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Ques : Who Decided to Conduct Daily Variable-Rate Repo (VRR) Operations to Boost Banking Liquidity amid Deficit ?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (c) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)
- (d) Paytm
- (e) HDFC Bank

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct daily Variable-Rate Repo (VRR) auctions until further notice. This measure will increase banking liquidity amid the deficit.
- The first VRR worth Rs 50,000 crore was held on January 16, 2025, with solo primary dealers participating alongside other eligible bidders.
- To control liquidity deficits, the RBI has reduced all banks' Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4% of deposits in two equal tranches of 25 basis points (bps) each beginning December 14, 2024 and December 28, 2024.
- On January 15, 2025, RBI held a 5-day VRR auction with a stated sum of Rs 75,000 crore. Banks submitted bids totaling Rs 3,980 crore.





Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- 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.
- 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 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.





Ques : Who has partnered with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) to launch an e-learning course on municipal bonds ?

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

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- SEBI has collaborated with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) to offer an e-learning course on municipal bonds.
- The course's goal is to help municipal corporations, urban local authorities, and other stakeholders better understand municipal bonds in order to utilize them for urban infrastructure development
- Municipal bonds (muni bonds) are debt securities issued by metropolitan municipal governments and organizations. They are used to pay for day-to-day expenses as well as capital projects like highways, roads, and schools.
- The course is 10 hours long and can be taken at one's own pace. The course is available for free until March 31, 2025. After this date, a nominal fee will be charged.

About NISM :

- NISM is an Indian public trust, established in 2006 by SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India).
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- NISM is also the central training institute for SEBI's civil service staff.
- NISM provides certification and training programs to enhance knowledge and skills in the securities market.





Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- Sebi has made significant modifications to the nomination requirements for mutual funds and demat accounts to reduce unclaimed assets.
- 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.
- 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 is the primary focus of the collaboration between FIU-IND and NHB?

- (a) Promoting housing development schemes
- (b) Enhancing digital payment systems
- (c) Facilitating rural credit availability
- (d) Monitoring foreign exchange transactions
- (e) Intelligence sharing, capacity building, and risk assessment

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) has signed an MoU with National Housing Bank (NHB) to engage in crucial areas such as intelligence sharing, capacity building, and risk assessment.
- The goal is to improve the execution of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and related laws as part of continuous efforts.

About Financial Intelligence Unit (India) :

- Established : 2004
- Act : Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- HQ : New Delhi
- Director : Vivek Aggarwal

About National Housing Bank :

- Established : 9 July 1988
- HQ : New Delhi
- MD & CEO : Sanjay Shukla

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Recently signed banking agreements

- 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.
- 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)
- 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.





Ques : RBI has instructed banks and other regulated entities (REs) to use the which phone numbering series exclusively for making transactional calls to customers ?

- (a) 1200xx
- (b) 1400xx
- (c) 1500xx
- (d) 1600xx
- (e) 1800xx

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- RBI has instructed banks and other regulated entities (REs) to use the '1600xx' phone numbering series exclusively for making transactional calls to customers.
- The RBI has instructed that banks and REs use the '140xx' series for promotional calls in order to avoid confusion with transactional calls and limit the risk of fraud.
- Mobile numbers have become an important identifier in the account authentication and verification process since they get sensitive information such as OTPs, transaction alerts, and account updates.
- The RBI has recommended regulated firms to check and clean up their client datasets using the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL), which is available on the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) maintained by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- All regulated entities must comply with the RBI's guidelines by March 31, 2025.

According to the DoT's notification, the phone number format for the '1600xx' series is 1600ABCXXX, where:

- XXX represents any number between 000-999.
- AB represents the telecom circle (e.g., Kolkata).
- C represents the service provider (e.g., Bharti Airtel).



Ques : Which financial institution has received RBI approval to open 20 branches across 20 cities in India?

- (a) Citibank
- (b) Standard Chartered Bank
- (c) Barclays Bank
- (d) HSBC India
- (e) Deutsche Bank

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- HSBC India, the Indian arm of London-based HSBC, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open 20 branches in 20 cities.
- The opening of 20 branches brings HSBC India's total number of branches in the country to 46. In 2016, HSBC operated 50 branches in the country before deciding to close 26. Opening branches represents a significant shift in approach.
- HSBC India will open branches in the following cities: Amritsar, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Faridabad, Indore, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Lucknow, Mysuru, Nagpur, Nashik, Navi Mumbai, Patna, Rajkot, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodara, and Vishakhapatnam.
- These regions were chosen because of their rising wealth pools, which cater to affluent, high-net-worth, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals with domestic and international banking and asset management requirements.

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Ques : What was the total loan disbursement amount under PMMY in the third quarter of the financial year ending December 2024?

- (a) Rs.3.39 lakh crore
- (b) Rs.3 lakh crore
- (c) Rs.2.25 lakh crore
- (d) Rs.3.75 lakh crore
- (e) Rs.2.45 lakh crore

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- In the third quarter of the current fiscal year, small business loans disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) hit an all-time high of Rs.3.39 lakh crore (December 2024).
- In the first half of FY25, PMMY loans totaled Rs.1.86 lakh crore, a modest reduction from Rs.1.91 lakh crore in the same period last year.
- The fiscal year 2023-24 saw record disbursements of Rs.5.20 lakh crore, surpassing the Rs.4.40 lakh crore disbursed in FY23.
- On October 24, 2024, the government increased the maximum loan amount for PMMY from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh.
- The Union Budget 2024-25 added the 'Tarun Plus' category, which allows successful borrowers to obtain larger loan limits.

Types of loans under Mudra Yojana :

- Shishu : Loan up to Rs.50,000.
- Kishor : Loan above Rs.50,000 and less than Rs.5 lakh.
- Tarun : Rs. 5 lakhs and less than Rs.10 lakh.
- Tarun Plus : Rs. 10 lakhs and less than Rs.20 lakh

About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana :

- Launched : 8 April 2015
- Maximum loan : 10 lakhs



Ques : What is the projected growth rate of India for FY26 and FY27 as per the IMF?

- (a) 4.5%
- (b) 5.5%
- (c) 5.8%
- (d) 6.5%
- (e) 6.8%

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has kept India's growth rate at 6.5 percent for the next two fiscal years, 2025-26 or FY26 and 2026-27 or FY27, as forecast in October's World Economic Outlook report.
- Meanwhile, the IMF forecasts global growth of 3.3% in both 2025 and 2026, which is lower than the historical average of 3.7%.
- The 2025 prediction is substantially unchanged from the October 2024 World Economic Outlook, with an upward revision for the US offsetting losses in other major economies.

About International Monetary Fund :

- Established : 1 July 1944
- HQ : Washington, D.C., U.S.
- Member : 191 countries (190 UN countries and Kosovo)
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas





Ques : Novak Djokovic broke a tie with which player for the most Grand Slam matches in tennis history ?

- (a) Carlos Alcaraz
- (b) Rafael Nadal
- (c) Roger Federer
- (d) Jannik Sinner
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Novak Djokovic broke a tie with Roger Federer for the most Grand Slam matches in tennis history.
- Djokovic overtook Roger Federer's record of 429 Grand Slam matches with his second-round match at the Australian Open.

Top 5 most Grand Slam Matches :

- 1) Novak Djokovic : 430
- 2) Roger Federer : 429
- 3) Rafael Nadal : 358
- 4) Jimmy Connors : 282
- 5) Andre Agassi : 277

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Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Arjun Erigaisi, an Indian grandmaster, stunned the internet chess community by defeating World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana in Chess.com's Titled Tuesday weekly blitz competition.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Jasprit Bumrah of India and Annabel Sutherland of Australia as the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for December 2024, respectively.
- The first Kho Kho World Cup kicked off on January 13, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Indian Kho Kho Federation, officially opened the World Cup.
- India and Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer, the second-most expensive player in the player auction, has been appointed captain by Punjab Kings for IPL 2025. The 2024 IPL winning captain has previously led Delhi Capitals (DC) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the IPL.
- In squash, India's Anahat Singh won the Under 17 Girl's Singles title at the British Junior Open in Birmingham, England.
- Varun Tomar of the Indian Army has won the Men's 10-meter Air Pistol finals of the 67th National Shooting Championship 2024, which took place at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.
- Haryana Steelers reached a historic milestone by winning their first Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) title. In a thrilling final at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune, the Steelers overcame the Patna Pirates by 32-23.
- West Bengal, the most successful team in the Santosh Trophy's history, added to its trophy collection by defeating Kerala in the final of the 78th edition. This was the Bengal team's 33rd Santosh Trophy.
- Hemanth Muddappa, known as the "Drag King," achieved a remarkable triple crown victory in the final round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship held at the Madras International Circuit (MIC).
- Kerala won the Senior National Men's Handball Championship for the first time, defeating Chandigarh 34-31. The event final was held in Changanassery, Kerala.
- Punjab's Vijayveer Sidhu defeated fellow Olympian Gurpreet Singh of the Army Marksmanship Unit to win his first men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) title at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for pistol events





Ques : Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

- (a) Kuldiep Singh
- (b) Rakesh Asthana
- (c) Gyanendra Pratap Singh
- (d) Anil Chauhan
- (e) Sudeep Lakhtakia

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Gyanendra Pratap Singh, the Assam police chief, has been named Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Singh is a 1991 batch Indian Police Service officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar has been in command of the force after Anish Dayal Singh's retirement on December 31, 2024.
- Singh, who previously worked for the National Investigation Agency (NIA), was transferred to Assam as the additional DGP in 2019 in response to the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests. He later took over as the DGP.

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Recent Defence related appointments :

- Air Commodore Debakinandan Sahu : Command of the Base Repair Depot (BRD) at Tughlakabad (Air Commodore Rishi Seth)
- Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra : Chief of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command (Replaced Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha)
- Vitul Kumar : Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) (Replaced Anish Dayal Singh)
- Jared Isaacman : NASA Chief to Oversee Moon Missions
- Valdecy Urquiza (Brazil) : Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organisation INTERPOL
- Rajesh Kumar Singh : Defence Secretary at South Block
- Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai : Director General Medical Services (Navy)
- Paramesh Sivamani : 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Air Marshal SP Dharkar : Vice Chief of Air Staff
- IPS Nalin Prabhat : Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir (Replaced R.R. Swain)
- Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin : first female officer as Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS)
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh : Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) (succeed Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari)
- Nikhat Zareen (boxer) : Telangana Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Special Police)
- Amrit Mohan Prasad : Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal
- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit : Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of Central Air Command
- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh : Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force
- Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar : Director General of Project Seabird
- Rajwinder Singh Bhatti : Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- B Srinivasan : Director General (DG) of National Security Guard
- Sanjeev Raina : ITBP Additional Director General





Ques : What is the name of the app launched under the Defence Ministry's "battle tourism" plan?

- (a) Bharat Sainik Darshan
- (b) Bharat Yodha App
- (c) Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan App
- (d) Veer Bharat App
- (e) Battlefields of India App

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan Launched by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defense (MoD)
- It is Developed by MoD, Ministry of Tourism, and the Indian Army
- This app includes detailed information of 77 battlefield sites and provides visitors an in-depth overview of some of the major military events
- To promote tourism and highlight India's military heritage, the government has opened significant battlefields to visitors.
- These include sites from the 1962 India-China war, offering a deeper connection to the nation's wartime history.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has granted civilians access to the following battlefields:

- Kibithoo and Bum La Pass in Arunachal Pradesh
- Rezang La and Pangong Tso in Ladakh
- Doklam, the site of the 2017 conflict
- The Army is exploring the possibility of opening additional significant battlefields, including Galwan Valley, Siachen, Kargil, Lipulekh Pass





Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals

- The Karnataka Forest Department plans to implement the "Garudakshi" online FIR system to tackle forest and wildlife crimes.
- 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 Café.
- 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 : Which edition of the multinational naval exercise La Perouse held in the eastern Indian Ocean ?

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd
- (d) 4th
- (e) 5th

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mumbai is taking part in the fourth edition of the multinational naval exercise La Perouse in the eastern Indian Ocean.
- France will lead the 2025 La Perouse exercise, which will also include eight other countries: India, the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Singapore.
- The exercise seeks to improve common situational awareness by improving collaboration in maritime surveillance, maritime interdiction operations, and aviation operations, as well as conducting progressive training and information exchange.
- This visit is consistent with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) agenda of strengthening maritime cooperation and partnership for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific region.





Recent News Headlines Related to Defence Exercise :

- Exercise 'Devil Strike' Held at Northern Borders of India between Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Special Forces
- Indian and Nepalese Army contingents are taking part in the 18th round of Exercise Surya Kiran.
- Exercise Sahayog-Hop Tac 2nd Edition Held at off the coast of Kochi, Kerala between India & Vietnam (Coast guard).
- Exercise Desert Knight 2025 Held at Arabian Sea between India, France, and the UAE (Air force). From India Sukhoi-30MKI, Jaguars, IL-78 mid-air refuellers, and AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) systems participate in Exercise.
- The Eastern Naval Command will host the bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka-India Exercise) at Visakhapatnam from December 17 to 20, 24.
- India and Cambodia's first joint tabletop exercise, dubbed 'CINBAX,' began at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra
- On December 2, 2024, India and Malaysia began the bilateral Joint Military Exercise "Harimau Shakti" at the Bentong camp in Pahang district, Malaysia
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) held the 11th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2024) off the Kochi coast.
- The 13th edition of Joint Military Exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024), a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and the Singapore Armed Forces, ended at Field Firing Ranges in Devlali (Maharashtra).
- The 11th edition of the Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (SAREX-24) starts in Kochi, Kerala.
- The Indian Army successfully completed the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024', which took place in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat
- India Launches First Space Defense Exercise Antariksha Abhyas – 2024 To simulate and address threats to and from space-based assets, integrating space capabilities into military operations
- Exercise AUSTRALIND 3rd Edition Held at Foreign Training Node, Pune, Maharashtra between India & Australia (Army)
- The Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy will launch a command-level tri-service theatre exercise called 'Poorvi Prahar' along the India-China border.





Ques : Archaeological Experiential Museum Inaugurated by Union Ministry of Culture and the Gujarat State Government in which state ?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Archaeological Experiential Museum Inaugurated by Union Ministry of Culture and the Gujarat State Government at Vadnagar, Gujarat
- Inauguration ceremony was presided over by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
- 12,500 sq. m. area covered with nine thematic galleries
- 4,000 sq. m. excavation site, with visible archaeological remains up to 16-18 meters deep
- Its costs is Rs.298 Crore, including five years of operational maintenance
- Over 5,000 artifacts including ceramics, coins, sculptures, organic materials (food grains, DNA, skeletal remains)





Recent Headlines Related to Inauguration :

- Asia's second-largest International Society for Krishna Consciousness's (ISKCON's) temple Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
- Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh's chief minister, inaugurated Prasar Bharati's FM station 'Kumbhvani' at Circuit House.
- 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.
- National Commission for Women (NCW), in collaboration with the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, inaugurated 'Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0' at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.
- Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker, launched the Gandhi Darshan Art Gallery at Rajghat in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 13-kilometer extension of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat route. The corridor, worth Rs 4.600 crore.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the BHARATPOL platform, designed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, in New Delhi. The BHARATPOL platform will make it easier to process all requests for international assistance through INTERPOL.
- The Indian Army recently inaugurated a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Pangong Tso in Ladakh, near the India-China border.
- Two UK universities, Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University, have applied to open international campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City, following the lead of Australian institutions.

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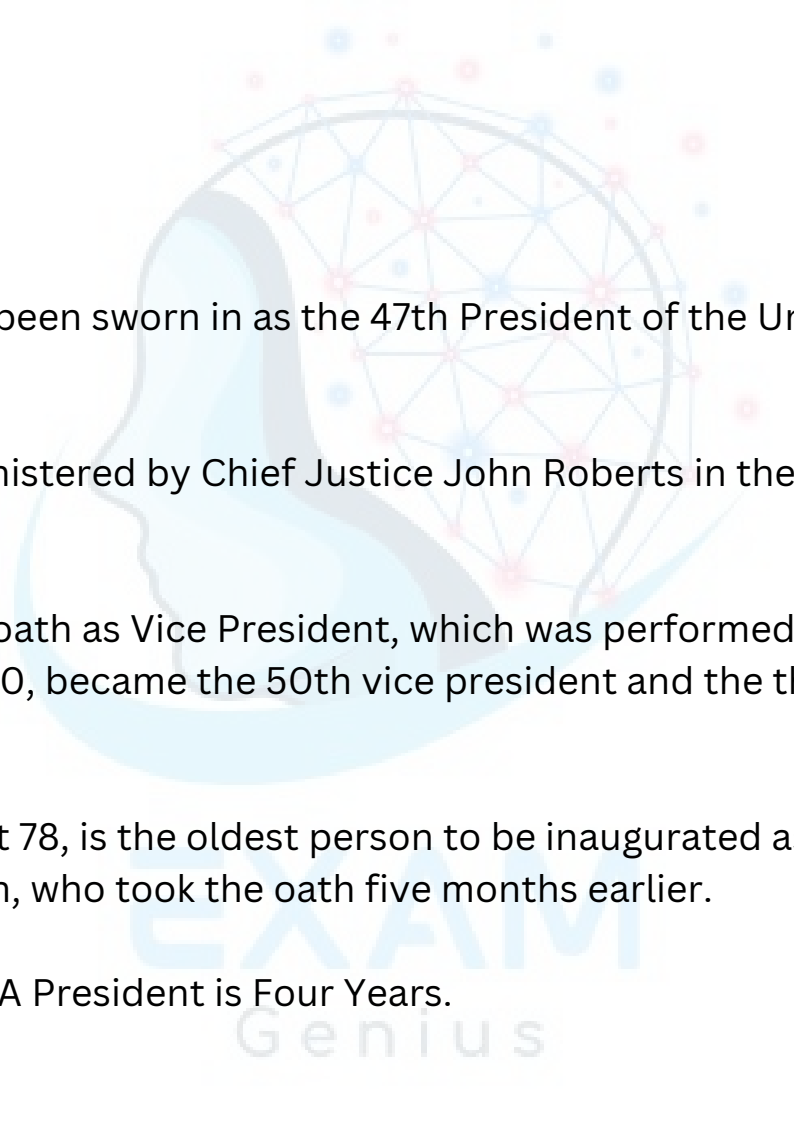
Ques : Donald Trump was sworn in as which President of the United States?

- (a) 45th
- (b) 46th
- (c) 47th
- (d) 48th
- (e) 49th

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Donald Trump has been sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, for his second term.
- The oath was administered by Chief Justice John Roberts in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC.
- JD Vance took the oath as Vice President, which was performed by Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Vance, 40, became the 50th vice president and the third youngest in US history.
- President Trump, at 78, is the oldest person to be inaugurated as president, surpassing Joe Biden, who took the oath five months earlier.
- The Term of the USA President is Four Years.





Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President :

- President of Croatia : Zoran Milanovic
- President of Venezuela : Nicolas Maduro
- President of Lebanon : Joseph Aoun
- 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 : Rintalba 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





Ques : Global Lighthouse Network (GLN) launched in which year ?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2020

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has welcomed CEAT Limited and Hindustan Unilever Limited's Tinsukia (Assam) plant to its Global Lighthouse Network (GLN) to promote manufacturing transformation via innovation.
- 15 new members from UAE, China, Germany, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, and Morocco (home to the first Lighthouse site in Africa).
- The WEF has added 17 innovative industrial sites to the GLN, bringing the total to 189 facilities. 25 of them are Sustainability Lighthouses, utilizing sophisticated 4IR/Industry 4.0 production technology.

About Global Lighthouse Network (GLN) :

- It is an initiative by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and cofounded with McKinsey & Company
- Launched : 2018
- Total facilities : 189
- Indian facilities : 16
- Objective : to enhance the performance of manufacturing and supply chains by adopting 4IR technologies

About World Economic Forum :

- Established : 24 January 1971
- HQ : Cologny, Switzerland
- Executive Chairman : Klaus Schwab
- President : Borge Brende



Ques : Which northeastern state is the first to distribute property cards under the Centre's village survey scheme 'SVAMITVA'?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Nagaland

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Mizoram, the "first among the northeastern states," has handed property cards to 2,909 recipients through the Centre's village survey plan since April 2023.
- 1,754 property cardholders from 18 villages in the state were among the 65 lakh beneficiaries spread across ten states and two Union Territories.
- The Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA), a Ministry of Panchayati Raj scheme, provides a 'Record of Rights' to village household owners and issues legal ownership cards to property owners by mapping land parcels using drone technology.
- The Prime Minister announced the SVAMITVA plan on April 24, 2020. The plan used drone and GIS technology to create rights records in revenue documents for inhabited settlements.





Ques : Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) established in which year ?

- (a) 1945
- (b) 1954
- (c) 1964
- (d) 1969
- (e) 1972

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- ISRO successfully grew black-eyed pea seeds in orbit using its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS). The CROPS project studies plant growth in space.
- The first mission, CROPS-1, demonstrated seed germination and plant growth in a controlled environment aboard a spacecraft.
- CROPS-1 is a tiny greenhouse that uses porous clay pellets as a soil media.

About ISRO :

- Established : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Antariksh Bhavan in Bangalore
- Chairman : Dr. S. Somanath

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Recent News Headlines Related to ISRO

- 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 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 (PSLVC54).
- 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.





Ques : Who inaugurated the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Patna?

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

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, has opened the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Patna.
- The two-day conference is titled '75th Anniversary of Constitution: Contribution of Parliament and State Legislative Bodies to Strengthening Constitutional Values'.
- Following a 43-year pause, the state hosted the programme for the third time.

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Recent News Headlines Related to Summits / conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025,' the country's largest mobility expo, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





Ques : National Penguin Awareness Day celebrated annually on which day ?

- (a) 19 January
- (b) 20 January
- (c) 21 January
- (d) 22 January
- (e) 23 January

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- National Penguin Awareness Day is commemorated annually on January 20 to raise awareness of penguins, their natural habitats, and the threats they face as a result of climate change, habitat destruction, and pollution.
- The day emphasizes the significance of safeguarding penguin species, many of which are endangered or under threat owing to melting ice caps, overfishing, and ocean pollution.

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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)
- 12 January : National Youth Day (Theme 2025: Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility)
- 14 January : 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day 2025 (Celebrates to Commemorates The retirement of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa on January 14, 1953)
- 15 January : Indian Army Day (Theme 2025: Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena (Capable India, Empowered Army))
- 16 January : National Startup Day
- 11 to 17 January : National Road Safety Week 2025
- January 18 to February 17 : National Road Safety Month 2025 (Theme 2025 Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha)





IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

Singapore's highest honor for non-citizens, the Honorary Citizen Award Given to Tarun Das, former Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. He received the Singapore Public Service Medal in 2004.

During the first-ever corporate round-table conference in New Delhi, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya invited corporations to adopt one sport with the goal of boosting the Indian sports ecosystem in preparation for the 2036 Olympic Games.

State Bank of India (SBI) Given Loan of Rs.31,802 crore to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to finance the expansion of its refinery to 11 Million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) from 7.8 MMTPA and setting up of a petrochemical complex in Bina, Madhya Pradesh.

The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Marco Rubio as the 72nd US Secretary of State in the Trump Administration. Rubio won the vote by 99-0 during the 1st session of the 119th Congress.

Dr. Mandaviya stressed India's goal of ranking among the top five world sports performers by 2047, when the country will celebrate its 100th anniversary of independence.

Book Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective Authored by Dr. K.S. Chauhan and Released by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, India's Science and Technology Minister, dedicated India's first-ever CSIR Innovation Complex in Mumbai via virtual mode.

