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Ques : How many Indian banks were ranked in the top 25 global banks by market capitalization in Q4 2024?

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

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- GlobalData reports that three Indian banks, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and State Bank of India (SBI), are among the top 25 worldwide banks by market value in Q4 2024.
- ICICI Bank's market valuation increased by 25.8% to \$105.7 billion, reflecting India's increasing digital banking and credit ecosystem.
- In Q4 2024, the top 25 global banks' aggregate market value increased by 27.1% year on year to \$4.6 trillion.

Top 3 Indian banks :

- 13th HDFC Bank (Market Cap : \$158.5 billion)
- 19th ICICI Bank (Market Cap : \$105.7 billion)
- 24th State Bank of India (SBI) (Market Cap : \$82.9 billion)

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Ques : Which insurance company has recently partnered with Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd for a strategic bancassurance collaboration in January 2025?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- (d) Reliance Nippon Life Insurance
- (e) PNB MetLife India Insurance

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd (PNB MetLife) has entered into a strategic bancassurance agreement with Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd, one of India's leading urban co-operative banks.
- This agreement intends to improve financial inclusion by providing a full suite of life insurance solutions, such as savings, protection, retirement, and group plans, to Saraswat Bank's enormous customer base of nearly 30 lakh people via 302 locations nationally.
- Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model in which corporations work with banks to market insurance policies or products.
- This arrangement benefits both banks and insurance companies. The bank obtains a commission from the insurance firm, while the insurer benefits from the bank's distribution network.
- Sameer Bansal is the MD and CEO of PNB MetLife.





Recently signed banking agreements

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has teamed with Magnati, a UAE-based payment solution provider, to promote QR-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) merchant payments using point-of-sale (POS) terminals across the Middle East.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has partnered with Tata Digital to expand its FD products.
- 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.





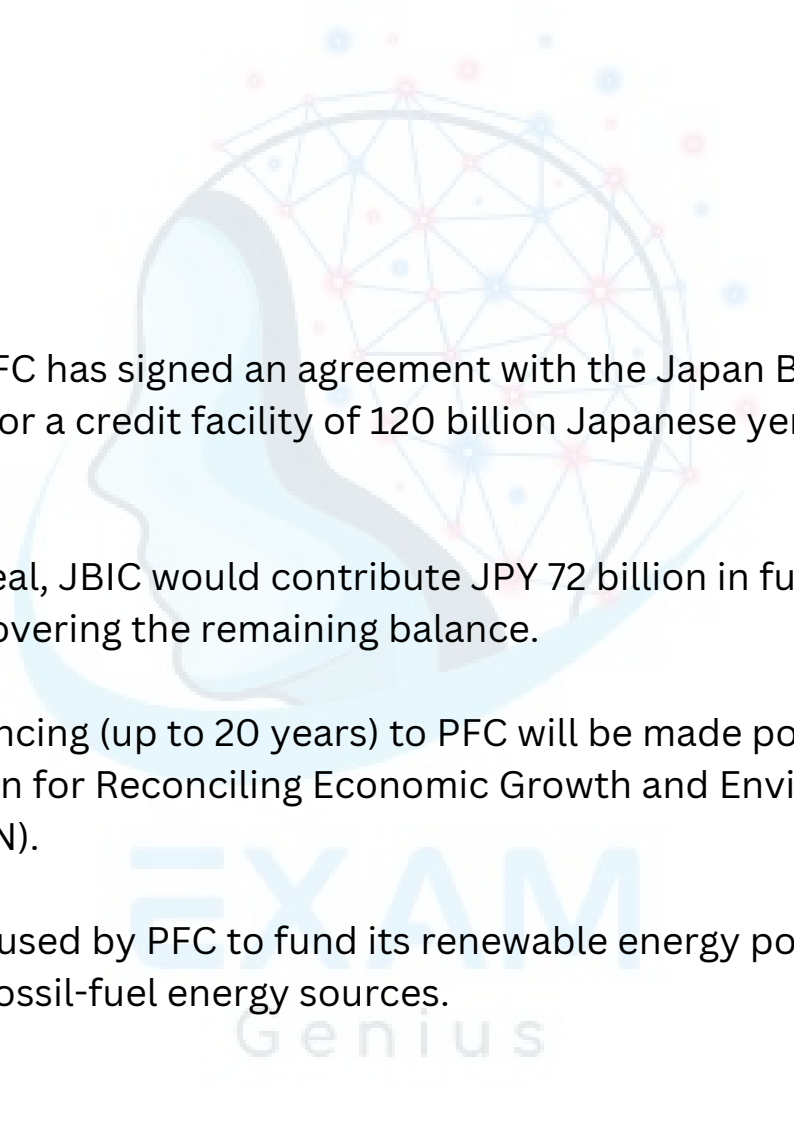
Ques : Which state-owned Indian entity signed an agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a loan facility?

- (a) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
- (c) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
- (d) NTPC Limited
- (e) NHPC Limited

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The state-owned PFC has signed an agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a credit facility of 120 billion Japanese yen (about Rs 6,600 crore).
- According to the deal, JBIC would contribute JPY 72 billion in funding, with commercial banks covering the remaining balance.
- This long-term financing (up to 20 years) to PFC will be made possible by JBIC's project 'Global Action for Reconciling Economic Growth and Environmental Preservation' (GREEN).
- The cash would be used by PFC to fund its renewable energy portfolio, accelerating India's shift to non-fossil-fuel energy sources.





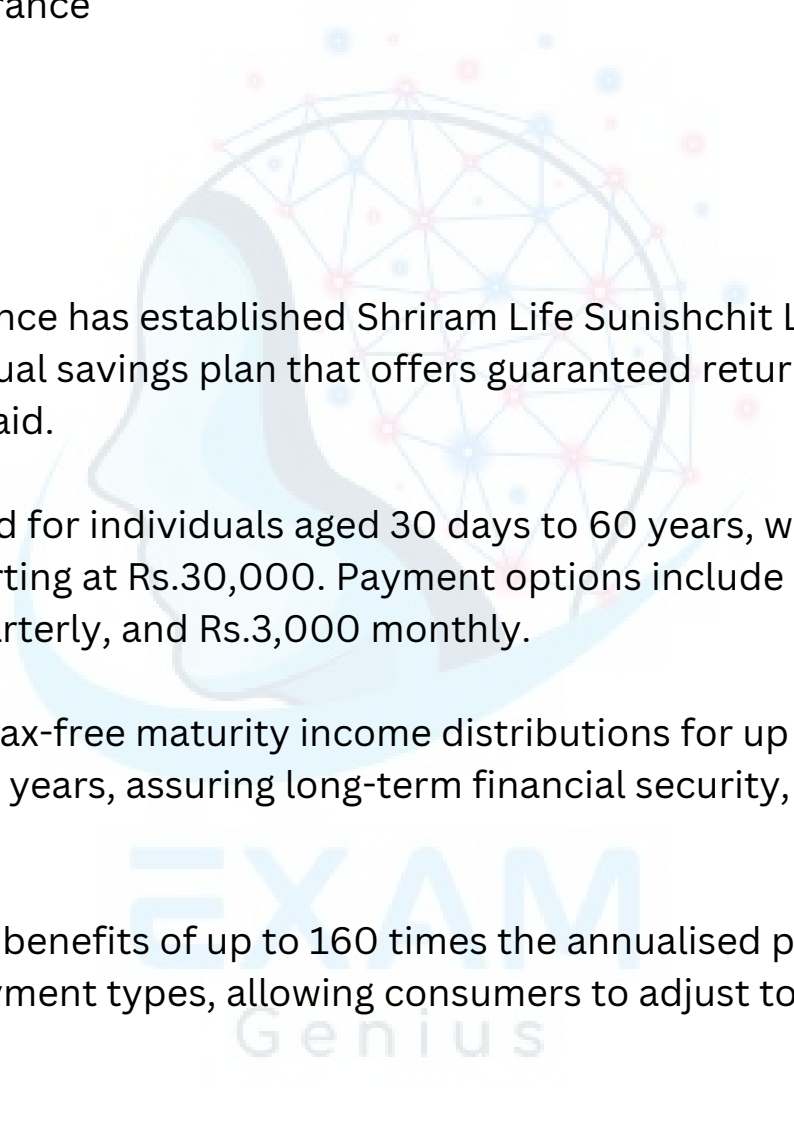
Ques : Which company has launched the Sunishchit Laabh savings plan?

- (a) HDFC Life Insurance
- (b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (c) LIC of India
- (d) SBI Life Insurance
- (e) Shriram Life Insurance

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- Shriram Life Insurance has established Shriram Life Sunishchit Laabh, a non-participating individual savings plan that offers guaranteed returns of up to 668% of the total premium paid.
- The plan is designed for individuals aged 30 days to 60 years, with a minimum annual premium starting at Rs.30,000. Payment options include Rs.15,500 half-yearly, Rs.8,000 quarterly, and Rs.3,000 monthly.
- The plan provides tax-free maturity income distributions for up to 40 years and a maximum age of 101 years, assuring long-term financial security, including beyond retirement.
- It also offers death benefits of up to 160 times the annualised premium and flexible maturity income payment types, allowing consumers to adjust to changing financial circumstances.





Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024-25 1st Edition Launched by Punjab National Bank (PNB). The Theme is "Code Against Malware". Winners will receive prizes worth up to Rs 11 lakhs and have the opportunity to implement their solutions in live environments with PNB.
- Bank of Baroda has launched "bob Liquid Fixed Deposits" as an alternative to regular fixed deposits (FDs). The bob Liquid FD allows you flexible deposit amounts starting at Rs.5,000 (with no maximum deposit amount), duration options ranging from 12 to 60 months, and partial withdrawals in multiples of Rs.1,000
- IDBI Bank has launched a new fixed deposit scheme, 'IDBI Chiranjeevi-Super Senior Citizen FD,' for customers aged 80 and above.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) will open AI-powered customer service and full-fledged branches in Prayagraj, including forex transaction facilities, to better serve visitors.
- Groww Mutual Fund, an asset management company, introduced the Groww Nifty India Railways PSU Index Fund and ETF.
- 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 (₹).
- 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





Ques : Which state launches 'Garudakshi' portal for Forest Protection ?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Haryana
- (e) Maharashtra

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The Karnataka Forest Department plans to implement the "Garudakshi" online FIR system to tackle forest and wildlife crimes.
- The new digital system, unveiled by Forest, Biology, and Environment Minister Ishwara B Khandre at Vidhana Soudha, aims to streamline the process of filing First Information Reports (FIRs) for forest crimes.
- Developed in conjunction with the Wild Life Trust of India (WTI), the Garudakshi program allows for online handling of forest crime cases under the Forest and Wildlife Protection Acts.

About Karnataka :

- Capital : Bangalore
- CM : Siddaramaiah
- Governor : Thawar Chand Gehlot

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Ques : India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) celebrated its _ Foundation Day.

- (a) 140th
- (b) 142nd
- (c) 148th
- (d) 150th
- (e) 152nd

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) commemorated its 150th foundation day.
- During the ceremony, PM unveiled 'Mission Mausam', a project to transform India into a 'Weather-Ready' and 'Climate-smart' country using advanced weather surveillance technologies.
- The Government of India (GoI) approved Mission Mausam in September 2024, with a budget of 2,000 crores for two years.
- In celebration of IMD's 150th anniversary, he issued commemorative postal stamps and coins.
- The coin is round and has a denomination of Rs 150. The coin is made of 99.99% silver and has a weight of 40 grams.
- On the obverse side of the coin, 'satyamev jayate' is written in Hindi underneath the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the center.
- The coin is imprinted with 'Bharat' in Hindi on the left and 'India' on the right.

About India Meteorological Department :

- Established : January 15, 1875
- HQ : New Delhi
- Director General : Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



Ques : Who has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Nripendra Mishra
- (c) Rajnath Singh
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Nitin Gadkari

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The Government of India has reorganized the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society's Executive Council and reappointed Nripendra Mishra as Chairperson.
- Former Union Minister Smriti Irani, ex-NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar, former Army General Syed Ata Hasnain, acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and Sanskar Bharati's Vasudev Kamath are among the distinguished new members of the PMML society.
- The Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society's Executive Council is its highest-level decision-making body.
- The important decision-making council, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as president and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as vice president, has also grown. The executive council has expanded from 29 to 34 members.
- The Prime Minister Museum and Library Society was established by the Indian government on April 1, 1966, to oversee the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, currently known as the Prime Minister Museum and Library.





Recent Appointment in different departments :

- Vineet Joshi : Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education
- K Vinod Chandran : Chief Justice of Supreme Court
- Ajit Kumar Mohanty : Chairman of the reformed Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)
- Devajit Saikia : New secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- Prabhtej Singh Bhatia : Treasurer of the Indian Cricket Board
- Brijendra Pratap Singh : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company (NALCO)
- B. N. Srikrishna : Chairperson of Equal's newly formed Advisory Board
- 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





Ques : India Unveils 'Utkash' as Second Multi-Purpose Vessel. It is built by which company ?

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

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- M/s L&T Shipyard's second Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) for the Indian Navy was launched at its Kattupalli, Chennai, facility.
- The occasion was attended by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, as well as senior officials from the Indian Navy and L&T Shipyard.
- The vessel, named 'Utkarsh', represents a major forward in India's indigenous shipbuilding skills.
- Its Dimension is 107 meters long and 18.6 meters wide.
- Maximum speed of 15 knots and Displacement Over 3,750 tonnes.
- The contract for the two Multi-Purpose Vessels was signed on March 25, 2022, between the Ministry of Defence and M/s L&T Shipyard .
- The First MPV launched earlier is INS Samarthak.





Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked a Rs. 2,960 crore contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to provide Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) to the Indian Navy.
- On Indian Army Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated three frontline naval combatants to the nation: INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer, which were commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- India successfully evaluated its indigenously built third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile (Nag Mk 2) at Rajasthan's Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket will launch at 1 a.m. ET Monday from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- 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 : Where was the Bhargavastra micro missile system successfully tested?

- (a) Chandipur Firing Range, Odisha
- (b) Gopalpur Seaward Firing Range, Odisha
- (c) Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan
- (d) Wheeler Island, Odisha
- (e) Kalaikunda Air Base, West Bengal

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The indigenously built micro missile system Bhargavastra was successfully tested at the Gopalpur Seaward firing range in Odisha.
- The micro missile system was designed to counter the threat of swarm drone attacks.
- Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL), a part of the Solar Group based in Nagpur, designed the Bhargavastra. It was created and developed in-house and is regarded as an efficient low-cost weapon system against swarm drone attacks.

About Swarm Drone Attack :

- Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), sometimes known as drones, are remotely controlled airborne objects that can be employed for a variety of purposes.
- The Americans initially employed drones on the battlefield to murder top commanders of Al-Qaeda and Talibans in Afghanistan.
- Iranians have employed swarm drones to successfully penetrate Israel's vaunted Iron Dome anti-missile system.





Ques : The ____ Foundation Day of Startup India, celebrated in New Delhi.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 9th
- (e) 11th

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The 9th Foundation Day of Startup India in New Delhi marked a critical milestone in India's progress towards becoming a global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, launched the Prabhaav Factbook and Bharat Startup Challenge to highlight the impact of startups on India's economy and society.
- This thorough overview covers India's startup ecosystem achievements from 2016 to 2024.
- India has experienced 76 Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) in the calendar year 2024.
- India now has the world's third largest startup ecosystem, with 1,59,157 registered startups as of January 15, up from approximately 500 in 2016. This has created 17.2 lakh direct jobs.
- The ministry has introduced the Bharat Startup Challenge, which would include 75 tasks in diverse sectors.



Ques : Which e-commerce giant has signed an agreement to acquire fintech lending start-up Axio?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Flipkart
- (c) Google
- (d) Messho
- (e) Swiggy

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- Amazon has inked a deal to acquire fintech loan start-up Axio, formerly Capital Float, for around \$190-200 million.
- Axio has filed an application with the regulator (RBI) for a change of control to Amazon, which is pending clearance. Following approval, Amazon's intended acquisition of Axio would be completed.
- Axio manages Rs 2,200 crore in assets, with 3% of them being gross non-performing assets. It has served almost ten million clients.
- In August of last year, it raised \$20 million in equity capital from the Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund to extend loan offerings.
- Amazon has purchased nine Indian startups since 2016.





Ques : The Union Cabinet approved establishing a third launchpad at Isro's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at a cost of ____.

- (a) Rs.3,985 crore
- (b) Rs.3,455 crore
- (c) Rs.2,745 crore
- (d) Rs.3,967 crore
- (e) Rs.3,650 crore

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The Union Cabinet approved establishing a third launchpad at Isro's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at a cost of Rs.3,985 crore.
- The project is planned to be finished in 48 months (4 years).
- The Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota will build a third launchpad capable of launching 30,000-tonne spacecraft into low-earth orbit.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation is designing the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which will be 91m tall.
- The first launch pad was erected in the early 1990s, and the first launch occurred on September 20, 1993.
- The second launch pad began functioning in 2005.





Recent News Headlines Related to ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission. ISRO's PSLV-C60 rocket, carrying two spacecraft for space docking demonstrations, launched from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the European Space Agency (ESA) Probe 3 spacecraft from the First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) with the Australian Space Agency (ASA) for further strengthening of cooperation in space activities between the two countries
- ISRO has launched its analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Objective To develop and conduct biological and environmental experiments for the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), expected to be operational by 2028-2035
- ISRO has launched India's first analog space mission from Leh, Ladakh. The mission involves ISRO, the University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, AAKA Space Studio, and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- EOS-06, commonly known as Oceansat-3, is an Earth observation spacecraft created by ISRO. It was successfully launched on November 26, 2022, using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54).
- ISRO has acquired two 400kg satellites for the next Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX)
- ISRO has received a budget of Rs 2104.06 crore for the Chandrayaan-4 mission, which would be completed in 36 months.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aims to launch the first base module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's first space station, in 2028. The BAS will contain five modules.
- ISRO's Earth Perception Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is supposed to be sent off by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 on August 16 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Air Breathing Propulsion Technology demonstration flight was successfully completed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on its second trial flight.
- GSAT 20 is a 4,700 kg heavy-weight, high-tech satellite. New Delhi: Using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, the Indian space agency ISRO will launch its latest big satellite in a

first.



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IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

Bank of Baroda (BoB) raised Rs 5,000 crore through tenyear infrastructure bonds at a coupon rate of 7.23%. BoB's infrastructure bond, rated AAA by CRISIL and India Ratings, had a base issue of Rs 2,000 crore and a green shoe option of Rs 3,000 crore.

Binod Kumar has assumed office as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Bank. Prior to this, he was serving as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Shriram Housing Finance (SHF) has rebranded itself as Truhome Finance following its acquisition by Warburg Pincus and its co-investors, including QIA (Qatar's sovereign wealth fund), from Shriram Finance.

Google-backed Indian space start-up company Pixxel has become the first Indian private company to launch its commercial satellite constellation named Firefly on board a Space X rocket.

The SpaceX rocket also carried the world's first commercial satellite for surveillance of space objects orbiting the earth, made by an Indian space company, Digantara.

Exercise 'Devil Strike' Held at Northern Borders of India between Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Special Forces

Asia's second-largest International Society for Krishna Consciousness's (ISKCON's) temple Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. Its Cost is Rs.170 crore. Asia's largest ISKCON temple Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir Temple of the Vedic Planetarium is in West Bengal.

