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Ques : India Post Payments Bank Limited (IPPB) and which Insurance Company entered into a bancassurance partnership ?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**
- (b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance**
- (d) TATA AIG General Insurance Company**
- (e) PNB MetLife India Insurance**

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- IPPB and PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited formed a bancassurance cooperation to provide access to life insurance solutions in India.
- This agreement brings together PNB MetLife's life insurance products with IPPB's 650 banking outlets and 110 million customers.

About India Post Payments Bank Limited (IPPB) :

- **Established : 2017**
- **HQ : New Delhi, Delhi**
- **CEO & MD : R. Viswesvaran**
- **Tagline : Your Bank at Your Doorstep**

About PNB MetLife India :

- **Established : 2001**
- **HQ : Mumbai**
- **CEO & MD : Sameer Bansal**





Recently signed banking agreements

- 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.
- 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.





Ques : Which fintech company has become the first to launch a beta version of its e-rupee wallet for transactions using India's CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency)?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) PhonePe
- (c) Google Pay
- (d) CRED
- (e) Razorpay

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- CRED has become the first fintech startup to introduce a beta version of its e-rupee wallet, which allows for transactions using India's central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- This project builds on the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) plan to widen access to CBDC-Retail by allowing non-bank payment system operators to support digital currency transactions.
- The e-rupee wallet is intended to improve financial inclusion and streamline digital payments in India.
- Yes Bank will be the first sponsor bank to provide CBDC issuing for a third-party application provider such as CRED.
- CRED's e-rupee wallet allows transactions up to Rs.10,000 per transfer, with a daily transaction limit of Rs.50,000 and storage capacity of Rs 1 lakh. These will be fee-free merchant transactions.
- Future improvements will include programmable merchant payments, CRED Pay integration, and PIN-less transactions under Rs.500 for all CRED members in the coming months.
- Founder of CRED - Kunal Shah





Ques : Which digital wallet provider has launched the full production version of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-rupee wallet?

- (a) PhonePe
- (b) Paytm
- (c) Google Pay
- (d) CRED
- (e) MobiKwik

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- **MobiKwik, one of India's leading digital wallet providers, has unveiled a fully operational version of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-rupee wallet in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India and Yes Bank.**
- **All MobiKwik Android users now have access to the e-rupee wallet, which allows for smooth peer-to-peer (P2P) and peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. The wallet is fully UPI compatible, so users may make payments by scanning any UPI QR code.**
- **Existing MobiKwik users who have completed the Know Your Customer (KYC) process can quickly open an e-rupee wallet and transfer funds from their bank accounts.**
- **To gain access to the functionality, new customers must first pass a video KYC process.**
- **The wallet supports transactions worth up to Rs 50,000 per day, with a single-transaction limit of Rs 10,000. It accepts denominations ranging from Rs 0.50 to 500.**





Ques : Who clinched the women's singles title at the Senior National Table Tennis Championships 2025?

- (a) Sreeja Akula
- (b) Diya Chitale
- (c) Manika Batra
- (d) Archana Kamath
- (e) Ayhika Mukherjee

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- 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.
- The men's singles table tennis final saw Manush Shah defeat Payas Jain 4-1 (10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 12-10, 11-8).
- Diya Chitale defeated two-time national champion Sreeja Akula in the women's final, 4-3 (10-12, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9).

Championships 2025 winners list :

- Men's singles : Manush Shah
- Women's singles : Diya Chitale
- Men's doubles : Abhinandh and S. Preyesh Raj
- Women's doubles : Sreeja Akula and Diya Chitale
- Mixed doubles : Akash Pal and Poymantee Baisya





Recent News headlines related to Sports

- 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
- Jyothi Yarraji of India smashed her own national record to win gold in the women's 60m indoor hurdles at the Meeting de Nantes Métropole 2025 in France.
- ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year is Arshdeep Singh (IND) and ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year is Amelia Kerr (NZL)
- Jannik Sinner of Italy and Madison Keys of the United States won the men's and women's singles titles at the 2025 Australian Open Grand Slam Tennis Tournament, respectively.
- The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a 14-member India squad for the 4th Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, which will be held in Qingdao, China.
- India will host the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, its first big international tournament since the 2022 Chennai Chess Olympiad.
- The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 kicked off at the renowned NDS Stadium in Leh, Ladakh, with much excitement
- Eritrea's Berhane Tesfay and Kenya's Joyce Chepkemoi Tele won the men's and women's elite races, respectively, at the Mumbai Marathon 2025.
- Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young won the men's and women's singles titles, respectively, with lopsided victories in the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament in New Delhi.
- The inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in New Delhi concluded on a historic note, with India winning both the men's and women's titles in dramatic manner.
- Karnataka defeated Vidarbha by 36 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT) 2024-25 final at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara. This is Karnataka's fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title win





Ques : Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)?

- (a) Rakesh Asthana
- (b) Arvind Kumar
- (c) Subodh Jaiswal
- (d) Rajesh Nirwan
- (e) S.N. Shrivastava

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Ministry of Civil Aviation's recommendation to nominate Rajesh Nirwan, a senior IPS officer, as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) within the Ministry.
- Rajesh Nirwan, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1992 Rajasthan cadre, offers vast experience and competence to his current position.
- BCAS, which operates under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is in charge of safeguarding the security of civil aviation operations in India.
- The Bureau is critical to maintaining and improving aviation security standards in accordance with international conventions, hence protecting civil aviation operations from unauthorized intervention.

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Recent Appointment in different departments :

- **Deshnee Naidoo** : first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL)
- **Hisashi Takeuchi** : Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maruti Suzuki India
- **Janet Petro** : 15th Acting NASA administrator (Replaced 14th NASA administrator, Bill Nelson)
- **Jay Shah** : Board member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Advisory Board
- **Neeraj Parakh** : Chief Executive Officer of Reliance Power
- **Dhananjay Shukla** : President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)
- **Robert Jerard Ravi** : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** : Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court (Replaced Justice Vibhu Bakhru)
- **Justice Alok Aradhe** : Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court (Replaced Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya)
- **Marco Rubio** : 72nd US Secretary of State
- **Nripendra Mishra** : Chairperson of Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society
- **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)





Ques : Who is the Chairman of the Group of Ministers set up to address issues related to the viability of electricity distribution utilities in India?

- (a) Raj Kumar Singh
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Nitin Gadkari
- (d) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (e) Shripad Yesso Naik

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- The Government of India has formed a Group of Ministers to address concerns about the viability of the country's power distribution utilities.
- Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Power, New and Renewable Energy, chairs the Group of Ministers.

The Group of Ministers will study and provide suggestions to the government on the following issues :

- Analyze the debt of electricity distribution boards in significant Indian states.
- Identify states in urgent need of liquidity support (cash) and propose a fiscal discipline program to help them avoid a debt trap.
- Suggest ways to strengthen the overall health of the power distribution sector in order to attract additional investment from private participants.
- Determine which parameters should be examined to ensure that power distribution utilities' borrowings are productive.
- Recommend principles for investment programs that include capital expenditures aimed at overall improvement.





Ques : Which two countries signed a protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)?

- (a) India and Oman
- (b) India and Saudi Arabia
- (c) India and UAE
- (d) India and Qatar
- (e) India and Bahrain

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- 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 pact to revise the DTAA to match it with worldwide cross-border taxation norms, simplify tax procedures, and promote greater tax cooperation was signed on the margins of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to Muscat.
- In 1997, both countries signed the DTAA agreement. The modifications could help commerce, which is projected to rise once the CEPA between the two sides is finalized.
- During the visit, Goyal co-chaired the 11th session of the India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with the Sultanate of Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef.

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Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement :

- 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
- NTPC Limited and Ceylon Electricity Board of Sri Lanka signed MoU to develop a 50 Megawatt (MW) (extendable to 120 MW) solar project in Sampoor, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- JSW Group and Maharashtra government Signed MOU to invest Rs.3 lakh crore across various sectors in Maharashtra, including in the naxal-infested Gadchiroli. The commitment aligns with Maharashtra's 'Green Maharashtra' mission.
- DPIIT and Apna platform have formed an alliance to conduct a talent search to provide DPIIT-registered startups with highly skilled personnel, thereby creating new job opportunities for unemployed youth.
- The Government of Odisha's Electronics and IT Department and Singapore's Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) have signed a MOU to establish a Global Competency Centre in Bhubaneshwar to foster FinTech collaboration, with a focus on developing inclusive and sustainable InsureTech and related areas.
- International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the Adani Group Collaborate to ensure that nearly one lakh people are provided with nutritious meals daily during the 45-day spiritual gathering at Maha Kumbh Mela. ISKCON has set up a large-scale kitchen at Harshvardhan Marg.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty for 20 years at Moscow. The agreement seeks to enhance trade and economic ties, with bilateral trade having risen by 15.5% to \$3.77 billion between January and October 2024





Ques : Which state government has launched the four welfare schemes of his government- Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, Indiramma Indlu, and new ration cards on the occasion of the Republic Day

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

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- On Republic Day, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy introduced his government's four welfare schemes--Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, Indiramma Indlu, and new ration cards.
- Chief Minister Reddy announced the initiative in Chandravanch village, Narayanpet district.

About the schemes :

- Rythu Bharosa : Eligible farmers would receive cash support of Rs. 12,000 per acre of arable land. The funds will be credited to the farmer's bank account.
- Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa : Financial assistance of Rs. 12,000 per year would be provided to landless agricultural labour families.
- Indiramma Indlu : housing initiative for homeless Dalits, Tribals, and Backward Classes. They would receive Rs 5 lakh in financial support to build their homes. The government has set an aim of constructing 4,50,000 dwellings by 2024-2025, with a budget of Rs 22,500 crore.





Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The MoF announced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) as an option for central government employees who are already covered by the National Pension System (NPS).
- The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, has been providing financial security to India's girl children for ten years.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has launched the 'Deendayal Upadhyay Bhoomiheen Krishi Majdoor Kalyana Yojana' in Raipur. Under this initiative, more than 5.62 lakh landless agricultural workers, Baigas, and Gunias in the state will receive Rs 10,000 each year.
- PARTH Yojana (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar) Launched by Madhya Pradesh To prepare youth for recruitment into Indian Army, Police, ParaMilitary forces, and related services.
- Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister of Odisha announced Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme with a budget of Rs 156 crore to support tribal students. Its aims is to reduce dropout rates and increase students' interest in education.
- PLI scheme for Specialty Steel, termed as PLI Scheme 1.1 Launched by Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi. It is launched for the Period of FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30.
- The Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) has developed a flagship initiative named 'Faral Sakhi' to encourage women entrepreneurs in the city of Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme until 2025-26, with a total budget of Rs.69,515.71 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Income Tax Department has extended the deadline for the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024, offering taxpayers another chance to resolve disputes at lower tax rates. The extended new date is January 31, 2025.
- The Haryana government has agreed to enhance the maximum amount of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity for state government employees by 25%.
- Government of India (GoI) sanctioned Rs. 4388 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme to solarize agriculture for states across India.





Ques : Which branch of the Indian Armed Forces does Shubhanshu Shukla belong to?

- (a) Indian Army**
- (b) Indian Navy**
- c) Indian Air Force**
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- (e) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission.
- Shukla will fly on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida as part of NASA's Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), a collaborative effort with ISRO.
- Shukla was born on October 10, 1985, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF) Fighter Wing in 2006 and received astronaut training in Moscow in 2019.
- Peggy Whitson, a former NASA astronaut, will command the Ax-4 mission. Shukla will pilot the team, alongside mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski (Poland) and Tibor Kapu (Hungary).
- The crew will stay on the ISS for up to 14 days, undertaking scientific investigations, educational outreach, and commercial operations with NASA and ISRO.
- The Ax-4 project marks the first collaboration between India, Poland, and Hungary in space, with Poland and Hungary returning to human spaceflight after more than 40 years.





Ques : Which Indian company has become the first to develop pipes for transporting hydrogen?

- (a) Reliance Industries**
- (b) Tata Steel**
- (c) JSW Steel**
- (d) Hindalco**
- (e) Essar Steel**

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **Tata Steel has become the first Indian company to manufacture hydrogen transportation pipes, helping India achieve its sustainable energy aspirations.**
- **The company's hydrogen-compliant API X65 pipes were manufactured at Tata Steel's Khopoli factory utilizing steel from its Kalinganagar facility.**
- **Tata Steel oversaw the whole production process, from designing and manufacturing hot-rolled steel to making the finished hydrogen transit pipes.**
- **India expects to create at least 5 MMT of green hydrogen per year by 2030, with the potential to increase to 10 MMT per year, necessitating modern transportation infrastructure such as Tata Steel's pipes.**

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Recent News Headlines Related to First in India and World :

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched India's first fully integrated disaster warning system, KaWaCHaM (Kerala Warnings, Crisis and Hazard Management System).
- The Uttarakhand cabinet has cleared the norms and regulations for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which would be implemented within the next 10 days. first state to adopt UCC since independence.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, India's Science and Technology Minister, dedicated India's first-ever CSIR Innovation Complex in Mumbai via virtual mode.
- 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.
- The Department of Science and Technology, Union Ministry of Science and Technology, has inaugurated the first astronomical observatory in Eastern India and the sixth in the country, located on Panchet Hill in the Garpanchkot area of Purulia district in West Bengal.
- On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka established the country's first Hindi Certificate Course through open and distant learning.
- On New Year's Day, January 1, 2025, India welcomed its first 'Generation Beta' baby in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Noble Hospitals and Research Centre in Pune, Maharashtra has installed the first made-in-India surgical robot, the SSI Mantra (Multi-Arm Novel Tele Robotic Assistance).
- 'Nadi Tarangini', an indigenously designed pulse diagnostic instrument, has been India's first Ayurvedic medical device to be approved for use by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- The Gujarat government will conduct the country's first census of coastal and wader birds in the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar.
- In a first, Chhattisgarh state has devised an innovative concept that combines forest ecosystem services with Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP).
- Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu's famed tourist resort, has added another pearl to its crown. India's first glass bridge across the sea was inaugurated.





- Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport in Indore has been officially declared India's first Zero-Waste Airport.
- Uttarakhand has recently inaugurated its first wine production unit in Kotdwar, which is part of the government's new excise policy aimed at promoting wine tourism
- The Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann, approved the Punjab State (Development and Promotion of Sports) Act, 2024, making it the first state in the country to do so.



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Ques : Which state government has launched the Chief Minister Mobile Operation Theatre on the occasion of the 76th Republic Day celebration ?

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Chhattisgarh

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Nagaland Governor La Ganesan has unveiled the Chief Minister Mobile Operation Theatre in Kohima, the state capital, to commemorate the 76th Republic Day celebration.
- The state government seeks to provide sophisticated surgical and healthcare facilities in the state's remote and rural districts.
- The Mobile Operation Theatre, which will be located in a customized van, will be administered by doctors from Kohima hospitals, as well as private hospital doctors.
- The Mobile Operation Theatre is supplied with an advanced mobile surgical unit, portable diagnostic tools like ultrasound, X-ray, endoscopy, and blood testing equipment, as well as instruments for minimally invasive surgeries.

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Ques : Who is heading the three-member judicial committee set up to inquire into the stampede incident at Maha Kumbh 2025?

- (a) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud**
- (b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi**
- (c) Justice Harsh Kumar**
- (d) Justice U.U. Lalit**
- (e) Justice N.V. Ramana**

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The Uttar Pradesh administration of Yogi Adityanath has formed a three-member judicial committee, led by former Allahabad High Court Justice Harsh Kumar, to investigate the stampede disaster at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on January 29, 2025.
- The three-member Inquiry Committee includes Justice (retd.) Harsh Kumar, former Director General of Police V K Gupta, and retired IAS officer D K Singh.
- The commission will investigate the causes and conditions that led to the stampede and recommend actions to prevent similar disasters in the future. The commission must present its report to the Uttar Pradesh government within one month.
- According to the Uttar Pradesh government, 30 persons were murdered and 60 were injured in a pre-dawn stampede at the Maha Kumbh's Sangam region on January 29, 2025, as millions raced to take a sacred dip on the festival of Mauni Amavasya (new moon day).





Ques : How many Vande Bharat Sleeper trainsets will receive traction components and electrical equipment under the contract?

- (a) 11
- (b) 13
- (c) 15
- (d) 17
- (e) 20

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Alstom has received a contract worth €144 million (about ₹1,285 crore) to supply Mitrac traction components and electrical equipment for 17 Vande Bharat Sleeper trainsets (408 cars). The systems will be delivered to the Indian Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- The deal also includes preventative and corrective maintenance of traction and major electric equipment, as well as support services, at various railway depots for a five-year term following the end of the warranty.
- The equipment will be housed in 24-car sleeper trainsets on the Vande Bharat platform. These trainsets are intended to operate at a maximum speed of 180 km/h and a service speed of 160 km/h.

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Ques : Which edition of Forbes “50 Over 50” Women Global list 2025 Published by Forbes ?

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

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- Forbes “50 Over 50” Women Global list 2025 1st Edition Published by Forbes
- Quarraisha Abdool Karim, an expert in infectious disease epidemiology and a leading researcher on HIV and AIDS, is placed first.
- The list includes entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, artists, activists, and other successful individuals.

Ranking of Top 5 Women :

- 1 Quarraisha Abdool Karim : Cofounder and Associate Scientific Director, CAPRISA (Center for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa) (South Africa)
- 2 Rafaela AponteDiamant : Co-owner, MSC (Switzerland)
- 3 Urmila Asher : Founder, Gujju Ben Na Nasta (India)
- 4 Margaret Atwood : Author (Canada)
- 5 Farana Boodhram Founder, MiDesk Global (South Africa)

Top Indian Women in the list :

- 3 Urmila Asher : Founder, Gujju Ben Na Nasta
- 32 Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw : Founder, Biocon India Private limited
- 37 Sheela Patel : Activist and Co-founder, SPARC





India's Rankings in Different Indices

- 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)
- Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) 2025 Published by Times Higher Education (THE) : Anna University in Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) (42nd), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (USA) (top)





Ques : Which team won the ICC Women's Championship trophy for the 2022-25 cycle?

- (a) Australia**
- (b) Russia**
- (c) Japan**
- (d) USA**
- (e) India**

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- 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.
- Mike Baird, Chair of Cricket Australia and ICC Director, presented the trophy to Captain Alyssa Healy on behalf of the International Cricket Council in Melbourne.
- Australia has now won all three editions of the competition, which was established in 2014 to promote the women's game and has helped ensure more women's cricket tours over the last decade.
- Meg Lanning won the trophy the first two times, when it was played between 2014-16 and 2017-20 and featured eight teams: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies. Bangladesh and Ireland were included in the third edition, which ran from 2022 to 2025.
- The top five nations, including hosts India, have qualified directly for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, while the bottom four will compete in a Qualifier.





Ques : When is World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day observed annually?

- (a) 30 January
- (b) 31 January
- (c) 1 February
- (d) 2 February
- (e) 3 February

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day is commemorated every January 30 to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and organize global efforts to eradicate them.
- These diseases impact more than 1.7 billion people globally, primarily in tropical and subtropical areas with limited access to healthcare, clean water, and sanitation.
- Theme 2025: Unite. Act. Eliminate.
- It received official recognition from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021

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Important days :

- 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)
- 20 January : National Penguin Awareness Day
- 21 January : Northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate Statehood Day
- 23 January : Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti, also known as 'Parakram Diwas' or Courage Day
- 24 January : International Day of Education 2025 (Theme 2025 AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation)
- 24 January : National Girl Child Day (Theme 2025: Empowering Girls for a Bright Future)



- 25 January : National Voters' Day 2025 (Theme 2025 Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure)
- 25 January : National Tourism Day (Theme 2025: Tourism for Inclusive Growth)
- 26 January : 76th Republic Day 2025 (Theme 2025 "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development))
- 26 January : International Customs Day (Theme 2025: Customs Delivers on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity)
- 26 January : International Day of Clean Energy 2025 (Theme 2025 Climate Change: The Need for a Global Energy Transition)
- 26 January (last Sunday of January) : World Leprosy Day (Theme 2025: Unite. Act. Eliminate)
- 27 January : International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (Theme 2025 Holocaust remembrance and education for dignity and human rights)
- 27 January : National Geographic Day 2025
- 30 January : Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas

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IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

Receive Money QR Widget Launched by Paytm for Enabling instant payment collection directly from a smartphone's home screen

Karnataka Bank has won awards in six categories at the '20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024', instituted by the Indian Banks' Association, recently.

Nakul Jain Resigned as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL)

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.

Latika Katt, one of India's most prolific and acclaimed sculptors, died at the age of 76. Throughout her five-decade career, she worked with a wide range of mediums, including terracotta, papier-mache, stone, and bronze, and received numerous national and international prizes for her contributions to art.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. (ABHFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital has secured an investment of Rs.830 crore through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

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