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Ques : Groww Asset Management Limited established in which year ?

- (a) 2006
- (b) 2008
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2012
- (e) 2015

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Groww Mutual Fund, an asset management company, introduced the Groww Nifty India Railways PSU Index Fund and ETF.
- The Groww Nifty India Railways (IR) PSU ETF will be the first of its type in India.
- The Groww Nifty India Railways PSU ETF is an open-ended plan that tracks the Nifty India Railways PSU Index (TRI) (Total Return Index).

About Groww Asset Management Limited :

- Established : 2008
- HQ : Mumbai
- CEO : Varun Gupta

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## Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- RenewBuy, an online insurance company, has launched the RenewBuy Smart Term Plan under its RB Proprietary line.
- 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 (e₹).
- 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.





Ques : Which platform has been exclusively mandated by IBBI for asset sales under the liquidation process?

- (a) GEM (Government e-Marketplace)
- (b) eBKray auction platform
- (c) MCA21 portal
- (d) NCLT auction system
- (e) SEBI e-Auction portal

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Beginning April 1, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) will exclusively use the eBKray auction platform to sell assets throughout the liquidation process.
- The eBKray (now Bank Asset Auction Network) is a property listing and e-auction network for banks and lending institutions to efficiently recover non-performing assets (NPAs).
- IBBI has urged insolvency professionals to offer unsold assets from ongoing liquidation cases for sale on the eBKray platform by March 31.
- The IBBI reports that 210 assets have been posted on the site, with 25 auctions currently scheduled.

About IBBI :

- Established : 2016
- HQ : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Ravi Mittal

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Ques : Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch Predicts how much percent Increase in Capital Market Fundraising ?

- (a) 15%
- (b) 18%
- (c) 21%
- (d) 25%
- (e) 28%

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- According to SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, total capital market fundraising in FY2025 is likely to increase by 21% to Rs.14.7 lakh crore from Rs.11.8 lakh crore in FY2024.
- During the first nine months of FY2024 (April-December), Rs.10.7 lakh crore was raised from the domestic capital market.
- SEBI has cut the processing period for rights issues from 317 days to 26 days, promoting increased funding through this route.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- Cosmea Financial Holdings (CFH) Private Limited, led by Sam Ghosh, was granted approval by the SEBI to sponsor a Mutual Fund (MF). CFH plans to invest Rs 200 crore (USD 23.3 million) in its Asset Management Company (AMC).
- SEBI, the market regulator, slapped a Rs 54 lakh penalty on Jaiprakash Power Ventures, its MD and CEO Suren Jain, and other key personnel for falsifying the company's financial statements.
- SEBI has extended the prohibition on future trade of seven agricultural commodities until January 2025: soybeans and their derivatives, crude palm oil, wheat, rice (non-basmati), moong, chana, and mustard seeds.
- SEBI has urged stock exchanges, clearing organizations, and depositories to implement a common strategy for sharing data used in research and research publications conducted by approved academic institutions.
- The SEBI has mandated all Mutual Fund (MF) companies to reduce the processing time for cancelling their Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) to 2 working days from the previous 10 working days.
- SEBI, the market regulator, has expanded the list of equities eligible for the optional T+0 mode of trading and settlement to 500 starting January 31
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) published a circular under Section (11) of the SEBI Act, 1992, to safeguard investor interests, regulate the securities market, and promote its growth.
- SEBI has slapped a Rs.9 lakh fine on Reliance Securities for "flouting market norms" and stock broker regulations.
- Angel One Asset Management Company has received SEBI's approval to act as the asset management company for Angel One Mutual Fund which will focus exclusively on passive investment solutions.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has scrapped the requirement for corporations to deposit 1% of the issue size with stock exchanges before making a public offering
- Unifi Asset Management Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Unifi Capital, has received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its mutual fund operations.
- SEBI may soon expand angel funds' investor base to include Hindu undivided families (HUFs), family trusts, and single proprietorships.







Ques : What amount given by World Bank to Meghalaya Multisectoral Project for Adolescent Wellbeing, Empowerment and Resilience (MPOWER) ?

- (a) USD 15 million
- (b) USD 25 million
- (c) USD 30 million
- (d) USD 35 million
- (e) USD 40 million

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- USD 35 million Given to Meghalaya Multisectoral Project for Adolescent Wellbeing, Empowerment and Resilience (MPOWER) by World Bank
- Maturity period for Loan Amount is 15 years, including a grace period of 5 years
- The aim of the loan to better empower 5,00,000 adolescents to make the transition from school to work by lowering dropouts, improving learning outcomes and providing assistance for accessing jobs and starting businesses
- MPOWER will strengthen academic results for adolescents in grades 6-12 and close gaps in students' reading and math skills.
- Total cost of the project is USD 45 million (Rest will be given by GoI).

About World Bank :

- Established : 1944
- HQ : Washington DC
- Members : 189
- President : Ajay banga
- MD & CFO : Anshula Kant
- Chief Economist : Indermit Gill

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## RECENT LOANS AND AGREEMENTS :

- The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) successfully raised \$1 billion (Rs. 8,570 crore) in overseas bond issuance at competitive rates, a notable achievement for Indian issuers in global capital markets.
- The Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to a \$42 million loan for the Maharashtra Sustainable Climate-Resilient Coastal Protection and Management Project.
- The World Bank has approved the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) Project, a \$325.10 million initiative aimed at increasing farmers' incomes in Uttar Pradesh by improving crop productivity, implementing digital and climate-resilient practices, and improving market access.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million loan to support India's economic growth by promoting environmentally sustainable infrastructure
- World Bank give \$200 million loan to help Kerala farmers to adapt to climate change and to boost agri entrepreneurship.
- Varthana has successfully secured \$15 million (Rs.120 crores) from the BlueOrchard Microfinance Fund, managed by global impact investor BlueOrchard, through the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) framework.
- The Asian construction Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 788.8 million (more than Rs 6,600 crore) results-based loan to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of Amaravati as a green and smart capital city with world-class infrastructure.
- Deutsche Bank AG, India, has provided a €91 million (about Rs.814 crore) sustainability-linked loan to SMFG India Credit (SMICC). The loan was facilitated via the Bank's Gift City Branch
- ADB approves USD 350 Million Loan to Boost India's Logistics Sector and Export Competitiveness.
- The World Bank has approved a \$188.28-million loan to stimulate economic growth in Maharashtra, especially in the lagging districts. The \$188.28-million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 5 years
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a loan deal worth \$98 million to boost horticulture crop yield in the country.
- World Bank approves USD 225.5mn for ELEMENT Project in Tripura, Nagaland





Ques : Suryoday Small Finance Bank established in which year ?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2021

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has partnered with Tata Digital to expand its FD products.
- SSFB will benefit from Tata Neu's reach and offer deposit schemes to retail clients through this relationship.
- SSFB's fixed deposit (FD) offering will be available on the Tata Neu platform, allowing customers to earn up to 9.1% interest without requiring a savings account.
- Customers can start investing with as little as Rs. 1,000 and the onboarding process is quick.

About Suryoday Small Finance Bank :

- Established : 2017
- HQ : Navi Mumbai
- Tagline : A bank of smiles
- MD & CEO : Baskar Babu Ramachandran





## Recently signed banking agreements

- PhonePe has partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance to provide insurance coverage for travelers visiting the Maha Kumbh Mela.
- Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) have signed a MoU for sharing of intelligence and information to check money laundering.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has teamed with pollster Axis My India to help bridge India's skills gaps and satisfy the predicted demand for millions of jobs in developed economies over the next five years.
- Bajaj brokerage, the brokerage arm of Bajaj Finance Ltd., has teamed up with Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) to launch a comprehensive 3-in-1 account solution that combines banking, broking, and investing services on a single platform
- The Assam government has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SBI and UBI to provide insurance coverage to state government employees.
- The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has teamed with Vivifi Finance to start a pilot operation offering unsecured loans to gig workers.
- Mizoram government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with its partner banks – State Bank of India (SBI), Mizoram Rural Bank (MRB), and Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Limited (MCAB) for the disbursement of loans under the Bana Kaih (handholding) Scheme.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Federation of Cold Storage Associations of India (FCAOI) have signed an MoU to improve agricultural infrastructure and cold chain development in India
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) partnered with Bank of Bhutan, Bhutan's largest commercial bank, to modernize its digital core and improve customer experience.
- Magma HDI General Insurance has partnered with IndoStar Capital Finance Limited (ICFL), a prominent NBFC to enhance the availability of motor, health, and commercial insurance solutions for customers.
- M2P Fintech has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide smooth and safe payment experiences.
- Tata Power Renewable Energy, a unit of Tata Power, has partnered with Canara Bank to offer cheap financing for rooftop solar installations.





Ques : Which bank Offer AI-Driven Support and Digital Payment Solutions for Maha Kumbh 2025 ?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Karnataka Bank
- (c) Bank of baroda
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) will open AI-powered customer service and full-fledged branches in Prayagraj, including forex transaction facilities, to better serve visitors.
- BoB is opening two full-fledged branches with FX transaction services.
- The Bank created Aditi, a GenAI-powered Virtual Relationship Manager, to improve customer service and solve banking-related issues.
- The bank is pushing its new UPI payment app, BoB e-Pay, which provides comprehensive payment options.

About Bank of Baroda :

- Established : 1908
- HQ : Vadodara, Gujarat
- Tagline : India's International Bank
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand

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Ques : Where was the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting held?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kaziranga
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Varanasi

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Over the next five years, a total of Rs 50,000 crore would be invested in infrastructure along national waterways. According to the announcement, the investment ideas were announced during the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting in Kohora, Kaziranga.
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the focal body for waterway development under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), organised the IWDC.
- The IWDC meeting discussed a major policy program called the Riverine Community Development Scheme, which aims to improve the socioeconomic well-being of coastal communities by improving infrastructure.
- The IWDC, established in 2023, is an exercise to maximize the economic potential of inland water bodies. It necessitates unusually coordinated inter-state ties, collaborations, and cooperation in the spirit of cooperative federalism.





Ques : Who Inaugurate Z-Morh Tunnel for Boosting Kashmir-Ladakh Connectivity ?

- (a) Draupadi Murmu
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Om Birla
- (d) S Jaishankar
- (e) None of the above

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Z-Morh tunnel Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It marks a significant step in creating a year-round strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh

About Z-Morh tunnel :

- Located between Gagangir and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district, under the Thajiwas Glacier. Length is 6.5-km two-lane.
- Main tunnel is 10.8 meters wide, with an escape tunnel of 7.5 meters, and ventilation tunnels of 8.3 meters. It Costs Rs.2,680 crore
- The Z-Morh tunnel will connect to the Zojila tunnel, making it Asia's longest tunnel once completed.

After Zojila Tunnel Connection :

- It Will be Asia's longest tunnel, improving travel between Ganderbal (Kashmir) and Kargil (Ladakh). Length is 13.14-km Zojila tunnel
- It Reduces travel time from 3 hours to just 20 minutes.
- t Built at Rs.6,800 crore, the Zojila tunnel will provide reliable access to Ladakh during winter





Ques : What is the name of Swiggy's new standalone food delivery app?

- (a) Swiggy Express
- (b) Snacc by Swiggy
- (c) Swiggy QuickBite
- (d) SnackTime
- (e) Swiggy Lite

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Swiggy has introduced a new standalone food delivery app called 'Snacc by Swiggy'. Snacc is a 15-minute food delivery app that serves short snacks and meals, comparable to Zepto's Zepto Cafe.
- Snacc is currently being tested in very specific pin codes in Bengaluru. Tea, coffee, breakfast, short lunches, and desserts are among the choices.
- Most recently, Zomato added a 15-minute food delivery option to its main app, bringing quick-to-prepare and ready-to-eat options from restaurants within a 2-kilometre radius.
- Ola, too, debuted Ola Dash, a 10-minute food delivery service, in Bengaluru, and is gradually expanding statewide.
- Another company in this market is magicpin, which recently launched its 15-minute meal delivery service magicNOW in six major Indian cities, with deliveries within a 1.5-2 km radius.





## 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)
- Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs, has presented 'Anna Chakra', a game-changing supply chain optimization tool for the Public Distribution System





Ques : The Centre released how much tax devolution to the state governments to accelerate capital expenditure and finance welfare activities ?

- (a) Rs 1.7 lakh crore
- (b) Rs 1.53 lakh crore
- (c) Rs 1.63 lakh crore
- (d) Rs 1.73 lakh crore
- (e) Rs 1.13 lakh crore

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The Centre has granted Rs 1.73 lakh crore in tax devolution to state governments in order to accelerate capital investment and fund welfare programs.
- The Union government has released tax devolution of Rs 1,73,030 crore to state governments, compared to Rs 89,086 crore in December 2024.
- Currently, 41% of taxes collected by the Centre are distributed in instalments to states within a fiscal year.
- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Bihar received the highest allocations of funding, with Rs.31,039.84 crore, Rs.17,403.36 crore, and Rs.13,017.06 crore, respectively.

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Ques : Which state offered a \$1 million prize for deciphering the Indus Valley script, which has been an unsolved mystery for almost a century ?

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

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin offered a \$1 million prize for deciphering the Indus Valley script, which has been an unsolved mystery for almost a century.
- Stalin regarded Sir John Marshall's discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) in 1924 as a watershed moment in Indian history, altering perceptions of the country's past.
- Tamil linguists and researchers worldwide are still working to solve the Indus conundrum, which has been unsolved for almost a century.
- The CM has announced a Rs.2 crore funding to establish a research chair named after distinguished scholar Iravatham Mahadevan at the Roja Muthiah Research Library.

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Ques : Tamim Iqbal has recently announced his retirement from international cricket. He is from which country?

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

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- Tamim Iqbal declared his retirement from international cricket.
- This is his second retirement announcement, having previously retired in July 2023 in an emotionally heated news conference, only to reverse his decision within 24 hours after intervention from Bangladesh's then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina.
- Tamim finished his career with 15,192 runs for Bangladesh, the second most in the country's history behind Mushfiqur Rahim.
- The 35-year-old amassed 5134 runs in 70 Tests, 8357 in 243 One-Day Internationals, and 1758 in 78 Twenty20 Internationals.

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### Recently Retired Players :

- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) : Retirement from international cricket
- Rishi Dhawan : Retirement from Indian limited overs cricket
- Ravichandran Ashwin (Indian) : International cricket
- Imad Wasim (Pakistan) : International cricket
- Siddarth Kaul (Indian) : cricket
- Emma McKeon (Australia): professional swimming
- Rafael Nadal (Spain) : professional tennis
- Tim Southee (New Zealand) : international cricket
- Mohammad Nabi (Afghanistan) : Retire from ODI Cricket
- Wriddhiman Saha (India) : retired from all cricket formats
- Rani Rampal : Retirement from Hockey
- Wicketkeeper-Batter Matthew Wade : Retires from International Cricket
- Andres Iniesta (Spain) : Retirement from professional football
- Rafael Nadal (from Spain) : Retirement from professional tennis
- Dipa Karmakar : Retirement from gymnastics
- Dwayne Bravo : All forms of cricket
- Luis Suarez (Uruguay) : National football team
- Moeen Ali (England) : Retirement from international cricket
- Shannon Gabriel (West Indies) : Retirement from international cricket
- Dawid Malan (England) : Retirement from international cricket

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Ques : Which edition of “Future of Jobs Report 2025 – Insights Report January 2025” Published by World Economic Forum (WEF) ?

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

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Future of Jobs Report 2025 – Insights Report January 2025 5th Edition Published by World Economic Forum (WEF).
- By 2030, employment disruption is expected to affect 22% of the worldwide workforce.
- The analysis predicts the creation of 170 million new employment and the displacement of 92 million, resulting in a net increase of 78 million jobs.
- By 2030, approximately 40% of current skills are predicted to become outdated.
- The report estimates that 59 out of 100 persons in the global workforce will require training by 2030.
- By 2030, 60% of employers expect increased digital access to transform their firm.
- 86% of employers expect AI and information processing to have a significant impact, while 58% anticipate the influence of robotics and automation.

About World Economic Forum (WEF) :

- Established : 1971
- HQ : Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland
- President and CEO : Borge Brende







## India's Rankings in Different Indices

- Henley Passport Index 2025 Published by Henley : India (85th), Singapore (top)
- ThreatLandscape Report 2024 Published by CloudSEK : India (2nd), United States (top)
- Global Aging Index Published by National University of Singapore (NUS) & Columbia University : India (123rd), Switzerland (top)
- Hurun India Top 200 Self-Made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2024 Published by Hurun India & IDFC FIRST Private Banking : Kaivalya Vohra (Zepto) (Youngest), Ashok Soota (Happiest Minds Technologies) (Oldest)
- Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 Published by World Economic Forum (WEF) : India (39th), United States (Top)
- 2025 QS Sustainability Rankings Published by QS Rankings : IIT Delhi (171), University of Toronto (Canada) (top)
- SBTi commitments by Indian companies Published by ICRA ESG Ratings Limited : India (6th), United Kingdom (UK) (top)
- "world's worst airlines" in the 2024 AirHelp Score survey : IndiGo (103rd), Brussels Airlines (top)
- Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) 2025 Published by Times Higher Education (THE) : Anna University in Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) (42nd), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (USA) (top)
- 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI) Published by Portulans Institute and Saïd Business School : India (49th), United States of America (top)
- Sustainable Trade Index 2024 Published by Hinrich Foundation and IMD : India (23rd), New Zealand (top)
- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025 : India (10th), Denmark (last)
- Brand Finance's Global City Index Published by Brand Finance : London (top), New Delhi (77), Mumbai (78)
- WJP Rule of Law Index 2024 Published by World Justice Project (WJP) : India (79th), Denmark (top)
- World Intellectual Property Indicators Report 2024 : India (6th), China (top)
- EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 : Shiv Nadar & Family (top)
- AI Preparedness Index (API) Published by IMF : India (72nd), Singapore (top)





Ques : Varun Aaron has announced his retirement at the age of 35. He is from which sports ?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Football
- (c) Shooting
- (d) Badminton
- (e) tennis

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- Varun Aaron announced his retirement from all kinds of cricket at the age of 35.
- After retiring from red-ball cricket at the end of the 2023-24 Indian domestic season, Aaron officially resigned from representative cricket following Jharkhand's elimination from the Vijay Hazare Trophy, where he appeared in four matches and took three wickets at an average of 53.3.
- Aaron's rise to prominence came at the age of 21 during the 2010-11 Vijay Hazare Trophy, when his raw pace wowed spectators, most notably with a blistering 153kph delivery against Gujarat in the final.

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Ques : Which state government has signed an agreement with software giant Infosys to provide technical help for the state's expected first-ever skill census initiative in the country ?

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

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- To increase job possibilities for young people, the Andhra Pradesh government has signed an agreement with software giant Infosys to provide technical help for the state's expected first-ever skill census initiative in the country.
- As part of the talent census program, Infosys would provide a generative AI-powered digital platform for pre-validating candidate skills, with no financial participation.
- As part of the agreement, Infosys would create a digital platform for pre-validating the skills of Andhra Pradesh's 3.59 million people aged 15 to 59.
- The program would enable transparent data-driven evaluations to measure progress and outcomes, while also aligning with the State's goal of creating 20 lakh employment over the next five years.





Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement :

- The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a MOU with Google Cloud (India) to develop the Gemini-powered and Beacon-enabled Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture.
- 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.





Ques : Which ministry Launched Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi ?

- (a) Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Union Ministry of Education
- (c) Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (d) Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (e) Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, presented the 'Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform', which the Centre described as a "initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors".
- The unveiling took place during the Bharat Climate Forum 2025, which was held in New Delhi.
- The introduction of the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform would enable Indian enterprises to collaborate and co-innovate, as well as providing a platform for funding and sharing ideas, technology, and resources.
- This will help India become an appealing business case and a global leader in the sustainability and cleantech sectors.







### News Headlines Related to Ministry :

- 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 Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory agency under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, has signed a MOU with NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, revealed that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has created technology to synthesize Paracetamol in-house.
- Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of traffic Transport and Highways, has announced a new plan that will provide cashless treatment to traffic accident victims. the policy will immediately cover the victim's treatment costs for 7 days, up to a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh.
- Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, has opened the country's first organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim.
- First phase of the 'One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS)' Launched by Ministry of Education(MoE). An Outlay of Rs 6,000 crore released for three years, from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2027.
- Mission MAUSAM Approved in September 2024. It is Led by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with the Aim to make India "Weather Ready" and "Climate Smart", complying with the international standards by 2026. It has an Outlay of Rs 2,000 crore for 2 years.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has partnered with messaging platform Gupshup to introduce a web-based AI virtual assistant, Jagriti, to simplify the process of filing consumer complaints.
- Starting June 2026, solar enterprises must utilize only India-made solar photovoltaic (PV) cells for government procurement programs, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)







Ques : What is the name of the rocket by Blue Origin set to make its inaugural launch?

- (a) Falcon Heavy
- (b) New Glenn
- (c) Atlas V
- (d) Vulcan Centaur
- (e) Starship

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket will launch at 1 a.m. ET Monday from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- The New Glenn rocket, measuring around 320 feet (98 meters), is the first Blue Origin rocket designed to transport satellites to space and one of the most powerful in the world.
- It is named after John Glenn, the first American astronaut to orbit Earth in 1962.

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## Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) successfully launched two indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- 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





Ques : Which country will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026 ?

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

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- India will host the 28th Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference (CSPOC) in 2026.
- The seminar will center on the application of artificial intelligence and social media in parliamentary processes.
- The CSPOC platform was defined as a space for member countries to strengthen their collaboration and exchange parliamentary practices.
- India has already hosted the conference in 1970-71, 1986, and 2010, and has asked Commonwealth presiding officials to attend the 2026 session in New Delhi.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Summits / conference

- Ajit Doval, the country's national security adviser, and Raja Dato Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin, the director general of the National Security Council of Malaysia in New Delhi, co-chaired the first India-Malaysia Security Dialogue.
- The latest edition of Asia's largest biannual air show and aviation exhibition, Aero India 2025, will take place at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The 15th edition of the Aero India show.
- The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD Convention 2025) will be place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, beginning January 8th. The theme of this three-day convention is "The Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in 2025.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, presided over the North Eastern Council (NEC)'s 72nd plenary session in Agartala, Tripura.
- India served as vice chair during the Supply Chain Council's second meeting. India was represented by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami opened the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 at Dehradun.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 and the Rajasthan Global Business Expo at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The two-day maiden India Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024 ended in New Delhi. The Conclave highlighted India's strong maritime tradition dating back to the Harappan period.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) convened the India-Norway Business Forum in Mumbai in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India
- The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024 was hosted in the Bharat Mandapam Convention Center, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi





Ques : Who announced a USD 3 billion investment in India over the next two years to enhance AI and cloud infrastructure ?

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Google
- (c) Tally solutions
- (d) IBM
- (e) WIPRO

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- Microsoft plans to invest USD 3 billion in India over two years to improve AI and cloud infrastructure, as well as skilling efforts.
- Microsoft's ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA Initiative, part of its Global Skills for Social Impact charter, intends to teach 10 million Indians in vital AI skills by 2030.  
The company also made various collaborations to meet this objective :
  - Partner with Apollo Hospitals On AI-driven research in genomics, disease progression, and multimodal AI models
  - Partner with Mahindra Group to Set up an AI Division to involve innovation across its automotive, farming, and finance sectors
  - Partner with RailTel to Establish an AI Center of Excellence through which Microsoft will train employees in AI and cloud technologies
  - Partner with Bajaj Finserv to Leverage Microsoft Azure OpenAI services to improve customer experiences, boost productivity, and reduce operational costs
  - Partner with upGrad To train 1 million learners in foundational and advanced AI skills by 2025 through the use of tools like GitHub Copilot and Azure OpenAI Service





Ques : National Youth Day is celebrated annually on which day ?

- (a) 12 January
- (b) 13 January
- (c) 14 January
- (d) 15 January
- (e) 16 January

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- National Youth Day is observed annually on January 12th in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a spiritual leader and philosopher.
- This year Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary.
- The primary goal of this day's observance is to inspire and educate young people about their responsibilities.
- Theme 2025: Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility.
- The Indian government initiated the festival on 1985.

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### Important days :

- 24 December : National Consumer Rights Day
- 25 December : Good Governance Day
- 26 December : Boxing Day
- 26 December : Computer Operators' Day
- 26 December : Veer Bal Divas A Day of Valor And Righteousness
- 27 December : International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
- 29 December : International Cello Day
- 1 January : Global Family Day (Theme 2025: Let's Start the Year With Love, Unity, and Appreciation)
- 2 January : World Introvert Day (Theme 2025: Finding peace and calm in a noisy world)
- 2 January : 67th Foundation Day of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
- 3 January : International Mind-Body Wellness Day
- 4 January : World Braille Day
- 5 January : National Bird Day (Theme 2025: Protecting Our Birds, Protecting Our Future)
- 6 January : World Day of War Orphans
- 6 January : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 78th Foundation Day
- 8 January : Earth's Rotation Day
- 9 January : NRI or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- 10 January : World Hindi Day, also known as 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas' (Theme 2025: A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride)

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## IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has been chosen by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to establish South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL).

The respected American publication Track and Fields News has selected India's Neeraj Chopra, a gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics, the best javelin thrower of 2024. Anderson Peters from Grenada was ranked second by the magazine.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was sworn in for a new term amidst continued demonstrations and rebukes from the United States and others who feel he stole last year's election.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to the honoree during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Since 2003, the ninth of January has been marked as Pravasi Divas in India to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa on this date in 1915. It is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and has taken place every two years since 2015.

Brijendra Pratap Singh Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company (NALCO)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in France. The event will focus on five key themes: public interest in AI, the future of work, innovation and culture, trust in AI, and global AI governance.

