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Ques : Where was the 614th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India held?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Thiruvananthapuram
- (d) Ahmedabad
- (e) Mumbai

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The 614th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanjay Malhotra, the Governor of the RBI.
- The Board reviewed the global and domestic economic situation, including current geopolitical developments and financial market challenges.
- It also discussed the Reserve Bank's key activities for the ongoing accounting year 2024-25.
- Additionally, the Board approved the budget of the RBI for the upcoming accounting year 2025-26.

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Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- RBI released a paper titled 'Changing Dynamics of India's Remittances: Insights from the Sixth Round of India's Remittances Survey' in their monthly bulletin
- RBI has approved a revision in ATM interchange fees, which will take effect from May 1. The fee for financial transactions has been increased from Rs.17 to Rs.19, and for non-financial transactions from Rs.6 to Rs.7
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the interest rate for the Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2033 (GOI FRB 2033) as 7.81% per annum for the period from March 22, 2025, to September 21, 2025
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has held its Annual Conference of RBI Ombudsmen in Mumbai. The conference's theme was "Transforming Grievance Redress: The AI Advantage"
- Since mid-January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pumped more than Rs. 5 lakh crore into the banking system through bond purchases, FX swaps, and early-April maturity repos.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed an MoU to promote the use of Indian Rupee (INR) and Mauritian Rupee (MUR) for cross-border transactions
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved BRISKPE as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB) for import and export transactions in India
- The RBI and National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) have started nationwide programs to promote financial literacy
- Kuhoo Finance Private Limited, a fintech platform specializing in student loans, has received a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will shortly produce Rs.100 and Rs.200 banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, with the signature of the newly appointed Governor, Shri Sanjay Malhotra
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the final redemption price for Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) maturing on March 17, 2025, at Rs.8,624 per unit
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been awarded the Digital Transformation Award 2025 by Central Banking, London, UK, for its innovative digital initiatives





Ques : How much does Ribbit Capital aim to raise for its new fund?

- a) \$300 million
- b) \$500 million
- c) \$800 million
- d) \$1 billion
- e) \$1.15 billion

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Ribbit Capital, a San Francisco-based venture firm, is planning to raise \$500 million for a new fund named Ribbit Capital Y.
- The firm has previously backed major fintech startups like CRED, Razorpay, and PhonePe in India, and globally known firms like Nubank and Robinhood.
- This fundraise follows \$800 million raised in 2023 and \$1.15 billion in 2022, but the current fund is smaller due to a global slowdown in fintech investments.
- In 2024, fintech funding fell to \$95.6 billion, indicating a cautious market.
- Despite the slowdown, Ribbit's continued investment shows strong confidence in fintech's future, especially in India, where firms like PhonePe and Groww are preparing for IPOs.

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Ques : What is the new investment threshold set by SEBI for granular disclosures by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)?

- a) Rs.10,000 crore
- b) Rs.20,000 crore
- c) Rs.30,000 crore
- d) Rs.50,000 crore
- e) Rs.75,000 crore

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- SEBI has approved increasing the disclosure threshold for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from Rs.25,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore in equity AUM.
- This move allows SEBI to adapt to market changes without altering the existing concentration rules.
- Now, only FPIs with equity AUM exceeding Rs.50,000 crore will need to provide granular (detailed) disclosures of their stakeholders.
- The aim is to maintain transparency while reducing unnecessary compliance burden for smaller FPIs.
- SEBI also plans to enhance investor awareness in light of recent market volatility and prevent the spread of misinformation by unregistered financial influencers.
- Over 17,000 financial influencers have been acted upon in collaboration with Google and Meta.
- A High-Level Committee (HLC) will be formed to review existing rules on conflicts of interest and disclosures related to property, investments, and liabilities.





Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- SEBI has extended the suspension of derivatives trading in seven agricultural commodities until March 31, 2026
- Paytm Money Limited, a subsidiary of One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), has been registered as a Research Analyst (RA) by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the 2014 Regulations
- The SEBI has reduced the minimum investment requirement for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on the SSE from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,000
- The SEBI introduced Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) to bridge the gap between mutual funds and portfolio management services
- The SEBI has decreased the timescale for completing rights issues from 126 days to 23 days.
- SEBI has collaborated with DigiLocker, a government-backed digital document storage platform, to address the issue of unclaimed assets and enhance investor protection
- SEBI's total income climbed 48% year-on-year to Rs.2,075 crore in 2023-24, owing to higher earnings from fees and subscriptions.
- SEBI, the market regulator, has permitted all non-banking financial businesses (NBFCs), including home finance companies, to participate in security receipts issued by Asset Reconstruction businesses (ARCs), in an effort to encourage investment in the bad loans industry.
- SEBI, the market regulator, has developed a centralized database portal named as Bond Central portal for corporate bonds in an effort to offer a single, reliable source of information on such instruments.

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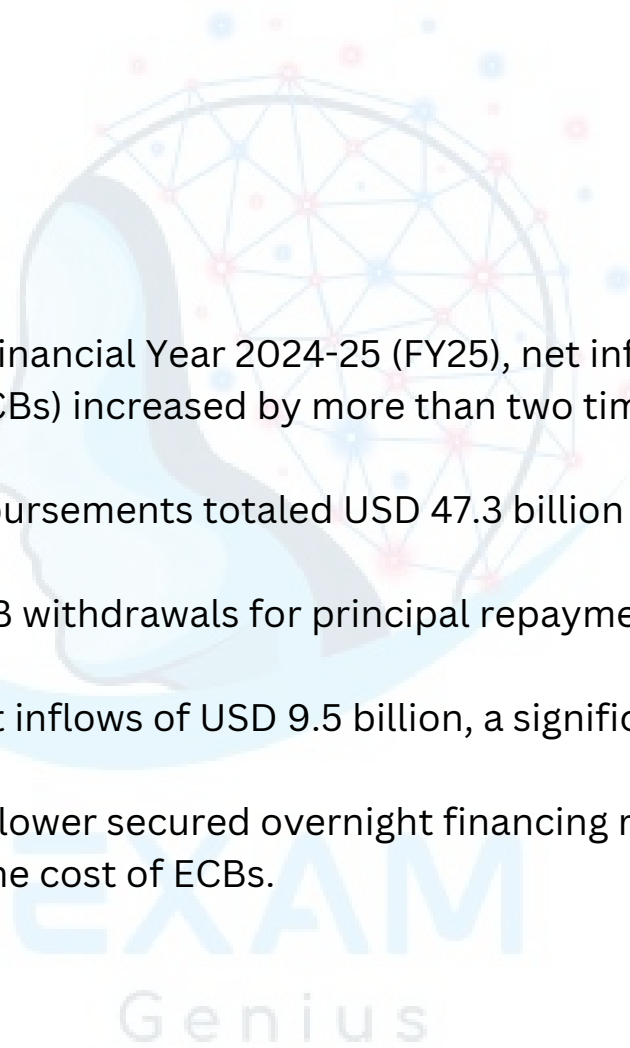
Ques : What was the total net inflow from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) during April 2024 – January 2025?

- a) USD 42.3 billion
- b) USD 23.9 billion
- c) USD 18.4 billion
- d) USD 47.3 billion
- e) USD 9.2 billion

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- During the 10 months of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), net inflows from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) increased by more than two times to USD 18.4 billion compared to FY24.
- ECB registrations and disbursements totaled USD 47.3 billion and 42.3 billion, respectively, in FY25.
- According to RBI data, ECB withdrawals for principal repayments totaled USD 23.9 billion in FY25.
- In FY24, ECBs received net inflows of USD 9.5 billion, a significant increase over FY23 levels.
- The article found that the lower secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) since August 2024 has reduced the cost of ECBs.





Ques : By which year does the IMF predict India will surpass Germany to become the world's third-largest economy?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2026
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2029

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- According to IMF data, India is projected to surpass Japan in 2025 and Germany in 2027, becoming the world's third-largest economy after the USA and China.
- This follows a World Bank report stating India must grow at an average of 7.8% annually to achieve the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal.
- India's real GDP has doubled from \$2.1 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025.
- India recorded a growth rate of 105%, the highest among major economies.
- In comparison, the US grew by 66% and China by 76% in the same period.
- Japan's real GDP remained stagnant at \$4.4 trillion between 2015 and 2025, showing 0% growth.

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Ques : S K Majumdar appointed as new Executive Director for a term of three years of which bank ?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Karnataka Bank
- (c) Bank of baroda
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Bank of Maharashtra

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Canara Bank has appointed S K Majumdar as its new Executive Director for a term of three years.
- Before this, he served as the Chief General Manager and Group Chief Financial Officer (GCFO) at the same bank.
- Majumdar is a chartered accountant and cost accountant with over 25 years of experience in the banking sector.
- His appointment is expected to boost Canara Bank's leadership team and contribute to its goals of innovation, customer focus, and financial strength.

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Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance

Sector :

- Vikram Sahu : Bank of America's head of global equity research
- Rahul Bhawe : Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IFCI Ltd
- Deena Mehta : reappointed as Additional Director in the function of Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank
- Mythili Balasubramanian : Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC)
- Indranil Bhattacharyya : Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Atul Kumar Goel : Chief Executive (CE) of The Indian Banks' Association
- Sumant Kathpalia : reappointment as Managing Director and CEO of Indusind Bank for one year
- Ajit Ratnakar Joshi : Executive Director (ED), in charge of the Department of Statistics and Information Management and the Department of Financial Stability
- Narendra Agrawal : president and head of branch banking and retail liabilities of RBL bank
- T S Pari : chief operating officer (COO) of RBL bank
- Santosh Agarwal : Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paisabazaar (Replaced Naveen Kukreja, co-founder of Paisabazaar)
- Neeraj Tripathi : Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Paisabazaar (Replaced Vivek Audichya)
- Dorababu Daparti : SBI Life Insurance Company's Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey : Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a three-year term
- Shahrukh Todiwala : MD, CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime, a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)
- Prabdev Singh (P.D.) Singh : Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's operation of Standard Chartered of India based in Mumbai (Replaced Zarin Daruwala)



Ques : What is the primary objective of Indonesia joining the BRICS' New Development Bank?

- a) Strengthening military cooperation
- b) Accelerating economic transformation
- c) Reducing trade dependence on ASEAN
- d) Expanding tourism sector
- e) Promoting cryptocurrency adoption

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Indonesia is set to join the New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral financial institution established by BRICS countries.
- The announcement was made during the visit of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.
- Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto emphasized that the move will accelerate Indonesia's economic transformation.
- BRICS currently includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE as additional members.
- Indonesia's entry into NDB is expected to strengthen its global financial engagement and support infrastructure development.

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Ques : What is the new monthly salary of MPs after the recent revision?

- a) Rs.1.00 lakh
- b) Rs.1.10 lakh
- c) Rs.1.24 lakh
- d) Rs.1.50 lakh
- e) Rs.1.75 lakh

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The Government of India has approved a 24% hike in the salaries of Members of Parliament (MPs), increasing it from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.24 lakh per month.
- This revision has been implemented with retrospective effect from 1st April 2023.
- The last revision in MP salaries and allowances took place in April 2018.
- The salaries, allowances, and pensions of MPs are governed by the Salary, Allowances, and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.
- The Act was amended through the Finance Act of 2018, which mandated a revision of salaries every five years starting 1st April 2023.
- The salary revisions are now linked to the Cost Inflation Index (CII) under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Here are the revised MPs' benefits :

- MPs now receive a monthly pay of Rs.1,24,000, up from Rs.1,00,000.
- The daily amount has increased from Rs.2,000 to Rs.2,500.
- Former Parliament members now receive a monthly pension of Rs.31,000, up from the previous Rs.25,000.
- The supplementary pension for every year of service over five years has been enhanced from Rs.2,000 to Rs.2,500 monthly.





Ques : Which Ministry conducted the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDK)?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (e) Ministry of Law and Justice

Answer : option C

Explanation :

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDK) to promote the development of a homegrown web browser under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The competition aimed to encourage innovation and self-reliance in digital technologies.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the winners of the challenge at an event in New Delhi.
- The initiative was managed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Bangalore, Karnataka.
- A total of 434 teams participated in the challenge, which was conducted in three stages – Idea submission, Prototype development, and Final product creation.

The winners are :

- First Prize (Rs 1 crore) : Zoho Corporation
- Second Prize (Rs 75 lakh) : Team PING
- Third Prize (Rs 50 lakh) : Team Ajna
- Special mention : Jio Vishwakarma





Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- 59th Jnanpith Award in 2024 : Vinod Kumar Shukla
- Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog, a distinguished Danish honour : Vijay Sankar, Chairman of the Chennai-based Sanmar Group
- 2025 Stockholm Water Prize : Austrian hydrologist Gunter Blöschl
- Sangita Kalanidhi award 2025 : Renowned violinist R.K. Shriramkumar
- Maharashtra Bhushan : Veteran sculptor Ram Sutar
- 2025 Holberg Prize : Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak
- iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) Award : Atima Corporation Private Limited for developing the VEER Electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (E-TATV)
- Air Service Quality (ASQ) award : Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIAB)
- ACM A.M. Turing Award, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Computing" : Dr. Andrew Barto from the USA and Richard S. Sutton from Canada
- Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use' : Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of Care Earth Trust
- 2026 World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Award : Suman Chakraborty in Engineering and Computer Sciences (CS) for Developing Low-Cost Medical Diagnostic Solutions
- The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean by Mauritius : Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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Ques : Which country did India share the bronze medal with in the mixed quad category at the ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025 ?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Thailand
- c) Indonesia
- d) Vietnam
- e) South Korea

Answer : Option D

Explaantion :

- The Indian team earned the bronze medal in the mixed quad category event at the ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025, which is now underway in Patna.
- The Indian team won the medal together with the Vietnamese team.
- Myanmar defeated India in straight sets in the second mixed quad semifinals at Patliputra Sports Complex Indoor Stadium.
- Thailand won gold in the mixed quad event final, defeating Myanmar for silver.

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Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Oscar Piastri won his third career race, the Chinese Grand Prix 2025, beating teammate Lando Norris by 6.3 seconds.
- McLaren dominated the race, with Piastri and Norris finishing first and second, respectively, giving the team its first one-two finish since the 2021 Italian Grand Prix
- Archana Jadhav, an Indian long-distance runner, received a four-year ban by World Athletics' Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) after testing positive for Oxandrolone, a banned substance
- Anahat Singh, an Indian squash prodigy, and Veer Chotani won the women's and men's singles titles at the SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger event.
- India has won both the Men's and Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 titles held in Wolverhampton, England. In the final, the Indian Men's team narrowly defeated England 44-41, while the Women's team secured a dominant victory with a 57-34 win over England at the same venue.
- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) unveiled the mascot, logo, and anthem for the 2nd Khelo India Para Games (KIPG 2025) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex in New Delhi
- Lando Norris of McLaren won the 2025 Australian Grand Prix, the season's first race at Albert Park, by 0.811 seconds, securing his fifth career victory. Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished second
- India will host the 11th Asian Swimming Championship at the Naranpura Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially approved boxing for inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics after a unanimous vote
- Indian athletes finished their outstanding campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy, with 33 medals, including 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze. This was the 12th edition of the Special Olympics Winter Games, which took place after an eight-year delay
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board has approved the inclusion of boxing in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, ensuring the sport's continuity in the Games
- In cricket, Sachin Tendulkar led India Masters to the inaugural International Masters League T20 title, defeating Brian Lara's West Indies Masters by six wickets at Raipur's Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium





Ques : Wipro has signed a £500 million deal with which UK-based company for life and pension administration services?

- a) Aviva
- b) Prudential
- c) Phoenix Group
- d) Legal & General
- e) Standard Life

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Wipro Ltd has signed a 10-year, £500 million deal with Phoenix Group, a major UK-based savings and retirement company.
- The agreement involves providing life and pension administration services, specifically for Phoenix's ReAssure customers.
- Wipro's regulated entity, WFOSL, will manage operations like policy administration, claims processing, and customer service.
- Phoenix Group cited Wipro's strong technological capabilities and service delivery as key reasons for the partnership.
- This deal enhances Wipro's role in the UK's third-party administration (TPA) market.

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Ques : Which authority has granted a license for commercial flight operations at Belora Airport in Amravati?

- a) AAI (Airports Authority of India)
- b) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- d) Indian Air Force
- e) NITI Aayog

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted a license to Belora Airport in Amravati, Maharashtra, allowing commercial flights to operate from the facility.
- The airport has been developed by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) under the regional connectivity scheme.
- It aims to boost regional air travel and connectivity within the state.
- Alliance Air will begin commercial operations with a thrice-weekly flight service to Mumbai, expected to start by the end of the month.
- The airport will also host South Asia's largest flight training school, which will be operated by Air India.

About Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) :

- HQ : New Delhi
- Director General : Faiz Ahmed Kidwai





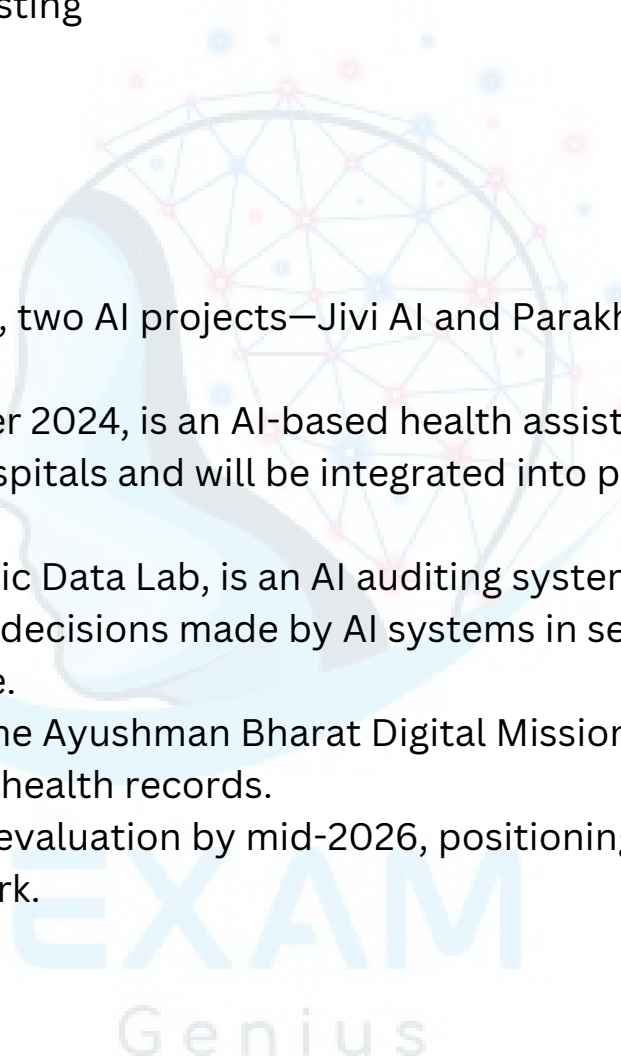
Ques : What is the purpose of ParakhAI under the India AI Mission?

- a) AI-based healthcare assistant
- b) AI-powered chatbot
- c) AI auditing system for ethical reporting
- d) AI for financial transactions
- e) AI-driven weather forecasting

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- Under the India AI Mission, two AI projects—Jivi AI and ParakhAI—are set to be ready by 2026.
- Jivi AI, launched in October 2024, is an AI-based health assistant designed to support doctors in rural hospitals and will be integrated into public healthcare systems.
- ParakhAI, proposed by Civic Data Lab, is an AI auditing system that will allow citizens to report unethical decisions made by AI systems in sectors like healthcare, employment, and insurance.
- Jivi AI will be linked with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to enable AI-assisted analysis of patient health records.
- ParakhAI is scheduled for evaluation by mid-2026, positioning it as India's first ethical AI auditing framework.





Ques : The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) recently facilitated the first export of 15,000 kg of which GI-tagged agricultural product from Sikkim?

- a) Bhut Jolokia
- b) Dalle Chilly
- c) Basmati Rice
- d) Sikkim Orange
- e) Lakadong Turmeric

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- APEDA facilitated the first export of 15,000 kg of GI-tagged Dalle Chilly from Sikkim to the Solomon Islands.
- The initiative aims to boost the global presence of agricultural products from India's Northeast region.
- The chillies were sourced from farmers and FPOs in South Sikkim by Mevedir.
- The export fetched a premium price of Rs.250–Rs.300 per kg, significantly higher than the domestic rate of Rs.180–Rs.200 per kg.
- Dalle Chilly, also called Fire Ball Chilly or Dalle Khursani, is known for its intense spiciness, bright red color, and rich nutritional content.
- It contains vitamins A, C, and E, and potassium, with a Scoville Heat Unit (SHU) range of 100,000 to 350,000.
- The export underlines the economic and branding benefits of GI tagging for local producers.





Ques : Which country's consortium is setting up a green ammonia plant in Odisha by 2030?

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) Germany
- d) China
- e) Russia

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- A Japanese consortium comprising IHI Corporation, Hokkaido Electric, and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a green ammonia plant in India.
- The plant will be set up in Odisha by 2030 in collaboration with the Indian company ACME Group.
- The facility aims to produce 4 lakh tonnes of green ammonia annually, which will be exported to Japan and used domestically.
- Green ammonia is a clean fuel that does not emit carbon dioxide (CO₂), making it valuable for decarbonizing power plants and ships.
- The project supports the development of India's green energy infrastructure and promotes international cooperation in clean energy.

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Ques : Which edition of Report Annual ranking of 500 high-growth Asia-Pacific companies published this year ?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Annual ranking of 500 high-growth Asia-Pacific companies 7th Edition Published by United Kingdom (UK) based Financial Times (FT) and Germany based Statista
- Lendbox, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), has achieved a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 536.64%, with projected revenues of USD 51.13 million by 2023.
- This year, there were 81 Indian firms on the list. Singapore had the most companies on the list, with 108.
- To be included in the newest rankings, the corporation had to achieve a minimum CAGR of 8.1%, which is less than the previous year's requirement of 15.1%.
- To qualify for the rankings, companies must achieve particular criteria, such as generating a minimum revenue of USD 100,000 in 2020 and USD 1 million in 2023.

Top 10 High-Growth Companies Asia-Pacific 2025 :

- 1 Lendbox - India (USD 51.13 million)
- 2 Borong - Malaysia (USD 51.33 million)
- 3 Etaily - The Philippines (USD 29.03 million)
- 4 Library Company - South Korea (USD 18.35 million)
- 5 Habitfactory - South Korea (USD 9.94 million)
- 6 BluSmart - India (USD 39.32 million)
- 7 BigHaat - India (USD 128 million)
- 8 Zypp Electric - India (USD 36.64 million)
- 9 Kuku FM - India (USD 12.61 million)
- 10 MyVenue - Australia (USD 9.18 million)





India's Rankings in Different Indices

- QS World University Rankings by Subject 15th Edition Published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) : Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad (20th), Harvard University, USA (Arts & Humanities) (1st)
- World Happiness Report 2025 13th Edition : India (118th), Finland (1st)
- World Air Quality Report 2024 7th Edition Published by Switzerland based air quality technology company IQAir : India (5th), Chad (1st)
- Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2024 Published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) : Ukraine (top Importer), USA (Exporter)
- Report YouGov India Value Rankings 2025 Published by YouGov India : Amul (3rd), Amazon (1st)
- Report 2025 Glass-Ceiling Index Published by The Economist (London) : Sweden (1st)
- Report IT Services 25 2025 Published by Brand Finance : TCS Limited (4th Consecutive Year), India (2nd), Accenture plc (7th Consecutive year), USA (1st)
- Busiest Airports by Seats according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) : Indira Gandhi International Airport, India (8th), Dubai International Airport, UAE (top)
- World Reputation Rankings 2025 Published by Times Higher Education (THE) : Harvard University, USA (1st)
- Forbes' Women Billionaire List Published by Forbes : Alice Walton \$112.5 billion (top)
- FutureBrand Index 2024 Published by FutureBrand : Samsung (South Korea) (1st), RIL (India) (2nd)
- 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 ranking : Reliance Industries (1st)
- Asia's 20 richest families Published by Bloomberg : Ambani family (tops)
- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024 30th Edition Published by Transparency International : India (96th), Denmark (1st)
- Logistics Performance Index (LPI), 2023 Published by World Bank : India (22nd), Singapore (1st)
- 2025 Henley Passport Index Published by Henley & Partners : India (80th), Singapore (1st)
- USGBC's LEED green building certification global rankings by 2024 : India (3rd), China (1st)



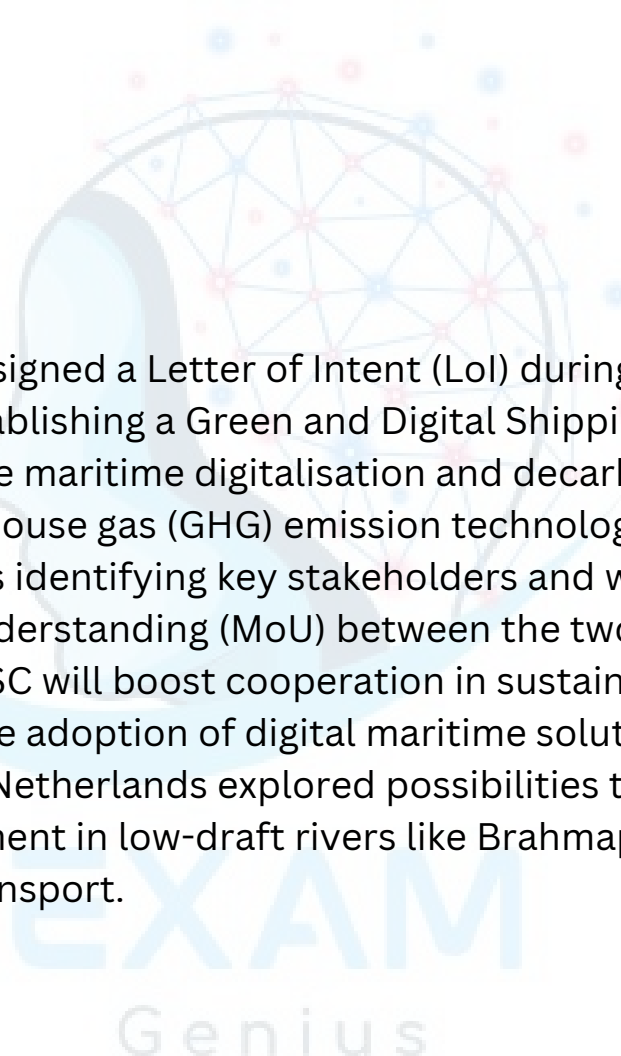
Ques : India and which country has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) collaboration ?

- (a) Netherland
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Moldova
- (d) Singapore
- (e) UAE

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- India and Singapore have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) during Singapore Maritime Week to collaborate on establishing a Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC).
- The GDSC aims to promote maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation by focusing on zero or near-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission technologies.
- The collaboration includes identifying key stakeholders and working towards a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two nations.
- Once established, the GDSC will boost cooperation in sustainable shipping practices and accelerate the adoption of digital maritime solutions.
- Separately, India and the Netherlands explored possibilities to use Dutch expertise for enhancing cargo movement in low-draft rivers like Brahmaputra and Barak, supporting inland water transport.





Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement :

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has received a big order worth Rs.7,500 crore from Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd (GSECL) to build a new 800 MW thermal power unit at the Ukai power plant in Tapi district, Gujarat
- Vodafone Idea (Vi) has signed MoU with the West Bengal State Export Promotion Society (WBSEPS) to accelerate the digital transformation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in West Bengal
- The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) have signed MoU to work together on research, training, and specialized mental health support for military people and their families
- Andhra Pradesh & Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) signed MOU to integrate cost-effective and scalable solutions in key sectors such as healthcare, medtech, education, and agriculture
- The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, signed an MoU with HAPICO Industries Pvt. Ltd. on 20 March 2025 to develop novel biopesticides
- DPIIT has signed MOU with Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd to accelerate innovation and expand India's startup ecosystem
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Global cosmetics major Estée Lauder Companies Inc. Partner to expand the BEAUTY&YOU India program with a new initiative to support women-founded startups
- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) & Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based indigenous Generative AI (GenAI) company partnered to improve the user experience of Aadhaar services
- The Delhi government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)
- Amazon, Alphabet's Google, and Meta Platforms signed to support the global initiative to triple nuclear energy capacity by 2050





Ques : How old was George Foreman when he made a historic return to win the world heavyweight boxing title?

- a) 35
- b) 38
- c) 40
- d) 45
- e) 50

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- The world has lost a true legend. George Foreman, a successful boxer and businessman, passed away. At the age of 76, George Foreman, a two-time heavyweight champion who used punching to rise from poverty to international renown, died.
- Foreman, a powerful puncher, lost the "Rumble in the Jungle" world title battle against Muhammad Ali in Zaire in 1974. He later became a preacher before returning to become world boxing champion and successful businessman aged 45.
- Foreman earned an Olympic gold medal at the 1968 Mexico Olympics at the age of 19.
- He later became the world heavyweight champion twice, the second time at the age of 45 in 1994.

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Ques : On which date is the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members observed annually?

- (a) 23 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 25 March
- (d) 26 March
- (e) 27 March

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed every year on March 25.
- It honors United Nations (UN) personnel and associated staff who have been detained, abducted, or are missing while on duty.
- The day serves to raise awareness about the dangers faced by humanitarian workers, peacekeepers, and journalists, especially in conflict or unstable areas.
- It was established by the United Nations to advocate for the safety and protection of those serving in critical roles under challenging and risky conditions.

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Important days :

- 1 March : World Seagrass Day (Theme 2025 Harnessing Seagrass' Carbon Sequestration Potential Against the Climate Crisis)
- 1 March : Zero Discrimination Day (Theme 2025: We Stand Together)
- 1 March : World Civil Defence Day (Theme 2025 Civil Defence, Guarantee of Security for the Population)
- 3 March : World Wildlife Day (Theme 2025: Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and the Planet)
- 3 March : World Hearing Day (Theme 2025 – Changing mindsets: empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all)
- 4 March : National Safety Day (Theme 2025 - Safety and well-being are crucial for Viksit Bharat (Developed India))
- 4 March : 6th World Engineering Day 2025 (Theme 2025 Unleashing the power of engineers to advance the Sustainable Development Goals)
- 5 March : International Day for Disarmament and Nonproliferation Awareness
- 6 March : National Dentist's Day 2025
- 7 March : 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025
- 1st to 7th March : Jan Aushadhi Diwas Week
- 8 March : International Women's Day (IWD) (Theme 2025: For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment)
- 4 to 10 March : 54th National Safety Week 2025 (Theme 2025 Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat)
- 10 March : International Day of Women Judges
- 10 March : CISF Raising Day
- 11 March : 135th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI)
- 12 March (Second Wednesday of March) : No Smoking Day 2025
- 13 March (2nd Thursday of March) : World Kidney Day (WKD) (Theme 2025 : Are Your Kidneys OK? Detect Early, Protect Kidney Health)
- 14 March : Pi Day
- 14 March : International Day of Action for Rivers (Theme 2025 Our Rivers, Our Future)
- 14 March : World Sleep Day (Theme 2025: Make Sleep Health a Priority)
- 15 March : World Consumer Rights Day (Theme 2025: A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles)
- 15 March : International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 16 March : National Vaccination Day 2025





IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

In Gymnastics, India's Pranati Nayak has bagged the bronze medal in the Women's Vault final at the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.

Ashok Singh Thakur has been elected the new chairman of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for a three-year term. INTACH, a leading historical conservation organisation based in Delhi, was founded in 1984.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) is the first railway zone in India to reach 250 million tons (MT) of originating freight in fiscal year 2024-25.

For the second year in a row, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has exceeded 250 metric tons. ECoR has surpassed 200 MT of freight loading for the sixth straight year.

India has recorded the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence manufacturing in 2023-24 since the commencement of the Make in India project, with a record one lakh 27 thousand crore rupees. The value of defence manufacturing has increased by 174%, from 46 thousand 429 crore in 2014-15.

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