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Ques : Who launched a Regulatory Sandbox (RS) to test the “On Tap” application facility under the theme of ‘Retail Payments’ ?

'खुदरा भुगतान' विषय के तहत "ऑन टैप" एप्लिकेशन सुविधा का परीक्षण करने के लिए रेगुलेटरी सैंडबॉक्स (RS) किसने लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) / भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई)
- (b) State Bank of India (SBI) / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई)
- (c) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) / एनपीसीआई इंटरनेशनल पेमेंट्स लिमिटेड (एनआईपीएल)
- (d) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) / भारतीय बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (IRDAI)
- (e) National Housing Bank (NHB) / राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक (एनएचबी)

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has developed a Regulatory Sandbox (RS) to test the "On Tap" application for retail payments.
- Exto India Technologies Private Limited, situated in Chennai, was chosen to participate in the initiative's 'Test Phase'.
- The company tested an offline digital payment solution that combines Distributed Ledger Technology (**DLT**) with private biometric authorization, allowing for offline card-to-card and card-to-phone transactions.

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Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved Tata Communications' intention to sell its full stake in Tata Communications Payment Solutions (**TCPSL**) to Transaction Solutions International (**TSI**), the Indian subsidiary of Findi, an Australian fintech business
- Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), conducted a dollar-rupee buy/sell swap **FX swap** auction for USD 5.1 billion
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted **RMBS** (Residential Mortgage-Backed Securitisation) Development Company Limited (RDCL) a Certificate of Registration (CoR), a significant milestone for India's housing finance sector
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to inject approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore into the banking system gradually
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's Payments System Report, the United Payments Interface (**UPI**) would account for 83% of total payment volume by 2024, up from 34% in 2019.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report on Ombudsman Scheme, the integrated **Ombudsman Scheme** received 32.81% more complaints from banking customers in FY2024, totaling 9.34 lakh.
- Business correspondents (**BCs**), who process millions of crores of rupees daily in domestic remittances, have urged **RBI** to ease the 14-year-old restrictions on monthly and daily transactions. They have asked the RBI to increase the monthly transfer limit to Rs.50,000.
- RBI has updated instructions for settling dues owed by borrowers to Asset Reconstruction Companies (**ARCs**) under the Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India (Asset Reconstruction Companies), 2024.
- Skydo Technologies, a cross-border payments startup, has been granted in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payment Aggregator-Cross Border entity.
- The RBI has revealed the names of the members of the Standing External Advisory Committee (**SEAC**), which will evaluate applications for Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks. The **SEAC's** tenure will be three years.





Ques : Recently which bank has become a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) ?

हाल ही में कौन सा बैंक कार्बन अकाउंटिंग फाइनेंशियल्स (पीसीएएफ) के लिए साझेदारी का हस्ताक्षरकर्ता बन गया है?

- (a) City Union Bank / सिटी यूनियन बैंक
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank / इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक
- (c) Union Bank of India / यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- (d) Karnataka Bank / कर्नाटक बैंक
- (e) CSB Bank / सीएसबी बैंक

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Indian Overseas Bank (**IOB**), India's major **PSB**, has joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (**PCAF**).
- As a **PCAF** signatory, IOB will monitor and disclose greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emissions from its sponsored activities, using globally harmonized methodology for **GHG** accounting.

About Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) :

- Formed : 2015
- Launched : 2019
- Formed by : 14 Dutch financial Institutions (FIs) under the leadership of the Hague (the Netherlands)-based ASN Bank
- Union Bank of India (UBI) was the 1st major Indian bank to sign the PCAF in September 2016
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed this framework in November 2024



Recently signed banking agreements

- **PNB MetLife** has partnered with **Policybazaar** to launch the **PNB MetLife** Smart Invest Pension Plan, a Unit-Linked, Non-Participating Individual Pension Plan, designed to help individuals plan for their golden years
- **Finvasia** Partners with **YES Bank** Launched AI-Driven Super App '**Jumpp**' to simplify personal finance
- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (**CCL**) 2025
- **BHIM**, India's digital payments app powered by NPCI BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL), has joined The FinTech Yatra 2025 as a Principal Partner
- RBL Bank and Piramal Finance have announced a co-lending partnership aimed at offering loans to middle- and low-income borrowers in rural and semi-urban areas
- **IPPB** and **PNB** MetLife India Insurance Company Limited formed a bancassurance cooperation to provide access to life insurance solutions in India.
- **SBI** Payments has teamed with Pine Labs to improve India's digital payments ecosystem, combining the expertise of SBI Payments, a joint venture between the State Bank of India and **Hitachi Payment** Services, and Pine Labs.
- PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) has teamed with Chennai-based Truhome Finance (previously Shriram Housing Finance Limited) to provide Group Credit Life insurance to their home loan customers.
- **HDFC** Life Insurance Company Limited has formed a corporate agency partnership with **CARS24** Financial Services Private Limited. This partnership will enable CARS24 Financial Services to offer HDFC Life products to current and new customers.
- Hitachi Payment Services has teamed with IvyCamp, IvyCap Ventures' worldwide alumni-based engagement effort, to drive fintech innovation through the Hitachi Payments Accelerator (**HPX**) program.
- Bajaj Finance has partnered with Bharti Airtel to develop a digital platform for financial services.
- 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.





Ques : Which NBFC Factor became India's first RBI-registered company to partner with Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for GeM Sahay 2.0?

कौन सी NBFC फैक्टर GeM सहाय 2.0 के लिए सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) के साथ साझेदारी करने वाली भारत की पहली RBI-पंजीकृत कंपनी बन गई?

- (a) Bajaj Finserv / बजाज फिनसर्व
- (b) 121 Finance Private Limited / 121 फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
- (c) Muthoot Finance / मुथूट फाइनेंस
- (d) Shriram Finance / श्रीराम फाइनेंस
- (e) Mahindra Finance / महिंद्रा फाइनेंस

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- 121 Finance Private Limited, India's 1st Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) registered Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) Factor partnered with Government e-Marketplace (**GeM**) along with Perfios Software Solutions Private Limited and Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) developed **GeM Sahay 2.0**
- **GeM Sahay 2.0** aims to enhance financial inclusion by making the platform more accessible and effective for **MSMEs** while ensuring a seamless experience for lenders.
- This collaboration designs specialized loan products with small ticket sizes, serving as key partners in the Open Credit Enablement Network (**OCEN**) framework.

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Ques : What is the proposed increase in the transaction fee for exceeding the five free transactions?

पांच मुफ्त लेनदेन से अधिक के लिए लेनदेन शुल्क में प्रस्तावित वृद्धि क्या है?

- (a) Rs 20 to Rs 21
- (b) Rs 21 to Rs 22
- (c) Rs 22 to Rs 23
- (d) Rs 18 to Rs 20
- (e) Rs 19 to Rs 21

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The **NPCI** has recommended increasing **ATM** interchange fees for both cash and non-cash transactions.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) proposes increasing the maximum price for consumers who exceed five free transactions from Rs 21 to 22.
- NPCI plans to raise further costs. They propose raising the ATM interchange fee for cash withdrawals from Rs 17 to Rs 19, and non-cash transactions from Rs 6 to Rs 7.
- ATM interchange rates were last revised in August 2012, with consumer charges updated in August 2014.

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Ques : Which country tops 2025 list of the world's 10 most powerful countries Published by Forbes ?

फोर्ब्स द्वारा प्रकाशित विश्व के 10 सबसे शक्तिशाली देशों की 2025 की सूची में कौन सा देश शीर्ष पर है?

- (a) United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
- (b) China / चीन
- (c) India / भारत
- (d) Japan / जापान
- (e) Russia / रूस

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- 2025 list of the world's 10 most powerful countries Published by Forbes
- Forbes has issued its 2025 list of the world's ten most powerful countries, with the US ranked first and China in second.
- As of February 2025, India ranks 12th among the world's most powerful countries.
- India's exclusion from the ranking, despite its vast population, fourth-largest military, and fifth-largest economy, has aroused criticism.

Ranking of top countries :

- 1. United States (GDP : \$30.34 trillion)**
- 2. China (GDP : \$19.53 trillion)**
- 3. Russia (GDP : \$2.2 trillion)**
- 4. United Kingdom (GDP : \$3.73 trillion)**
- 5. Germany (GDP : \$4.92 trillion)**
- 6. South Korea (GDP : \$1.95 trillion)**
- 7. France (GDP : \$3.28 trillion)**
- 8. Japan (GDP : \$4.39 trillion)**
- 9. Saudi Arabia (GDP : \$1.14 trillion)**
- 10. Israel (GDP : \$550.91 billion)**



India's Rankings in Different Indices

- **Forbes “50 Over 50” Women Global list 2025 1st Edition Published by Forbes :** Quarraisha Abdool Karim (top)(South Africa), **Urmila Asher** (3rd) (India)
- **World’s Billionaires List 2025 Published by Forbes :** **Elon Musk** (top), **Mukesh Ambani** (9th)
- **World University Rankings by Subject 2025 Published by Times Higher Education (THE) :** Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**) in Bengaluru, Karnataka (96th), University of Oxford (UK) (1st)
- **Global Firepower Index 2025 Published by Globalfirepower.com :** India (4th), US (top)
- **Global 500 2025 report 19th Edition Published by Brand Finance :** Apple (top), Tata Group (15th)
- **World Future Skills Index 2025 Published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) :** India (25th), USA (top)
- **HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024 Published by Hurun :** Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft (Top)
- **Annual India Fintech Report 2024 Published by Tracxn Technologies Limited :** India (3rd), United States of America (USA) (1st)
- **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)



Ques : The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) scheme launched in which year budget ?

प्रधान मंत्री अनुसंधान फेलोशिप (पीएमआरएफ) योजना किस वर्ष के बजट में शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) 2016 - 2017
- (b) 2017 - 2018
- (c) 2018 - 2019
- (d) 2019 - 2020
- (e) 2020 - 2021

Answer : option C

Explanation :

- The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (**PMRF**) scheme, which supports brilliant students conducting doctorate research in India, has got a significant boost in Budget 2025.
- FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** has stated that 10,000 additional fellowships will be awarded in the next five years.
- The **PMRF** plan, which was introduced in Budget 2018-19, offers direct admission to PhD studies at **IITs, IISc, and IISERs**, as well as substantial financial support.
- The PMRF initiative has recently been expanded to cover eligible students from all recognised Indian institutes and universities. Additionally, students doing MTech at **AICTE**-approved and centrally supported technical institutions (**CFTIs**) earn a monthly stipend of Rs 12,400.

Fellowship Amount Under PMRF :

Selected scholars get a monthly stipend of Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000, as well as a Rs 2 lakh research grant per year (up to Rs 10 lakh over five years). The annual fellowship arrangement is as follows :

- First Year – Rs 70,000 per month
- Second Year – Rs 70,000 per month
- Third Year – Rs 75,000 per month
- Fourth Year – Rs 80,000 per month
- Fifth Year – Rs 80,000 per month



Ques : Which Indian quick commerce startup became the world's second most downloaded mobile app in the food and drinks category in 2024?

कौन सा भारतीय त्वरित वाणिज्य स्टार्टअप 2024 में खाद्य और पेय श्रेणी में दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे अधिक डाउनलोड किया जाने वाला मोबाइल ऐप बन गया?

- (a) Swiggy / स्विगी
- (b) Zomato / ज़ोमैटो
- (c) Zepto / ज़ेप्टो
- (d) Blinkit / ब्लिंकिट
- (e) Instamart / इंस्टामार्ट

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Zepto**, an Indian rapid commerce startup, became the world's second most downloaded mobile app in the foods and beverages sector last year, according to Sensor Tower statistics.
- **McDonald's**, the US fast food chain, received the most downloads. Zepto's competitor, **Blinkit**, was the tenth most downloaded app in the category.
- Other Indian firms in the category included food and grocery delivery company Zomato (number five) and its competitor **Swiggy** (number nine).
- The category also covered fast food and quick casual restaurants, restaurant ordering and delivery, other food delivery services, dining and listing, reviews and bookings, and dining and restaurant applications.

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Ques : Technology Hub (T-Hub) established in which year ?

टेक्नोलॉजी हब (टी-हब) की स्थापना किस वर्ष में हुई?

- (a) 2013
- (b) 2014
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2016
- (e) 2017

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Technology Hub (**T-Hub**) & Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association (**ITFA**) sign **MOU** to strengthen collaboration between the innovation ecosystems of both countries, as they emerge as global leaders in economy and technology.
- It is Signed during **ITFA's** inaugural event at the Hyderabad Turkish Consulate General in Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad, Telangana
- In 2024, bilateral trade between India and Republic of Turkiye reached USD 13 billion, with both governments setting a midterm target of USD 20 billion

About Technology Hub (T-Hub) :

- **Established** : 2015
- **HQ** : Hyderabad, Telangana
- **Interim CEO** : Sujit Jagridar

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Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement :

- Air India and Kenya Airways Limited signed a Codeshare agreement to expand its network and offer more travel options for passengers.
- Government of Tripura and Digital India Bhashini Division (**DIBD**) of MeitY signed an MOU to increase the usage of the rich regional languages of Tripura and to facilitate citizen's digital participation by using these languages in governance
- **Thomas Cook** (India), an omnichannel travel organization, has partnered with the national government to provide housing, food, and transportation services for the National Games of India 2025, which will be hosted in Uttarakhand
- **KPI Green Energy** Limited has inked an agreement with Coal India Limited to create a 300 MW AC grid-connected solar PV facility in Gujarat's Khavda district. The Rs.1,311.40 crore project will be installed in **GIPCL's Solar Park** and include 5 years of operation and maintenance services
- **Elon Musk's** social networking platform **X** is cooperating with Visa to launch a real-time payment system, a step toward transforming the platform into a "**everything app.**" Visa was named as the first partner for the platform's planned "**X Money Account**" service
- India and Oman signed a protocol to alter their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (**DTAA**) and agreed to expedite negotiations for the early signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (**CEPA**).
- The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**), a Scientific Society under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an umbrella MoU to advance technological innovation and excellence in India's maritime sector
- The **JSW** Group, led by Sajjan Jindal, has inked an MoU with the Odisha government to build a 5-million-tonne steel facility in Keonjhar district.
- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Foundation Signed MoU to provide digital skills to one lakh individuals with an aim to reduce the issue of digital divide.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bhaane Group, a subsidiary of Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd, the largest garment producer





Ques : Who inaugurated the NSDC International Academy at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh?

उत्तर प्रदेश के ग्रेटर नोएडा में NSDC अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अकादमी का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Dharmendra Pradhan / धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान
- (b) Rajeev Chandrasekhar / राजीव चन्द्रशेखर
- (c) Jayant Chaudhary / जयंत चौधरी
- (d) Smriti Irani / स्मृति ईरानी
- (e) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Jayant Chaudhary**, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**), and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, opened the **NSDC** International Academy in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The academy is a cutting-edge facility dedicated to providing world-class skill development and training programmes.
- With a goal of teaching approximately 1,000 applicants per year, the NSDC International Academy is dedicated to meeting the needs of both local and international job markets.
- With residential facilities that can accommodate up to 500 candidates, the NSDC International Academy provides an immersive learning atmosphere that fosters both academic and personal development.

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Recent Headlines Related to Inauguration :

- The **Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha** (BAPS) has inaugurated South Africa's largest Hindu temple in Johannesburg
- **Sarala Aviation**, a Bengaluru-based startup, showcased its prototype air taxi, Shunya, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo.
- Archaeological Experiential Museum Inaugurated by Union Ministry of Culture and the Gujarat State Government at **Vadnagar**.
- 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.

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Ques : Simona Halep, a two-time grand slam champion and former world number one, has retired from tennis. In what year did Simona Halep win her first Grand Slam title?

दो बार की ग्रैंड स्लैम चैंपियन और पूर्व विश्व नंबर एक सिमोना हालेप ने टेनिस से संन्यास ले लिया है। सिमोना हालेप ने अपना पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब किस वर्ष जीता था?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2021

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Simona Halep, a two-time grand slam champion and former world number one, has retired from tennis.
- The Romanian made her choice at the Transylvania Open in Cluj, Romania, after losing her first-round match to Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-1.
- Halep has struggled with ailments since returning to the court last year after a drug suspension.
- The 33-year-old received a four-year ban in September 2023 after testing positive for the prohibited drug Roxadustat at the 2022 US Open.
- She won her first major slam at the French Open in 2018, and then her second at Wimbledon in 2019.

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Recently Retired Players :

- **Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh)** : Retirement from international cricket
- **Varun Aaron (India)** : Retirement from all kinds of cricket
- **Martin Gupthill (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

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Ques : The government will establish a second Gene Bank with how many germplasm lines in order to safeguard genetic resources while also ensuring food and nutritional security ?

सरकार खाद्य और पोषण सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के साथ-साथ आनुवंशिक संसाधनों की सुरक्षा के लिए कितनी जर्मप्लाज्म लाइनों के साथ दूसरा जीन बैंक स्थापित करेगी?

- (a) 8 Lakh
- (b) 10 Lakh
- (c) 12 Lakh
- (d) 14 Lakh
- (e) 16 Lakh

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The government will establish a second Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines in order to safeguard genetic resources while also ensuring food and nutritional security.
- This aims to help the public and private sectors conserve genetic resources while also ensuring future food and nutritional security.
- A gene bank collects and maintains genetic material such as seeds, tissues, and **DNA** samples from various plant and animal species.
- Established in 1972, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**) Genebank is a well-known institution dedicated to the preservation and protection of crop genetic resources.
- **ICRISAT** Genebank is an important institution that protects the genetic diversity of 11 critical crops, including millet, chickpea, pigeon pea, and groundnut. It has facilities in India, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Kenya.
- In 2019, **ICRISAT** established the world's first gene bank in Hyderabad, powered solely by solar energy.





Ques : Where is the headquarter of Economic Community of West African States ?
पश्चिमी अफ्रीकी राज्यों के आर्थिक समुदाय का मुख्यालय कहाँ है?

- (a) Nigeria / नाइजीरिया
- (b) Ethiopia / इथियोपिया
- (c) Ghana / घाना
- (d) Niger / नाइजर
- (e) Kenya / केन्या

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso have officially withdrawn from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) due to long-standing disagreements.
- The group encouraged its remaining 12 members to continue honoring passports and commercial agreements with the exiting nations.
- The three nations accused ECOWAS of failing to safeguard member states and cooperating with foreign powers.
- They formed the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and deepened connections with Russia, Turkey, and Iran for security and geopolitical reasons.

About Economic Community of West African States :

- **Established** : 1975
- **HQ** : Abuja, Nigeria
- **Chairman** : Bola Ahmed Tinubu
- **President** : Omar Touray





Ques : Who won the Allan Border Medal at the 2025 Australian Cricket Awards?
2025 ऑस्ट्रेलियाई क्रिकेट पुरस्कार में एलन बॉर्डर मेडल किसने जीता?

- A) Steve Smith / स्टीव स्मिथ
- B) Pat Cummins / पैट कमिंस
- C) Marnus Labuschagne / मार्नस लाबुशेन
- D) Travis Head / ट्रैविस हेड
- E) David Warner / डेविड वार्नर

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The 2025 Australian Cricket Awards witnessed a night of celebration as Travis Head emerged as the standout performer, claiming his maiden Allan Border Medal.

2025 Australian Cricket Awards :

- **Allan Border Medal Winner :** Travis Head
- **Men's ODI Player of the Year :** Travis Head
- **Shane Warne Test Player of the Year :** Josh Hazlewood
- **BBL Player of the Tournament :** Glenn Maxwell & Cooper Connolly
- **WBBL Player of the Tournament :** Ellyse Perry & Jess Jonassen
- **Women's Test Performances :** Annabel Sutherland
- **Women's ODI Player of the Year :** Ashleigh Gardner
- **Women's T20I Player of the Year :** Beth Mooney
- **Men's T20I Player of the Year :** Adam Zampa
- **Belinda Clark Award Winner :** Annabel Sutherland





Recent News headlines related to Sports

- **Suruchi** of Haryana wins gold in the women's 10 metre air pistol at the 38th National Games with a score of 245.7
- The government has accepted the Indian contingent's participation in the 9th Asian Winter Games 2025, which will be held in Harbin, China, from February 7th to 14th. An 88-member Indian contingent, consisting of 59 athletes and 29 team officials, will compete
- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** clinched the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title in a thrilling showdown, defeating reigning World Champion **D. Gukesh** in a nail-biting tiebreaker last night at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands
- **Shrachi Rarh** Bengal Tigers won the 6th Men's Hockey India League 2024-25 title, defeating Hyderabad Toofans 4-3 in a thrilling final at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha
- The official logo and mascot for the 23rd National Para Athletics Championship, scheduled for February 17-20, 2025, were launched recently in Chennai.
- India successfully defended their **ICC** Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title, defeating South Africa by nine wickets in the final at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Manush Shah** and **Diya Chitale** won the men's and women's singles titles at the Senior National Table Tennis Championships 2025, held at the Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium in Surat, Gujarat
- Australia was presented with the **ICC** Women's Championship trophy after winning the elite 10-team competition, which qualified them for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in 2025
- The Odisha Warriors Club won the inaugural Women's Hockey India League 2024-25 title by defeating Soorma Hockey Club 2-1 in the final at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi
- The 38th National Games will be held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, during its Silver Jubilee year, with events taking place in 11 cities across 8 districts from January 28th to February 14th
- Indian Grandmaster **Iniyen Panneerselvam** showcased an exceptional performance to win the 9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament in Malaysia. Indian IM VS Raahul and Chinese IM Li Bo finished second and third respectively





IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

President **Donald Trump** issued an executive order withdrawing the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (**UNHRC**) and blocking future funding for the UN organization for Palestinian refugees. President Trump also requested that the United States reconsider its participation in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).

Shashank Anand Appointed as Inspector general (**IG**) of the Border Security Force of strategic Jammu sector. He Replaced DK Boora.

Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (**TROPEX-2025**) 16th Edition Held at Indian Ocean Region (IOR) between Indian Navy (**IN**), the Indian Army (**IA**), and the Indian Air Force(**IAF**). It is Started in 2005 and held in Every two years.

The University of Sussex has conferred an honorary doctorate upon Noel Tata, a distinguished business leader within the Tata Group and a proud alumnus of the University.

U.S. President **Donald Trump** issued an executive order imposing significant taxes on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China. The US placed 10% tariffs on all Chinese goods and 25% on those from Mexico and Canada. Energy imports from Canada, such as oil, natural gas, and electricity, were subject to 10% tariff.

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महत्वपूर्ण एक-पंक्ति करंट अफेयर्स

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद (यूएनएचआरसी) से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को वापस लेने और फिलिस्तीनी शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र संगठन के भविष्य के वित्त पोषण को रोकने के लिए एक कार्यकारी आदेश जारी किया। राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प ने यह भी अनुरोध किया कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका संयुक्त राष्ट्र शैक्षिक, वैज्ञानिक और सांस्कृतिक संगठन (यूनेस्को) में अपनी भागीदारी पर पुनर्विचार करे।

शशांक आनंद को रणनीतिक जम्मू क्षेत्र के सीमा सुरक्षा बल के महानिरीक्षक (आईजी) के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया। उन्होंने डीके बूरा का स्थान लिया।

थिएटर लेवल ऑपरेशनल रेडीनेस एक्सरसाइज (**TROPEX-2025**) का 16वां संस्करण भारतीय नौसेना (**IN**), भारतीय सेना (**IA**) और भारतीय वायु सेना (**IAF**) के बीच हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (**IOR**) में आयोजित किया गया। इसकी शुरुआत 2005 में हुई और हर दो साल में आयोजित की जाती है।

ससेक्स विश्वविद्यालय ने टाटा समूह के एक प्रतिष्ठित बिजनेस लीडर और विश्वविद्यालय के गौरवान्वित पूर्व छात्र नोएल टाटा को मानद डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि से सम्मानित किया है।

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने मेक्सिको, कनाडा और चीन से आयात पर महत्वपूर्ण कर लगाने का एक कार्यकारी आदेश जारी किया। अमेरिका ने सभी चीनी सामानों पर 10% और मेक्सिको और कनाडा से आने वाले सामानों पर 25% टैरिफ लगाया। कनाडा से ऊर्जा आयात, जैसे तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस और बिजली, 10% टैरिफ के अधीन थे।

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