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Ques : Who Introduced New 15-Day Credit Reporting Rule Effective from January 1, 2025 ?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) RBI
- (c) EPFO
- (d) SEBI
- (e) NPCI

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has implemented new credit reporting rules. Lenders are now required to update credit bureau information every 15 days, rather than monthly. This directive went into force on January 1, 2025.
- Under the previous monthly reporting method, late payments or defaults could take up to 40 days to appear on a borrower's credit report. The new 15-day reporting cycle will keep credit histories up to current.

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Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the supervisory restrictions imposed on two non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) – Asirvad Micro Finance Limited and DMI Finance Private Limited.
- The Reserve Bank announced the winners of its 3rd Global Hackathon, themed 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly'.
- The RBI has declared that the interest rate for RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds (Taxable) FRSB 2020 (T) will stay at 8.05% from January 1 to June 30, 2025
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted business restrictions on Arohan Financial Services Limited, a microfinance institution situated in Kolkata (West Bengal), after the lender implemented remedial steps and committed to fair loan pricing.
- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire up to a 9.5% stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, and Capital Small Finance Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India has approved a voluntary merger between The National Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore (Karnataka) and Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited (Maharashtra).
- As of December 31, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that 98.12% of the Rs.2,000 denomination banknotes have been returned to the banking system, with Rs.6,691 crore still held by the public.
- To combat fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed adding a lookup tool for beneficiary accounts to the Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems.
- The RBI's "Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24" provides a detailed study of the banking sector's performance for fiscal year 2023-24.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to create a Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enabling of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) in the Financial Sector.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allows holders of full-KYC prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) including digital wallets, gift cards, and metro rail cards to make and receive UPI payments using third-party apps like Google Pay and PhonePe.
- In October 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold \$9.2 billion, its highest monthly sale in almost two years (since September 2022, when \$10.3 billion was sold).
- Banks have asked the RBI to extend the deadline for compliance with new lending standards that prohibit overlapping activity between banks and their group businesses.





Ques : Which organisation has partnered with IIMA Ventures to launch Swanari TechSprint 3.0, a programme aimed at fostering women-centric fintech startups in India ?

- (a) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- (c) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub and IIMA Ventures have launched Swanari TechSprint 3.0, a program targeted at fostering women-centric financial firms in India.
- The curriculum allows fintech innovators to conceptualize, create, and scale solutions that target women's specific financial needs.
- The initiative seeks applications from businesses developing gender-inclusive financial solutions, particularly those with a proven MVP/Product, in the pre-Seed to pre-Series A fundraising stage, or those have already generated revenue or traction.

Ques : What is the name of the new insurance plan introduced by RenewBuy?

- (a) RenewBuy Life Care Plan
- (b) RenewBuy Smart Term Plan
- (c) RenewBuy Secure Policy
- (d) RenewBuy Comprehensive Insurance
- (e) RenewBuy Term Shield

Answer : Option B





Explanation :

- RenewBuy, an online insurance company, has launched the RenewBuy Smart Term Plan under its RB Proprietary line.
- The strategy seeks to simplify term insurance for Indian consumers by tackling typical issues such as complexity, affordability, and policy duration.
- The Smart Term Plan is specifically designed for working professionals and small company owners. It addresses issues such as determining appropriate coverage and controlling long-term premiums.
- In its initial phase, RenewBuy collaborated with LIC, ICICI Prudential, and Digit Life to reach a large client base, particularly in underdeveloped Tier 2-3 areas.
- The plan provides choices including "10 Years Pay," which allows policyholders to pay premiums over 10 years for coverage up to Rs.1 crore till age 80 or beyond.

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Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd. has established the Mirae Asset Smallcap Fund, an open-ended equity plan that focuses primarily on smallcap stocks.
- Go Digit-Life Insurance Limited (Digit-Life), a major new-age digital insurer, has introduced its first individual pure-term life insurance policy, "Digit Glow Term Life Insurance."
- IndiaBonds.com, a SEBI-registered Stock Broker (Debt Segment) and licensed Online Bond website Provider (OBPP), now offers Digital Fixed Deposits (FDs) on its website.
- Punjab & Sind Bank, a state-owned bank, will launch a quick loan scheme for the MSME sector of up to Rs 25 lakh this month as part of its initiative to expand lending through its digital platform.
- Union Bank of India has improved digital accessibility by introducing additional features to its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app, often known as the Digital Rupee (₹).
- Federal Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has unveiled FedOne, a new transaction banking platform built on Nucleus Software's FinnAxia technology
- YES Bank Limited & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) Launched 'YES PowherUp' to empower women entrepreneur in promoting their businesses
- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has established the ICICI Prudential Rural Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity strategy focused on rural and adjacent themes. It starts on January 9, 2025 and ends on January 25, 2025.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced a first-of-its-kind health insurance that covers women's critical illnesses and procedures.
- Shriram Finance Limited, a financial services company, has developed a new vertical to manage all of its green finance commitments.
- Poonawalla Fincorp, a non-banking finance company under Cyrus Poonawalla Group, has implemented AI in HR operations to reduce risks and increase hiring accuracy.





Ques : Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana Launched by which government ?

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Assam
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana Launched by Jharkhand government.
- Initially it was launched in August 2024 by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.
- Its aim is to enhance the financial security of women by providing direct cash transfers.
- Initial Benefit was Rs.1,000 per month per beneficiary and now it has been Increased to Rs.2,500 per month
- Women aged 21 to 49 years get the benefit of the yojana.
- Till date the amount Transferred is Rs.1,415.44 crore to 56.61 lakh women beneficiaries.

About Jharkhand :

- Capital : Ranchi
- CM : Hemant Soren
- Governor : Santosh Kumar Gangwar

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Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister of Odisha announced Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme with a budget of Rs 156 crore to support tribal students. Its aims is to reduce dropout rates and increase students' interest in education.
- PLI scheme for Specialty Steel, termed as PLI Scheme 1.1 Launched by Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi. It is launched for the Period of FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30.
- The Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) has developed a flagship initiative named 'Faral Sakhi' to encourage women entrepreneurs in the city of Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme until 2025-26, with a total budget of Rs.69,515.71 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Income Tax Department has extended the deadline for the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024, offering taxpayers another chance to resolve disputes at lower tax rates. The extended new date is January 31, 2025.
- The Haryana government has agreed to enhance the maximum amount of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity for state government employees by 25%.
- Government of India(GoI) sanctioned Rs. 4388 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme to solarize agriculture for states across India.
- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has launched a new scholarship programme aimed at Dalit students in Delhi. The scheme, named the Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship, will cover all expenses for Dalit students wishing to pursue higher education abroad.
- Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has introduced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, which would pay a monthly stipend of Rs 1,000 to women residents with annual household incomes of up to Rs 3 lakh
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the top three states for rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana plan. It is launched on February 15, 2024.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched the "Banglar Bari" initiative, which aims to provide housing for the state's rural poor.
- Yuva Shuddhi Abhiyan Launched by Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse among youth.





Ques : At 116 years old, Sister Inah Canabarro Lucas has been confirmed as the world's oldest living person by LongeviQuest. She is from which Country ?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Italy
- (c) Brazil
- (d) UK
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Sister Inah Canabarro Lucas, 116, is the world's oldest living person, according to LongeviQuest. She lives in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.
- Her confirmation follows the death of Tomiko Itooka of Japan on December 29, 2024.
- A longtime nun, teacher, and soccer enthusiast, Lucas has made history as the 20th oldest person ever recorded and the second-oldest nun in documented history

Ques : Which country has launched its first certificate course in Hindi on the occasion of the World Hindi Day in 2025?

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

Answer : Option A





Explanation :

- On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka established the country's first Hindi Certificate Course through open and distant learning.
- The certificate course was inaugurated during the Bharat-Sri Lanka Hindi Sammelan in Colombo on January 10, 2025, to commemorate World Hindi Day.
- The establishment of the Hindi course in Sri Lanka was part of the Ministry of External Affairs' efforts to promote the Hindi language worldwide.
- The Open University of Sri Lanka is launching a Hindi certificate course in partnership with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the cultural arm of India's High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

About Sri Lanka :

- Legislative capital – Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Executive and Judicial capital – Colombo
- Currency – Sri Lankan rupee
- President – Anura Kumara Dissanayake;9th (replace Ranil Wickremesinghe)
- Prime Minister – Harini Amarasuriya

Ques : Which edition of Indusfood 2025 Held at Greater Noida,Uttar Pradesh ?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 8th
- (d) 10th
- (e) 12th

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Indusfood 2025 8th Edition Held at Greater Noida,Uttar Pradesh.
- It is Inaugurated by Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan and Organised by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI),under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme of the Union Ministry of Commerce.
- Exhibitors from around 30 countries Participates in this event.
- 1st edition of Indusfood held in 2017.



Ques : Which state government partnered with Google Cloud launch AI-powered Agriculture network?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Assam
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Uttar pradesh
- (e) Rajasthan

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Google Cloud (India) to develop the Gemini-powered and Beacon-enabled Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture.
- The effort aims to provide millions of farmers with one-stop access to consulting services, loans, mechanization, and market connectivity so they can sell their produce.
- Farmers will also receive real-time, accurate information on microclimates and market pricing, which is a key step toward the state government's goal of tripling farmers' revenue.
- The open and decentralized network allows many service providers to participate, such as input suppliers, financial institutions, and government organizations, while entrepreneurs can curate and supply specialized solutions to farmers.

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Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement :

- Coal India Limited (CIL) and Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) Partner to collaborate on the development of critical minerals. Coal India Limited (CIL) Established in 1975 and headquarter is in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Union Ministry of Cooperation and Indonesia's Ministry of Trade signed an MOU valid for four years. India will provide Indonesia with one million metric tonnes of non-basmati white rice per year at the current international pricing.
- Uttarakhand government and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) signed an MOU to promote tourism in the border areas of the state.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has partnered with Stride Ventures, a venture debt firm, to catalyse the growth of Indian startups and widen their global footprint.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) & boAt Signs MoU to nurture DPIIT-recognized startups, particularly in the Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) and manufacturing sectors.
- Swiggy Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) Partners to provide financial literacy to its delivery partners.
- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Quantum Mission (NQM) have jointly launched India's first Undergraduate (UG) Minor Programme in Quantum Technologies, which will begin in the upcoming academic session.
- Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture signs MOU to improve economic and cultural cooperation between UP and Yamanashi, representing a growing partnership between the two nations.
- Uttar Pradesh and Manipur governments signed an MOU To implement the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' program in Lucknow, UP. Manipur is the third state to sign a MoU with Uttar Pradesh (UP) under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme after Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and Meghalaya.
- West Bengal(WB) Government and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed an MOU To enhance the treatment of children affected by NonCommunicable Diseases (NCD), including juvenile diabetes.
- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and the Indian Ports Association (IPA) have signed a historic MoU in New Delhi to foster digital transformation in India's marine sector.





Ques : Who has been appointed as the chairperson of Equal's newly formed Advisory Board?

- (a) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- (b) Justice Dipak Misra
- (c) Justice R. F. Nariman
- (d) Justice Arun Mishra
- (e) Justice Kurian Joseph

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- B. N. Srikrishna, a retired Supreme Court justice, will lead the newly formed Advisory Board of Equal, an ID verification and data sharing platform.
- Equal offers identity authentication services to large businesses, with digital integrations with several ID providers.
- The appointment comes as the government finalizes the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, which will implement the DPDP Act, 2023.
- Justice Srikrishna chaired the first committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to develop a data protection law. The committee's report, which was submitted in 2018, was eventually rejected.
- He also led the Expert Committee on Arbitration Law, which proposed changes to the Arbitration & Conciliation Act of 1996.





Recent Appointment in different departments :

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey : Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- Dr. V Narayanan : chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Bahadur Singh Sagoo : President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) (Replaced Adille Sumariwalla)
- Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana : Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
- Devajit Saikia : Chief Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- Prabhtej Singh Bhatia : Treasurer of BCCI
- Sanjiv Ranjan : Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat in Ebene, Mauritius (Replaced Salman Al-Farisi of Indonesia)
- Senior bureaucrat Akash Tripathi : Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power
- Ashutosh Agnihotri : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- Jyoti Sharma : Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nasscom Foundation
- Kamal Kishore Soan : Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which is part of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Shubha Thakur : Inter State Council Secretariat of the Home Ministry
- Faiz Ahmed Kidwai : chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Amit Aggarwal : Secretary, of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Manish Singhal : Secretary General of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) (replace Deepak Sood)
- Sachin Tendulkar : Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Membership
- Sandip Kumar Mishra : Director of the National Testing Agency (NTA)
- K N Renuka Pujar : first transgender guest lecturer at a Karnataka institution





Ques : Bureau of Indian Standards established in which year ?

- (a) 1956
- (b) 1965
- (c) 1977
- (d) 1987
- (e) 1985

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- On January 6, 2025, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 78th Foundation Day, demonstrating its commitment to quality and innovation.
- Established on January 6, 1947, as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), BIS was restructured under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, to expand its statutory powers and scope.
- In 2014, there were 14 QCOs covering 106 products. Today, there are 186 covering 760 products, indicating a strong commitment to quality standards.
- Over 44.28 crore gold objects have been hallmarked, and there is increasing consumer demand for silver hallmarking, encouraging the BIS to examine its implementation.

About the Bureau of Indian Standards :

- Established : 1 April 1987
- HQ : New Delhi
- Director-General : Pramod Kumar Tiwari





Ques : What was the score achieved by SECI under the MoU with MNRE for FY 2023-24?

- (a) 85 out of 100
- (b) 90 out of 100
- (c) 96 out of 100
- (d) 80 out of 100
- (e) 98 out of 100

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) has received a "Excellent" grade for its performance under the MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for fiscal year 2023-24, with a score of 96 out of 100.
- This achievement demonstrates SECI's unwavering commitment to operational excellence and sustaining the highest levels of corporate governance.
- SECI is critical to the development and extension of renewable energy (RE) capacity in India, with a total allocated generation capacity of more than 73 GW as of December 31, 2024.
- SECI is the country's main Renewable Energy Implementing Agency (REIA), dedicated to meeting climate targets and driving sustainable development.
- On August 30, 2024, SECI was accorded Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance.





Ques : What is the record-breaking number of participants expected for the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025?

- (a) 30,000 runners
- (b) 40,000 runners
- (c) 50,000 runners
- (d) 60,000 runners
- (e) 70,000 runners

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The 20th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon, on January 19, 2025, is expected to attract a record-breaking 60,000 competitors.
- Sir Mo Farah, a well-known British long distance runner, has been named as the International Event Ambassador.
- He competed in the 5,000m and 10,000m races at the Olympics in 2012 and 2016, as well as the World Championships in 2013 and 2015.
- First man to win both the 5,000m and 10,000m titles at the Olympics and World Championships.

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Recent Headlines Related to Brand Ambassador :

- Sachin Tendulkar : Kissht, a leading digital lending platform operated by OnEMI Technology Solutions Private Limited
- Salman Khan and Tiger Shroff : Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup
- Indian Chess Prodigy D Gukesh : RBL Bank Limited
- Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma : ixigo's Trains app
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Eurogrip Tyres
- Mary Kom : Brand ambassador for the "Assam Rifles Half-Marathon (ARHM) 2024" in Shillong
- Rashmika Mandanna : DRA, a Chennai-based real estate developer
- Pankaj Tripathi : Festival ambassador for the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024
- Abhishek Bachchan : Ramraj Cotton, a prominent traditional and ethnic wear brand
- Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff : All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF)
- Harbhajan Singh and Sania Mirza : Sports Ambassador by Dubai Sports Council
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Jharkhand Assembly Election
- Pankaj Tripathi : brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department
- Sonu Sood : Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand
- Rashmika Mandanna : Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre
- Manu Bhaker : Golden Bullet, a tools company
- Rahul Dravid : Shriram Finance Ltd
- Manu Bhaker : Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)
- Sharath Kamal : first Indian ambassador for the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation

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Ques : Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has started which edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium (NASC Complex), Pusa in New Delhi ?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has started the 8th edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium (NASC Complex), Pusa in New Delhi.
- The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) hosted the event in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Details of portals revealed at the event :

- TraceNet 2.0 : It is an updated online Organic traceability solution that allows for more efficient operations and better regulatory oversight. It will assure the transparency, traceability, and conformity of organic agricultural and processed food products from farm to market.
- AgriXchange portal : The redesigned and renovated AgriXchange portal allows for more user-friendly data analysis and the development of reports and data on agricultural exports, making it available to the general public.
- Organic Promotion Portal : Farmers, FPOs, and exporters can promote their certified organic products, create trade leads, and connect with worldwide buyers.
- APEDA portal : The APEDA portal has been redesigned and refurbished to provide better user experience and information to stakeholders in agriculture and processed foods.
- NPOP site : The dedicated portal for the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) will improve visibility and operational efficiency for organic stakeholders.



Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals

- NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) has developed EmpowHER Biz - Sapno Ki Udaan in collaboration with New Shop, India's largest 24/7 convenience shop chain, as part of its Award to Reward (ATR) program.
- The e-Shram portal has been improved and will now be available in all 22 scheduled languages. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, has launched the multilingual e-Shram portal, which aims to be a 'One-Stop-Solution' website for all unorganised registered workers.
- M Nagaraju, the Financial Services Secretary, has unveiled the revised 'Baanknet' portal for e-auctioning items like as commercial buildings, industrial land, stores, automobiles, and agricultural and non-agricultural property.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has unveiled a new citizen-centric project known as the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform.
- On the occasion of 'Good Governance Day', which commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh unveiled the Rashtraparv Website and Mobile App on December 25, 2024.
- On National Consumers Day 2024, the Department of Consumer Affairs will make the "Jago Grahak Jago App" and "Jagriti App" available to the public
- Gujarat's Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel, launched the 'Prakrutik Krushi Portal (Natural Agriculture Portal)' to encourage organic farming
- “Amrit Gyaan Kosh” Portal Launched by Union Minister of State(MoS), Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to build a comprehensive knowledge base by curating best practices from across India, with a focus on aligning these practices with 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





Ques : Joseph Aoun elected as the new President of which country after a two-year-long presidential vacuum?

- (a) Namibia
- (b) Lebanon
- (c) Uruguay
- (d) Chad
- (e) Haiti

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Lebanon's parliament voted to elect Joseph Aoun, the country's army chief, as president, ending a more than two-year presidential vacuum.
- The session marked the legislature's 13th attempt to pick a successor to outgoing President Michel Aoun, whose mandate expired in October 2022.
- The president's influence in Lebanon is constrained by the power-sharing system, which requires that the president be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister be a Sunni Muslim, and the speaker of parliament be a Shiite.

About Lebanon :

- Capital : Beirut
- Currency : Lebanese pound

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Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President :

- Prime Minister of Iceland : Kristrun Frostadottir (Replaced Bjarni Benediktsson)
- President of Moldova : Ms Maia Sandu
- President of Tonga : Aisake Valu Eke
- President of Georgia : Mikheil Kavelashvili
- Prime Minister of France : Francois Bayrou
- Interim Prime Minister of Syria : Mohammad al-Bashir
- President of Ghana : John Dramani Mahama
- Prime minister of Burkina Faso : Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo
- President of Namibia : Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (Replaced Nangolo Mbumba)
- Prime Minister (PM) of Lithuania : Gintautas Paluckas (Replaced Ingrida Simonyte)
- Prime Minister of Uzbekistan (3rd time) : Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov
- President of Uruguay : Yamandu Orsi
- Prime Minister of Mali : Abdoulaye Maiga (Replaced Choguel Maiga)
- President of Somalia : Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Waddani Party) (Replaced Muse Bihi Abdi)
- Prime Minister of Haiti : Alix Didier Fils-Aime (Replaced Garry Conille)
- Prime Minister of Mauritius : Navin Ramgoolam
- 103rd Prime Minister of Japan : Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shigeru Ishiba
- President of Moldova (2nd term) : Maia Sandu
- 47th president of America : Donald Trump (Republican party) (Replaced Joe Biden)
- 50th Vice president of USA : JD Vance
- President of Botswana : Duma Boko
- President of Vietnam : Luong Cuong

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Ques : Which company has launched two indigenously designed and constructed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard ?

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard
- (c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- (d) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (e) Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) successfully launched two indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- In an official event, Vandana Agrawal, wife of Defence manufacturing Secretary Sanjeev Kumar, unveiled the fast patrol vessels Amulya and Akshay, developed under the vision of 'Atmanirbha Bharat' in defense manufacturing.
- These 52-meter-long, 8-meter-wide vessels, with a displacement of 320 tonnes, are ideal for defending offshore assets, islands, and conducting surveillance operations.

About Goa Shipyard Limited :

- Established : 1957
- HQ : Vasco da Gama, Goa
- CMD : Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay

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Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- India and the US have partnered to co-produce US sonobuoys for the Indian Navy's underwater domain awareness (UDA).
- People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) officially launched its latest amphibious assault ship (AAS) from Shanghai, named 'Sichuan' after a province in southwestern China.
- India has designated 2025 to be the 'year of changes' in the defence sector, promising "unprecedented" progress in strengthening India's security and sovereignty in the face of 21st-century challenges.
- Pakistan's atomic energy regulatory agency has approved the construction of the country's largest nuclear reactor for electricity generating.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai for air independent propulsion (AIP) plugs valued roughly Rs 1,990 crore.
- India marked a significant milestone in its self-reliance by delivering two warships to the Indian Navy: the destroyer Surat and the frigate Nilgiri.
- China successfully launched four Earth-observation radar satellites called 'PIESAT-2' using a Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province.
- Space entrepreneurs in Japan and India had agreed to collaborate on a study of utilizing laser-equipped spacecraft to remove garbage from orbit, as an experimental answer to the increasingly pressing problem of orbital congestion.
- China's space program reached a milestone when two of its astronauts performed a nine-hour spacewalk. Shenzhou-19 crew members Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong completed a nine-hour extravehicular exercise (EVA), breaking a 22-year-old US record.
- Defence PSU BEML Limited has secured Rs.136 crore contract to supply indigenously designed High Mobility Vehicles (HMs) 8x8.
- Starting in 2025, India's Aditya L1 and the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 missions will collaborate to further solar research.
- INS Tushil, a Russian-built guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Kaliningrad, Russia, in front of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and other senior officials.
- Adani Defence has delivered the second Drishti-10 Starliner surveillance drone to the Indian Navy, improving the country's marine capability.

