed deposits.

212. Recently, the PhonePe Rolls Out Device Tokenization for Merchants. Which type of cards will be initially supported for tokenization on PhonePe?

A Mastercard Credit Cards

B Visa Credit and Debit Cards

C RuPay Debit Cards

D American Express Cards

E Maestro Cards

Solution

- PhonePe becomes the first to offer this device tokenization solution to all merchants, making it a significant milestone in the payment industry.
- Consumers can tokenize their cards in the PhonePe app and use card tokens for a variety of services, such as Bill Payments, Recharges, Travel Bookings, Insurance Purchases, and Online Merchants.

213. What is the share of Non-Participating (Non-Par) products in LIC's individual Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE) for the first nine months of FY25?

A 15.42%

B 22.85%

C 27.68%

D 30.12%

E 35.90%

Solution

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched the 'Smart Pension' plan, effective from February 18, 2025.
- It is a Non-Participating (Non-Par), Non-Linked, Individual/Group, Savings, Immediate Annuity Plan.
- The plan is tailored specifically for the domestic market and aims to meet the growing demand for pension and retirement savings in India.
- Strategic Importance: LIC expects this product to strengthen its leadership position in India's growing pension and retirement

savings market.

- In the 1st nine months of FY25, the share of non-par in the individual Annualised Premium Equivalent of LIC was 27.68%.

214. Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh cabinet approved schemes for Women, Youth, and State Development. Which of the following was not one of the six themes discussed at the DCC?

A Swasth Arunachal

B Shikshit Arunachal

C Smriddh Arunachal

D Sampann Arunachal

E Sundar Arunachal

Solution

- Chief Minister Pema Khandu along with his Council of Ministers and chief secretary released the Deputy Commissioners' Conference (DCC) Outcome Report after a Cabinet meeting.
- The DCC was held on January 16 and 17 last on 6 themes– Swasth Arunachal, Shikshit Arunachal, Smriddh Arunachal, Surakshit Arunachal, Swachh Arunachal and Sundar Arunachal and 4 special sessions on forest clearance, land acquisition, saturation of the schemes and the role of guardian ministers and mentor secretaries.

- This 4th Cabinet Aapke Dwar meeting was an initiative of Team Arunachal Govt. When the CM authorized 38 agenda items, the highest is the state's history, for discussion and decision-making to facilitate the state's overall development.

215. On February 18, 2025, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) celebrated its 9th anniversary. How much budget has been allocated for PMFBY & Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) till 2025-26?

A ₹50,100.75 crore

B ₹55,750.25 crore

C ₹60,120.45 crore

D ₹69,515.71 crore

E ₹75,500.90 crore

Solution

- On February 18, 2025, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) celebrated its 9th anniversary, marking nearly a decade of providing financial security to Indian farmers.
- Launched in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PMFBY serves as a comprehensive crop insurance scheme, protecting farmers from natural calamities, pests, and diseases while encouraging the adoption of modern farming practices.

216. Under PM-AASHA, how does the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) support farmers?

A Farmers receive direct input subsidies

B

Farmers receive compensation for the price difference between MSP and market price

C The government distributes free fertilizers to farmers

D Farmers get a higher loan limit under Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

E It offers an insurance scheme for crop failures

Solution

- The Government of India has extended the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) till 2025-26 to ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle.
- Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS): Farmers receive compensation for price differences between MSP and market price.
- Encourages oilseed production and ensures income stability.

- This initiative plays a vital role in stabilizing food prices, benefiting farmers and consumers.

217. Recently, N. Chandrasekaran Awarded Honorary Knighthood by the United Kingdom. Under his leadership, Tata Group acquired which British automobile brand?

A Rolls-Royce

B Aston Martin

C Bentley

D McLaren

E **Jaguar Land Rover**

Solution

- N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Group, was conferred with an honorary knighthood by the United Kingdom.
- This prestigious honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to strengthening the economic and business ties between India and the UK.
- Pivotal role in expanding UK-India trade relations.
- Under Chandrasekaran's leadership, Tata Group has significantly invested in the UK.
- Key sectors: Steel, Automobiles, and Technology.

218. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & CEO of SBI Cards and Payment Services?

A Rajnish Kumar

B Abhijit Chakravorty

C Salila Pande

D Dinesh Khara

E Arundhati Bhattacharya

Solution

- SBI Cards and Payment Services has announced the appointment of Salila Pande as its new Managing Director and CEO, effective April 1, 2025, for a two-year term.
- This decision follows the upcoming retirement of the current MD & CEO, Abhijit Chakravorty, on March 31, 2025.
- Concurrently, SBI Cards has declared an interim dividend of ₹2.50 per share for the financial year 2024-25.
- The record date for this dividend is set for February 25, 2025, with payments expected to be processed by March 18, 2025.

219. Who has been appointed as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)?

A Rajiv Kumar

B Gyanesh Kumar

C Sushil Chandra

D Sunil Arora

E Achal Kumar Jyoti

Solution

- Gyanesh Kumar, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1988 Kerala cadre, has been appointed as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), effective February 19, 2025.
- He succeeds Rajiv Kumar, who retires upon reaching the age of 65.
- The selection was made by a three-member committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.
- During the selection meeting, Rahul Gandhi expressed objections, suggesting a delay until the Supreme Court's hearing on the new

selection law scheduled for February 19, 2025.

220. On February 6th, 2025, Tata Capital's board approved a plan to raise how much through debt, including green bonds and non-convertible debentures (NCDs)?

A ₹10,000 crore

B ₹12,500 crore

C ₹15,000 crore

D ₹20,000 crore

E ₹17,500 crore

Solution

- Tata Capital plans to raise ₹15,000 crore (\$1.72 billion) through debt, including green bonds and non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- The board approved the plan on February 6th, 2025.
- Purpose of Funds: The proceeds will be used for on-lending purposes and business operations.
- Funds from green bonds will specifically support projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation.

221. Recently, Karnataka Bank introduced the new banking products in celebration of its ____ Founders' Day.

A 50th

B 75th

C 100th

D 101st

E 125th

Solution

- Karnataka Bank launched two new banking products to commemorate its 101st Founders' Day.
- KBL Stri is a specialized savings bank account designed for women, catering to homemakers, professionals, and entrepreneurs.
- KBL One Family Banking Programme is a solution that links family members under a single ID, offering shared privileges, tailored benefits, and seamless banking access.

222. What is the deadline for public feedback on SEBI's consultation paper regarding SIM-binding authentication?

A January 11, 2025

B February 15, 2025

C March 11, 2025

D April 30, 2025

E December 31, 2024

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a SIM-binding authentication mechanism to enhance security in stock market transactions and prevent unauthorized access to investors' trading and demat accounts.
- The new system, inspired by Unified Payments Interface (UPI) authentication, ensures that a trading account can only be accessed if the unique client code (UCC) matches the registered mobile device and SIM.
- This significantly reduces the risk of fraudulent activities.

- SEBI has released a draft consultation paper and invited public feedback until March 11, 2025.

223. Recently, the Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC) launched a Smart Pension Plan with Multiple Annuity Options. What category does LIC's new smart pension plan fall under?

A Participating and Linked

B Non-Par and Non-Linked

C Par and Linked

D Equity-based investment plan

E Market-linked pension plan

Solution

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a single-premium smart pension plan offering various annuity options for Single Life and Joint Life annuities.
- The plan was unveiled by Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju and LIC CEO & MD Siddhartha Mohanty, in the presence of senior officials from the finance ministry and LIC.
- The Non-Par and Non-Linked plan includes liquidity options for partial or full withdrawal as per policy terms.

- Minimum Purchase Price: ₹1,00,000, with incentives for higher purchase amounts.
- Flexible annuity payment modes: Yearly, Half-yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly.
- Special Feature: Immediate annuity option for NPS subscribers.

224. By which year does ADB aim to achieve over \$36 billion in annual financing commitments?

A 2025

B 2028

C 2030

D 2034

E 2040

Solution

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a plan to scale up its operations by 50% over the next decade, leveraging its existing capital base to enhance development impact across Asia and the Pacific.
- The Capital Utilization Plan (CUP) outlines a pathway to increase ADB's annual financing commitments from \$24 billion in 2024 to over \$36 billion by 2034.
- This expanded financing will support developing member countries (DMCs) in addressing key development challenges.

- The plan builds on capital management reforms in 2023 that increased ADB's financing capacity and strengthened concessional lending through the Asian Development Fund, benefiting the poorest and most vulnerable nations.

225. What was the legal reason for RBI to change the term “Lokpal” in its Ombudsman Scheme?

A

The term “Lokpal” is legally reserved under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

B

The Supreme Court ordered RBI to change the terminology.

C

The government introduced new financial terminology for banking schemes.

D

The term “Lokpal” was not recognized in RBI’s legal framework.

E

RBI wanted to align its policies with international financial institutions.

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) corrected the Hindi translation of its Ombudsman Scheme to avoid conflict with the Lokpal Act.
- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 mandates the establishment of Lokpal at the Union level and Lokayuktas at the State level to investigate corruption allegations against public officials.
- The term “Lokpal” is legally reserved under this Act, which came into force on January 16, 2024.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021 to handle customer complaints against RBI-regulated entities.

226. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced RBIDATA, a mobile application designed to enhance public access to macroeconomic and financial data. What type of data visualization tools are included in RBIDATA?

A Static reports only

B Interactive graphs and charts

C Only PDF documents

D Simple text-based data sets

E Only historical banking records

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced RBIDATA, a mobile application designed to enhance public access to macroeconomic and financial data.
- The app offers a user-friendly interface with interactive visual elements, making complex economic data more accessible and comprehensible for a wider audience.
- RBIDATA provides access to over 11,000 economic data series covering various aspects of India's economy.

- The information is sourced from reliable databases, ensuring authenticity and relevance for users seeking financial insights.
- The app presents data in a structured manner, allowing users to explore various economic indicators such as inflation and price indices, banking and monetary statistics, national income and GDP trends, external trade and balance of payments, and government finance and fiscal policy data.

227. Why was the name changed from Bullion “Exchange” Regulations to Bullion “Market” Regulations?

- A** To restrict bullion trade to only certified investors
- B** To reflect a broader coverage beyond just the bullion exchange
- C** To introduce new foreign exchange rules for bullion trade
- D** To merge it with stock market regulations
- E** To limit bullion imports into India

Solution

- The International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA) has introduced the IFSCA Bullion Market Regulations, 2025, replacing the IFSCA (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020.
- These new regulations expand the scope of the bullion market ecosystem in GIFT City, Gujarat, and introduce key consumer safeguards.
- The name has been changed from Bullion “Exchange” Regulations to Bullion “Market” Regulations to reflect a broader coverage beyond just the bullion exchange.

228. Recently, at the ‘Waste Recycling & Climate Change 2025’ conclave organized by the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI), Union Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted India’s annual waste generation. How much waste does India generate annually, as per his statement?

A 50 million tones

B 62 million tones

C 75 million tones

D 100 million tones

E 120 million tonnes

Solution

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated a day-long conclave organized by the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI) on ‘Waste Recycling & Climate Change 2025’.
- He highlighted that India generates 62 million tonnes of waste annually, with a sharp increase in plastic, electronic, and hazardous waste.

- The linear economy model (take-make-dispose) is unsustainable due to landfill pressure, resource depletion, and environmental damage.
- A circular economy—focused on reducing, reusing, and recycling—is essential to conserve resources, drive innovation, and create jobs.

229. Which department is responsible for implementing the NAKSHA Pilot Programme?

A Department of Science & Technology

B Department of Rural Development

C Department of Land Resources

D Department of Revenue

E National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Solution

- Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, inaugurated the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) Pilot Programme at Raisen, Madhya Pradesh.
- This initiative, launched by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, aims to modernize land surveying using advanced geospatial technology.
- Launch of SOP Booklet, Video, and Flyers for public awareness.
- Flagging off of WDC Yatra along with screening of the WDC Video and Watershed Anthem.

- Simultaneous launch in 122 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and various Revenue Department Headquarters across 26 States and 3 Union Territories.
- Demonstration of advanced land surveying technologies including drones and GNSS Rovers.

230. According to the Feb'25 report, what recent change has IRDAI introduced regarding UPI payments for insurance premiums?

A Insurers can deduct premiums without customer consent.

B Customers can block premium amounts using a one-time UPI mandate.

C Policyholders must pay premiums in cash only.

D Premium payments must be made before submitting the proposal form.

E UPI payments are no longer allowed for insurance policies.

Solution

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has permitted a one-time UPI mandate for blocking premium amounts for life and health insurance policies.
- Previously, no premium deposit/proposal deposit was required while submitting a proposal form, except for policies issued based on a declaration of good health where coverage starts immediately upon payment.
- Insurers must obtain explicit consent from the policyholder before deducting the premium amount from their bank account.

- Based on insurer requests, UPI One Time Mandate (OTM) has been enabled to streamline premium payments and ensure smooth transactions.

231. Recently, India and Qatar have agreed to double their bilateral trade to what amount over the next five years?

A \$20 billion

B \$22 billion

C \$25 billion

D \$28 billion

E \$30 billion

Solution

- India and Qatar have elevated their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani.
- Both countries have agreed to double bilateral trade from \$14 billion to \$28 billion over the next five years.
- Two agreements were signed: a Strategic Partnership Agreement to enhance cooperation in trade, energy security, and international forums, and a Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement to strengthen economic collaboration.

232. What is the name of Kerala's initiative for the collection and disposal of expired and unused medicines?

A MedRecycle

B PharmaCare

C nPROUD

D CleanMeds

E EcoPharma

Solution

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the Kerala Drugs Control Department is set to launch a programme for the collection and scientific disposal of expired and unused medicines.
- The Kerala government is set to launch 'nPROUD' (New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs), a pioneering initiative aimed at the scientific collection and disposal of expired and unused medicines.
- This program, the first of its kind at the government level in India, addresses the critical issue of improper disposal of pharmaceuticals,

which can lead to antimicrobial resistance, health hazards, and environmental pollution.

233. Recently, the newly inaugurated Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa is located in which Indian state?

A Arunachal Pradesh

B Assam

C Tripura

D West Bengal

E Manipur

Solution

- In a significant boost to India's Act East policy, the Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa in Assam was inaugurated on February 18, 2025.
- The ceremony was led by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, alongside Bhutan's Finance Minister, Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji.
- This state-of-the-art terminal, strategically located on the Brahmaputra River (National Waterway-2), is poised to enhance trade and connectivity between India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

- The Jogighopa terminal is designed to serve as an international port of call for Bhutan and Bangladesh, facilitating efficient logistics and cargo movement in Assam and the broader Northeast region.

234. How much ACC battery capacity has been granted to Reliance New Energy Battery Limited under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage agreement?

A 5 GWh

B 10 GWh

C 15 GWh

D 20 GWh

E 30 GWh

Solution

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), Government of India, has signed a Programme Agreement with Reliance New Energy Battery Limited under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage.
- Signed this agreement grants 10 GWh ACC capacity, making Reliance eligible for incentives under India's ₹18,100 crore PLI ACC scheme.

- Approved in May 2021 with a total outlay of ₹18,100 crore to establish 50 GWh of battery manufacturing capacity.
- 40 GWh capacity awarded so far to four firms under the scheme.
- First bidding round (March 2022) allocated 30 GWh to three firms, with agreements signed in July 2022.

235. Which financial knowledge platform has partnered with Zomato to launch a financial literacy program for delivery partners?

A Groww

B Zerodha

C StockGro

D Upstox

E Paytm Money

Solution

- StockGro, a leading financial knowledge platform, has partnered with Zomato, India's top food delivery service, to launch a financial literacy program aimed at improving the financial stability and planning skills of delivery partners.
- StockGro has conducted 10 financial literacy workshops across Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Bangalore, reaching over 1,000 delivery partners.
- The sessions focus on money management skills, helping gig workers handle irregular income and plan for financial security.

236. What is the name of Zomato's newly launched AI-driven customer support platform?

A Nugget

B ZomBot

C Donut

D QuickHelp

E BlinkBot

Solution

- Zomato has launched 'Nugget', a no-code AI-driven customer support platform designed to help businesses automate and streamline their customer service.
- Developed over three years, Nugget already manages 15 million+ monthly interactions across Zomato's ecosystem, including Blinkit and Hyperpure.
- This marks Zomato's strategic shift towards AI-powered business solutions, enhancing efficiency in customer interactions.
- Enables businesses to integrate AI-driven support without coding expertise

- Allows easy customization to match unique business needs
- Nugget is the first product from Zomato Labs, Zomato's new in-house AI innovation unit.

237. Recently, the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) has signed an MoU with which job recruitment platform to enhance employment prospects?

A Naukri

B LinkedIn

C APNA

D Monster India

E Shine

Solution

- The Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) has signed an MoU with APNA, a leading job recruitment platform, to enhance employment prospects for young job seekers.
- This partnership will add over 10 lakh job opportunities annually to the National Career Service (NCS) Portal, strengthening domestic employment avenues.
- About the NCS Portal: Serves as a bridge between job seekers and employers.

- 40 lakh+ registered employers and 4.40 crore vacancies mobilized since its launch.
- Nearly 10 lakh vacancies available at any given time.
- Expanded Job Access: Increased employment options across metro and non-metro cities.

238. Which two organizations recently signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to explore AI-driven digital twin technologies?

A NITI Aayog & ISRO

B Department of Telecommunications (DoT) & ITU

C RBI & World Bank

D DRDO & NASA

E TRAI & Qualcomm

Solution

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have taken a major step in digital infrastructure planning by signing a Letter of Intent (LoI) to explore the potential of AI-driven digital twin technologies.
- This partnership aims to integrate 5G, IoT, AI, and AR/VR into urban and infrastructure planning by creating real-time virtual models of physical assets.
- Significance of AI-Driven Digital Twins in Infrastructure
- Digital twin technologies create virtual models that mirror physical assets, systems, or processes.

239. Which Indian health-tech company partnered with the Kerala Government for Nayanamritham 2.0?

A Tata Health

B Remidio

C Practo

D Netmeds

E 1mg

Solution

- The Kerala Government has launched Nayanamritham 2.0, the world's first AI-powered public health screening program for chronic eye diseases in collaboration with Remidio, a leading Indian health-tech company.
- Expanding beyond its initial focus on diabetic retinopathy, the upgraded program now includes glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), marking a significant milestone in AI-driven healthcare.

240. Recently, Former Mumbai captain and selector Milind Rege passed away. How many times did Milind Rege win the Ranji Trophy with Mumbai?

A 5

B 2

C 7

D 3

E 4

Solution

- Milind Rege, a stalwart of Mumbai cricket, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra due to cardiac arrest at the age of 76.
- Five-time Ranji Trophy champion with Mumbai.
- Off-spinning all-rounder with 126 wickets in 52 first-class matches (1966-67 to 1977-78).
- Scored 1,532 runs at an average of 23.56.
- Served as selector and chief selector for Mumbai cricket.
- Held senior roles at Tata Sports Club and Tata Communications.
- Advisor to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) for four years

241. According to Moody's Analytics, what is India's projected GDP growth for 2025?

A 6.2%

B 6.4%

C 6.6%

D 6.8%

E 7.0%

Solution

- India's economic growth is projected to slow to 6.4% in 2025, down from 6.6% in 2024, primarily due to new U.S. tariffs and weakening global demand impacting exports, according to a report by Moody's Analytics.
- The report, titled 'Asia-Pacific Outlook: Chaos Ahead,' highlights that the entire Asia-Pacific region is expected to experience slower growth as trade tensions, policy uncertainties, and uneven economic recoveries affect the region's fortunes.
- Specifically, China's GDP growth is forecasted to decline from 5% in 2024 to 4.2% in 2025 and 3.9% in 2026.

242. How much has RBI purchased in government securities through OMO auctions so far?

A ₹75,000 crore

B ₹1 trillion

C ₹1.5 trillion

D ₹2 trillion

E ₹40,000 crore

Solution

- Reserve Bank of India received bids worth ₹1.87 trillion against the notified amount of ₹40,000 crore at the Open Market Operation auction.
- The cut-off price was set below the secondary market price due to high demand.
- PSU banks were major participants, driven by liquidity deficit.
- RBI has purchased ₹1 trillion in government securities via OMO auctions.
- RBI bought ₹58,875 crore worth of securities in January through screen-based OMOs.

- RBI acquired ₹39,000 crore worth of bonds in the secondary market.

243. Which of the following technological advancements is expected to drive India's growth in the manufacturing sector?

A AI-driven chip design

B Touchless manufacturing

C Backward integration

D All of the above

E None of the above

Solution

- India is projected to become a high-income country by 2047 with a GDP of USD 23-35 trillion.
- The services sector will contribute 60% of GDP, while manufacturing will account for 32%.
- 200 million individuals expected to enter the workforce, creating opportunities for high-value job creation.
- Sectoral technology roadmap and advances in AI-driven chip design, touchless manufacturing, and backward integration to boost competitiveness and innovation.

- The manufacturing sector's export share could rise from 24% to 45%-50% by 2047, with GDP contribution increasing from 3% to 8%-10%.

244. Recently, India has made a significant advancement in modernizing its aviation sector by launching the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for flight crew. It became the ____ country in the world to implement digital licensing for pilots.

A First

B Second

C Third

D Fourth

E Fifth

Solution

- India has made a significant advancement in modernizing its aviation sector by launching the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for flight crew.
- With this initiative, India becomes the second country in the world after China to implement digital licensing for pilots.
- The EPL was introduced by Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu and is expected to enhance convenience, transparency, and efficiency in the licensing process.

- India is the second country globally, after China, to introduce EPL for flight crew.

245. By what percentage has the Uttar Pradesh Budget 2025-26 increased compared to the previous year?

A 8.2%

B 9.8%

C 10.5%

D 12.1%

E 15%

Solution

- The Uttar Pradesh Budget 2025-26, presented by State Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna on February 20, 2025, has a total outlay of ₹8,08,736 crore.
- This reflects a 9.8% increase from the ₹7,36,437 crore budget of 2024-25.
- Total Budget: ₹8,08,736 crore (₹8.08 lakh crore), a 9.8% increase from the previous year's ₹7,36,437 crore.
- New Expenditure: ₹28,478 crore allocated for new initiatives.

246. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, in February 2025?

A Chetan Ghate

B Sabyasachi Kar

C Raghuram Rajan

D Arvind Subramanian

E Bibek Debroy

Solution

- Professor Sabyasachi Kar has been appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, effective February 6, 2025.
- He succeeds Professor Chetan Ghate.
- Kar currently serves as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Chair Professor at IEG.
- He is a member of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) Committee on Regional Accounts.

247. As per the report, V Anantha Nageswaran has recently suggested that RBI should exclude which component from its inflation target?

A Fuel prices

B Food prices

C Housing costs

D Core inflation

E Employment index

Solution

- The government has extended the tenure of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran by more than two years until March 31, 2027.
- This extension virtually rules him out as a contender for the post of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor, a role for which he was recently interviewed.
- Michael Patra, the former RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, retired in January, 2025.
- Nageswaran has recently advocated for a change in the RBI's inflation target to exclude food prices.

248. Who has been appointed as the new head of products in the consumer bank at Kotak Mahindra Bank?

A Shahrukh Todiwala

B Uday Kotak

C Vyomesh Kapasi

D Dipak Gupta

E Manish Kothari

Solution

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced senior-level appointments, with Vyomesh Kapasi moving to head products in the consumer bank.
- Shahrukh Todiwala has been elevated to replace Kapasi as the head of Kotak Mahindra Prime.
- Chinese Wok, India's largest quick service restaurant chain specializing in Chinese cuisine, plans to add 25 outlets in East India as part of its expansion.
- The company aims to increase revenues to ₹1,000 crore after closing FY25's March quarter with an annual revenue of ₹650 crore.

249. Which committee/department announced the extension of BVR Subrahmanyam's tenure as NITI Aayog CEO?

A Ministry of Finance

B Ministry of Home Affairs

C Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

D Department of Economic Affairs

E Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Solution

- The central government has extended NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam's term by a year, beyond February 24, 2025, or until further orders.
- This announcement was made by the Secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Subrahmanyam joined the CEO of NITI Aayog—the government's top policy think-tank—on February 25, 2023.

250. According to the RBI data, What was the growth rate of bank lending to NBFCs in 2024?

A 4.2%

B 6.7%

C 10.5%

D 15.0%

E 18.3%

Solution

- Bank lending to Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) grew at 6.7% in 2024, compared to 15% in 2023, reaching ₹16.22 lakh crore as of December 2024.
- In absolute terms, bank lending fell to ₹1 lakh crore in 2024 from nearly ₹2 lakh crore in the previous year, according to RBI data.
- The slowdown was driven by higher funding costs after the RBI raised risk weights on such loans.
- In November 2023, RBI increased the risk weight on bank credit to NBFCs by 25 basis points to 125%, making lending costlier and leading banks to become more selective.

251. With which bank did LTIMind tree announce a strategic collaboration to enhance customer experience and improve banking operations?

A HDFC Bank

B Citibank

C Eurobank S.A.

D HSBC

E Deutsche Bank

Solution

- LTIMindtree gained 2.85%, reaching ₹5,634.15, after announcing a strategic collaboration with Eurobank S.A., a subsidiary of Eurobank Ergasias Services and Holdings S.A., to enhance customer experience and improve banking operations for Eurobank and its subsidiaries.
- Fairfax Digital Services (a Fairfax Company) enabled the partnership.
- A Global Delivery Center will be established in India.

- LTIMindtree has been chosen as the Services Partner for Eurobank Luxembourg’s Temenos implementation program, handling.

252. Why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) impose monetary penalties on Citibank, Asirvad Micro Finance, and JM Financial Home Loans?

- A** For failing to meet the minimum capital requirements.
- B** For violating regulatory norms as per RBI's supervisory findings.
- C** For refusing to provide loans to MSME borrowers.
- D** For delaying tax payments to the Indian government.
- E** For engaging in fraudulent financial activities.

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on Citibank, Asirvad Micro Finance, and JM Financial Home Loans for violating regulatory norms.
- The RBI's action was based on supervisory findings following a statutory inspection of the companies' financial position as of March 31, 2023 (for Citibank and Asirvad Micro Finance) and March 31, 2022, and March 31, 2023 (for JM Financial Home Loans).
- Citibank was fined ₹39 lakh for reporting breaches in 'Large Exposures' limits with delay and failing to upload rectified data

within seven days of receiving rejection reports from Credit Information Companies (CICs).

253. How much is the total worth of the RBI's dollar-rupee buy-sell swap auction announced for February 28, 2025?

A \$5 billion

B \$8 billion

C \$10 billion

D \$15 billion

E \$20 billion

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct a three-year dollar-rupee buy-sell swap auction worth \$10 billion (approximately ₹87,000 crores) on February 28, 2025 to inject liquidity into the banking system.
- “In order to meet the durable liquidity needs of the system, the Reserve Bank has decided to inject rupee liquidity for a longer duration through a long-term USD-INR buy-sell swap,” RBI stated.
- Market participants will be required to place bids based on the premium they are willing to pay to RBI for the swap's tenor, which will determine the auction's cut-off.

- This marks the second swap auction by the central bank in 2025, following a \$5.1 billion six-month swap conducted on January 31.

254. Which sector did Mirae Asset Sharekhan recently expand into through strategic partnerships?

- A** Mutual fund advisory
- B** Life insurance distribution
- C** Digital banking
- D** Real estate investment
- E** Cryptocurrency trading

Solution

- Mirae Asset Sharekhan, a leading financial services platform, has entered the life insurance distribution sector through strategic partnerships with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and HDFC Life.
- This move aligns with the company's vision of offering a one-stop financial platform that integrates wealth creation with long-term financial security.
- With a growing number of retail investors in the stock market, Mirae Asset Sharekhan aims to bridge the gap between investment and financial protection by providing a diverse range of life insurance products, including:

- Term Life & Health Plans – Ensuring income protection and financial security for dependents.

255. What does SOUL stand for in the context of the recently inaugurated conclave?

- A School of Ultimate Leadership**
- B Society of Unified Learning
- C School of Outstanding Leaders
- D Strategic Organization for Universal Leadership
- E Summit on Uniting Leaders

Solution

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first edition of the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) Leadership Conclave 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Addressing the gathering of distinguished leaders and aspiring young leaders, he emphasized the importance of leadership in nation-building and the development of excellent leaders across all fields.
- He highlighted that SOUL is not just a name but the essence of India's social life, representing a transformative step toward a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

256. What additional facility has been launched at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park along with the bio bank?

A A new safari park

B A research center for wildlife behavior

C An animal museum

D A breeding program for endangered birds

E A wildlife rehabilitation center

Solution

- India has made a significant advancement in wildlife conservation by setting up the country's first zoo-based biobank at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP), Darjeeling, West Bengal.
- Operational since July 2024, this facility aims to preserve genetic materials of endangered species.
- Additionally, the zoo has launched an animal museum, enhancing conservation and research efforts.

257. For what occasion will Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit Mauritius next month?

A To attend the BRICS Summit

B

To participate in Mauritius' National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour

C To sign a trade agreement with Mauritius

D To inaugurate an Indian cultural center in Mauritius

E To attend a United Nations conference on climate change

Solution

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Mauritius next month to participate as the Guest of Honour at the country's National Day celebrations.
- The announcement was made by Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, who emphasized that Modi's presence highlights the deep and historic ties between the two nations.
- Mauritius celebrates its National Day on March 12, marking its independence from British rule in 1968.

- Mauritian PM Navin Ramgoolam called it a “singular privilege” to host Modi despite his tight diplomatic schedule.

258. Recently, India Takes Over Chairmanship of Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). Who led India's delegation while assuming the Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO?

A Dr. S. Jaishankar

B Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi

C Dr. Rajeev Ranjan

D Shri Parshottam Rupala

E Dr. Ramesh Chand

Solution

- India has officially assumed the Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting held in Malé, Maldives.
- The transition, attended by representatives from Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bangladesh, was part of the “Policy Guidance for Mainstreaming Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Small-Scale Fisheries” conference, organized from February 20-22, 2025.

- Leading India's delegation, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, took over the chairmanship and reaffirmed India's commitment to sustainable fisheries, regional cooperation, and small-scale fishers' welfare.

259. Which two organizations have collaborated to present the art exhibition “Topographies of Tents, Terracotta, and Time” in Hyderabad?

A Lalit Kala Akademi & British Council

B Srishti Art Gallery & Goethe-Zentrum

C National Gallery of Modern Art & French Embassy

D Hyderabad Art Society & Indian Council for Cultural Relations

E Kalakriti Art Gallery & German Consulate

Solution

- Art lovers in Hyderabad are in for a visual and intellectual experience as Srishti Art Gallery and Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad collaborate to present “Topographies of Tents, Terracotta, and Time.”
- This international exhibition brings together the works of renowned national and international artists, exploring themes of identity, displacement, and transformation.
- Curated by Matthew Partridge, the exhibition will feature three distinguished artists, each offering unique perspectives through

diverse artistic mediums.

260. What is the key proposal in the draft guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding floating-rate loans for retail and MSME borrowers?

A

RBI proposes to increase foreclosure charges on floating-rate loans for individual and MSME borrowers.

B

RBI proposes to remove foreclosure charges on floating-rate loans for retail and MSME borrowers, including those for business purposes.

C

RBI proposes to impose higher prepayment penalties for floating-rate loans to encourage lenders.

D

RBI proposes to allow only Tier 1 and 2 urban cooperative banks to impose foreclosure charges on floating-rate loans.

E

RBI proposes to limit floating-rate loans for MSME borrowers to ₹5 crore.

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines proposing the removal of foreclosure charges on floating-rate loans for retail and MSME borrowers, including loans granted to individual borrowers for business purposes.

- These changes will provide greater flexibility for borrowers to switch lenders offering better terms and allow them to prepay their loans without incurring penalties, which currently range from 4-5% on the outstanding principal for personal loans.
- According to the draft circular, regulated entities (REs), except Tier 1 and 2 primary (urban) cooperative banks and base layer NBFCs, shall not impose prepayment penalties on floating-rate loans sanctioned to individuals and MSE borrowers, up to an aggregate limit of ₹7.50 crore per borrower.

261. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to offer exclusive financial benefits?

A State Bank of India (SBI)

B Punjab National Bank (PNB)

C HDFC Bank

D Bank of Baroda

E ICICI Bank

Solution

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), framing a strategic partnership to provide exclusive financial benefits and insurance coverage for ITBP personnel, pensioners, and their families.
- Special Benefits for ITBP Pensioners and Families: PNB has also extended its Rakshak Account benefits to ITBP pensioners, framing a financial security net that includes:
 - Lifetime PAI coverage of ₹50 lakh
 - AAI coverage of ₹100 lakh

- Additional financial benefits available to dependents and families of ITBP personnel

262. Which organization has launched the initiatives Chhoti SIP, Tarun Yojana, and MITRA?

- A** Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C** Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
- D** Ministry of Finance
- E** National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Solution

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has launched three strategic initiatives—Chhoti SIP, Tarun Yojana, and MITRA—aimed at enhancing financial inclusion, promoting investor awareness, and facilitating the retrieval of forgotten investments.
- These efforts align with the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) mission to democratize mutual fund investments and broaden participation across diverse demographics.
- Chhoti SIP: This initiative introduces a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) starting at ₹250, making mutual fund investments more

accessible, especially for first-time investors and individuals from underserved communities.

263. Which regulatory body increased the free-look period from 15 days to 30 days last year?

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

C Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

D Ministry of Finance

E Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

Solution

- The government has asked private insurers to increase the free-look period from one month to a year.
- The free-look period allows customers to cancel an insurance policy without surrender charges.
- Last year, IRDAI increased the period from 15 days to 30 days.
- Insurers must refund the first premium if the policyholder returns the policy within this period.

264. When was the Bima Vahak portal expected to be soft-launched for onboarding ‘Vahaks.’ ?

A March 2025

B April 2025

C June 2025

D December 2025

E January 2026

Solution

- Bima Vahak portal is nearing completion and will be soft-launched in April 2025 for onboarding ‘Vahaks.’
- The initiative is women-centric and aims to increase insurance penetration in underserved areas.
- During Bima Manthan (Feb 13-14, 2025) in Hyderabad, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) met with CEOs of life and non-life insurers to discuss the phased launch of Bima Trinity and finalize a compliant, customer-friendly insurance distribution model.

- Bima Trinity aims to drive financial inclusion, improve customer experience, and expand insurance coverage across India.

265. Which company has introduced the Solar Soundbox as an eco-friendly digital payment solution?

A Google Pay

B PhonePe

C Paytm

D Amazon Pay

E BharatPe

Solution

- Paytm Solar Soundbox is an eco-friendly solution that harnesses a low-cost alternative energy source, enabling merchants in rural, remote, and electricity-deprived areas to seamlessly integrate into the digital ecosystem.
- Made in India and designed for eco-friendly operation.
- Integrated solar panel for automatic charging.
- Solar-powered battery: Provides a full day of power with just 2-3 hours of sunlight.
- Electricity-powered battery: Lasts up to 10 days without recharging.

- Ensures uninterrupted functionality and promotes green energy adoption.

266. Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Proposed Major Reforms for Angel Funds to Enhance Capital Flow to Startups. What is the current investor limit for private placement under the Companies Act, 2013?

A 50 investors

B 100 investors

C 150 investors

D 200 investors

E 500 investors

Solution

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposes allowing Angel Funds to onboard a larger pool of experienced investors without breaching the private placement cap.
- SEBI suggests recognizing Accredited Investors (AIs) as QIBs under the ICDR Regulations, 2018.
- This change would exempt AIs from the 200-investor limit set by the Companies Act, 2013.

267. Which Indian state will host the official event for the 19th PM-KISAN installment release?

A Uttar Pradesh

B Maharashtra

C Bihar

D Madhya Pradesh

E Rajasthan

Solution

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, launched in 2019, provides Rs 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers in three equal installments.
- The 19th installment of PM-KISAN will be released on February 24, 2025, coinciding with the scheme's sixth anniversary.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially release the funds at an event in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

268. Which organization launched the “Imagine a World with More Women in Science” campaign?

A World Health Organization (WHO)

B

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

C International Labour Organization (ILO)

D World Economic Forum (WEF)

E United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Solution

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has launched the “Imagine a World with More Women in Science” campaign to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2025.
- This initiative, supported by Canada’s International Development Centre (IDRC), aims to promote greater representation and participation of women in STEM fields worldwide.

- The campaign builds on UNESCO's 2024 Call to Action: Closing the Gender Gap in Science, highlighting how diverse perspectives drive innovation in science, technology, medicine, artificial intelligence, and beyond.

269. What is the primary aim of the Haryana Witness Protection Scheme 2025?

- A** To provide financial aid to crime victims
- B** To protect witnesses from threats, harassment, or intimidation
- C** To offer free legal education to witnesses
- D** To increase the number of police personnel in courts
- E** To improve the efficiency of forensic labs

Solution

- The Haryana Government has rolled out the ‘Haryana Witness Protection Scheme 2025’ to ensure the safety and security of witnesses who play a crucial role in the justice system.
- The primary aim of the scheme is to protect witnesses from threats, harassment, or intimidation that may arise during judicial proceedings.
- By providing legal protection, including the possibility of relocating, changing identities, or offering other safeguards, the government seeks to strengthen the rule of law, encourage witnesses to testify

without fear, and improve the overall functioning of the criminal justice system.

270. Which key feature defines Razorpay's financial solutions introduced at FTX 2025?

A Cryptocurrency-based transactions

B AI-powered secure experiences

C Government-subsidized banking

D Decentralized finance (DeFi) integration

E Offshore banking solutions

Solution

- Razorpay, India's leading omnichannel payments and business banking platform, has introduced 4 major innovations at its annual flagship event, FTX 2025, framing a new era of AI-driven financial solutions designed to empower startups, e-commerce brands, and enterprises with frictionless financial solutions and secure, AI-powered experiences.
- RazorpayX Corporate Cards (in partnership with YES Bank)
- Positioned as India's first founder-focused corporate card, it simplifies spending and reconciliation for early-stage startups.

271. As per the revised norms, what percentage of aggregate loans and advances must UCBs allocate to small-value loans?

A 40%

B 50%

C 60%

D 25%

E 75%

Solution

- Reserve Bank of India has revised prudential norms for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to increase operational flexibility.
- UCBs must have at least 50% of their aggregate loans and advances in small-value loans.
- The value of these small-value loans has been increased to not more than Rs 25 lakh or 0.4% of Tier I capital (whichever is higher), up from 0.2%.
- The borrower cap has been increased to Rs 3 crore per borrower from Rs 1 crore earlier, out of the total Tier-I capital.

- UCB boards must periodically review portfolio behavior and quality under different loan-size categories.

272. What was the primary reason for corporate profit growth despite slower sales growth in FY24?

A Increase in demand for luxury goods

B Expansion of international markets

C Cost rationalisation

D High consumer spending

E Government subsidies

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that corporate profits grew by 15.3% in FY24, despite slower sales growth of 5.5%, primarily due to cost rationalisation.
- The services sector outperformed manufacturing in both sales and profit growth, reversing the trend from FY23.
- Overall corporate profit growth: 15.3% in FY24 (up from 4.2% in FY23)
- Sales growth: Declined to 5.5% in FY24
- Manufacturing sector: 4.1% (vs. double-digit growth in FY23)

273. How many new industrial policies were unveiled at the Global Investors Summit 2025?

A 12

B 19

C 15

D 18

E 11

Solution

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Investors Summit 2025 in Bhopal, unveiling 18 new industrial policies to establish Madhya Pradesh as a premier investment hub.
- The summit attracted top industrialists and global investors, with a strong emphasis on India's role in global supply chains, particularly in aerospace and manufacturing.
- PM Modi highlighted India's rapid economic rise, citing positive forecasts from the World Bank, OECD, and the UN.

274. Which campaign secured five Guinness World Records in holistic healthcare and Ayurveda?

A Fit India Movement

B Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan

C **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan**

D Yoga for Wellness Initiative

E Swachh Bharat Swasth Bharat

Solution

- India has set a new global benchmark in holistic healthcare and Ayurveda with the ‘Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan’, which secured five Guinness World Records. Led by the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and supported by the Ministry of Ayush, the campaign concluded its first phase in Mumbai.
- The initiative highlights India’s commitment to integrating Ayurveda with public health through mass participation and data-driven healthcare insights.

275. Recently, an Indian government's premier think tank, NITI Aayog's Initiative to Transform AIIMS and Enhance Healthcare in India. Who is leading the high-level committee for AIIMS New Delhi's transformation?

A Randeep Guleria

B VK Paul

C Balram Bhargava

D Mansukh Mandaviya

E Soumya Swaminathan

Solution

- NITI Aayog, the Indian government's premier think tank, has formed a high-level committee to transform AIIMS New Delhi into a world-class institution for medical research and healthcare excellence.
- The panel, led by NITI Aayog member VK Paul, will evaluate existing systems, propose reforms, and set clear timelines for their implementation.

- This initiative aligns with India's broader efforts to enhance healthcare infrastructure, governance, and self-sufficiency.
- In addition to AIIMS reform, NITI Aayog is advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and working on affordable rare disease treatments, partnering with CSEP Research Foundation to study global healthcare models.

276. What is the name of the event jointly hosted by SIA-India and SIA-Australia on February 20, 2025?

A SPACE-TECH 2025

B PRISM 2.0

C Indo-Australian Space Dialogue

D Global Space Summit

E AstroConnect

Solution

- India and Australia continue to enhance cooperation in the space sector through strategic discussions aimed at addressing regulatory and market challenges.
- As part of these efforts, SIA-India and SIA-Australia jointly hosted PRISM (Perspectives on Regulatory Issues in Strategic Markets) 2.0 on February 20, 2025.
- The webinar focused on export controls, technology transfer, and R&D cooperation to support industry-level partnerships.
- The PRISM initiative, launched by SIA-India, seeks to address trade barriers in strategic sectors such as space and dual-use technologies.

277. As per the report, Datia Airport has become the __ public aerodrome airport in Madhya Pradesh.

A 5th

B 6th

C 7th

D 8th

E 10th

Solution

- Datia Airport has received a license as a public aerodrome from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- It is classified under the 3C/VFR category.
- Datia Airport is now the 8th public aerodrome airport in Madhya Pradesh.

278. Recently, West Bengal got eastern India's 1st astronomical observatory. Which institution inaugurated the astronomical observatory in West Bengal?

- A** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B** Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
- C** Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences
- D** National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
- E** Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)

Solution

- The Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences has inaugurated Eastern India's first astronomical observatory atop Panchet Hill in the Garpanchkot area of Purulia district, West Bengal.
- This facility, named after the renowned physicist Satyendra Nath Bose, is the 6th such observatory in India, joining others in Ladakh, Nainital, Mount Abu, Girbani Hills, and Kavalur.
- The observatory, established on a 4.9-acre site, began construction in 2012 and is situated at an elevation of 600 meters above sea level.

- It currently houses a 14-inch diameter telescope, with plans to install a 1-meter diameter telescope in the near future.
- The location's minimal light pollution and clear skies from November to April make it ideal for astronomical observations.

279. How many vultures were counted in the recent vulture census conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department?

A 10,567

B 11,245

C 12,981

D 14,320

E 15,500

Solution

- Madhya Pradesh has recorded the highest vulture population in India.
- The recent state-level vulture census conducted by the Forest Department counted 12,981 vultures.
- Vulture Population Growth in Madhya Pradesh:
 - 2019 Census: 8,397 vultures
 - 2024 Census: 10,845 vultures
 - 2025 Census: 12,981 vultures (significant increase)
- Conducted across 16 circles, 64 divisions, and 9 protected areas in the state.

- The census began in 2016 and has shown a consistent rise in vulture numbers.

280. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India launched Financial Literacy Week 2025 with a focus on women's prosperity. What is the theme of Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025?

A “Financial Inclusion for All”

B “Smart Banking for a Digital Future”

C “Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity”

D “Invest Wisely, Secure Your Future”

E “Empowering Youth through Finance”

Solution

- The Reserve Bank of India launched Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025.
- The event runs from February 24 to 28, 2025.
- The theme is “Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity”.
- The launch was inaugurated by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The Governor stressed the importance of empowering women for inclusive and sustained economic growth.
- The launch was attended by top management and regional heads of the Reserve Bank, NABARD, and select commercial banks.



[. \(https://www.entri.me\)](https://www.entri.me)



[. \(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me\)](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.entri.entri.me)