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Ques: By what percentage did UPI QR codes grow in FY 2024–25, according to RBI data?

- (a) 75.2%
- (b) 81.3%
- (c) 91.5%
- (d) 87.9%
- (e) 95.0%

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- As per RBI's latest data, UPI QR codes recorded the fastest growth in digital payment infrastructure in FY 2024–25.
- The number of UPI QR codes jumped by 91.5% over the previous year to reach 657.9 million.
- In contrast, credit card transactions grew by only 7.94%, and debit card additions saw a 2.7% growth to 991 million.
- The total number of banks live on UPI reached 668 as of April 2025, showing continued adoption of the platform.

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Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- RBI recently revealed data showing that American Express and HSBC were the top foreign banks with notable gains
- RBI approved the formation of an interim “Committee of Executives” to oversee IndusInd Bank’s operations
- RBI has eased investment norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in corporate debt securities via the general route
- RBI has officially recognised the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for financial markets
- RBI has sought the government’s approval to remove the 30% cap on foreign banks using vostro accounts to purchase short-term sovereign debt, including treasury bills
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) purchased 57.5 tonnes of gold during the fiscal year 2024–25, making it the second-highest annual purchase since it began accumulating gold in December 2017
- According to RBI report, India's total exports in 2024–25 reached \$824.9 billion, which reflects a 6.01% increase over \$778.1 billion in 2023–24
- RBI has announced that starting 1st May 2025, all banks, financial companies, and regulated entities must use the PRAVAAH portal for submitting applications related to regulatory authorisations, licences, and approvals
- Zaak ePayment Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mobikwik, received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator
- RBI has launched three important surveys in May 2025 to collect inputs for future monetary policy decisions. These include the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS), and Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revoked the license of Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank, located in Jalandhar, in 2025





Ques: Which credit rating agency recently upgraded India's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency – Issuer Ratings to BBB with a stable trend?

- (a) S&P Global Ratings
- (b) Fitch Ratings
- (c) Moody's Investors Service
- (d) Morningstar DBRS
- (e) CARE Ratings

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- Morningstar DBRS, a global credit rating agency, upgraded India's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency – Issuer Ratings from BBB (low) to BBB, with a stable outlook.
- The Short-Term Ratings were also upgraded to R-2 (high).
- The upgrade reflects adequate credit quality and India's ability to meet obligations despite high public debt, which was 80.2% of GDP in FY25.
- The central government's debt ratio is expected to reduce from 57.5% in FY24 to 56.1% by FY26.

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Ques: What was the total cumulative net profit reported by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in FY25?

- (a) Rs.1.41 lakh crore
- (b) Rs.1.62 lakh crore
- (c) Rs.1.78 lakh crore
- (d) Rs.1.59 lakh crore
- (e) Rs.1.69 lakh crore

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recorded a cumulative net profit of Rs.1.78 lakh crore in FY25, registering a 26% increase over the previous year.
- In FY24, the total profit was Rs.1.41 lakh crore, so the profit jumped by approximately Rs.37,100 crore.
- State Bank of India (SBI) contributed over 40% of this, with a standalone net profit of Rs.70,901 crore in FY25, which is 16% more than FY24.
- Punjab National Bank reported the highest percentage growth of 102%, while Punjab & Sind Bank saw a 71% rise.
- Between FY17 and FY21, the government had infused Rs.3.11 lakh crore into PSBs as part of its recapitalisation strategy.

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Ques: Where is the Anak Krakatau volcano, which triggered a deadly tsunami in 2018, located?

- (a) Philippines
- (b) Japan
- (c) Fiji
- (d) Papua New Guinea
- (e) Indonesia

Answer: Option E

Explanation :

- Anak Krakatau (meaning “Child of Krakatoa”) is a stratovolcano situated in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra in Indonesia.
- It lies on a convergent tectonic boundary between the Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates and is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, known for intense seismic and volcanic activity.
- In December 2018, a massive flank collapse during an eruption triggered a tsunami that killed over 400 people and injured thousands.
- A recent study suggests the volcano showed precursors to the collapse years in advance, indicating the importance of early warning systems in disaster-prone regions.

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Ques: Where is the landing station for India's new Submarine Cable Project being established?

- (a) Visakhapatnam
- (b) Kochi
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Wandoor
- (e) Port Blair

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched the Submarine Cable Project to enhance long-term ocean monitoring.
- A 150-km-long submarine cable will be laid off the coast of Wandoor in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- It will feature two science nodes with oceanographic and geophysical sensors at depths of 2,000–2,500 meters.
- The landing station will be at Wandoor, and a real-time control centre will be located at INCOIS headquarters in Hyderabad.

About Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) :

- Established : 1999
- HQ : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Director : Dr. Balakrishnan Nair T.M





Ques: A memorial plaque for Biju Patnaik was unveiled in New Delhi to honour his contribution to which World War II battle?

- (a) Battle of Berlin
- (b) Battle of El Alamein
- (c) Battle of Stalingrad
- (d) Battle of Midway
- (e) Battle of Britain

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- A memorial plaque was unveiled at the Russian Embassy in New Delhi in honour of Biju Patnaik, recognizing his heroic efforts during the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II.
- The plaque was inaugurated by Odisha's former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov.
- Biju Patnaik, serving in the Royal Indian Air Force, flew supply missions to assist the Red Army, using aircraft like the Douglas C-47 Skytrain (Dakota).
- He later earned recognition from multiple nations; upon his death in 1997, his coffin was draped in the national flags of India, Indonesia, and Russia.

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Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- INS Arnala is the first of eight ASW Shallow Water Craft delivered to the Indian Navy by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, a Defence Public Sector Undertaking
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed its S-400 'Sudarshan Chakra' air defence missile systems, along with the indigenous Akash, during a combat operation on May 7–8, 2025
- The Songar drone is an armed Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) developed by Asisguard, a Turkish defense company. It was first launched in April 2019 and officially inducted by the Turkish Armed Forces in early 2020
- Pakistan recently conducted a successful training launch of the Abdali (Hatf-II) Weapon System, developed by SUPARCO – Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission
- As per IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka, India will launch 52 spy satellites over the next 5 years to enhance the surveillance capabilities of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
- The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, used by the Army and Air Force, was cleared for operations after being grounded since January 2025
- INS Sharda participated in a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise held from 04–10 May 2025 at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives
- Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a unit of DRDO based in Hyderabad, successfully conducted a 1,000-second ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor
- Amazon launched 27 internet satellites on April 29, 2025, as part of its Project Kuiper initiative, which aims to offer affordable global broadband and compete with SpaceX's Starlink network





Ques: Where was the Columbia India Energy Dialogue 2025 held ?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Lucknow
- c) Ghaziabad
- d) Varanasi
- e) New Delhi

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- The Columbia India Energy Dialogue 2025 was held in New Delhi.
- It was organized by the Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP) of Columbia University SIPA and Columbia Global Center Mumbai.
- The event was chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and focused on the theme: “Energy Solutions for an Inclusive and Equitable Global Transition.”
- Notably, India achieved its 2030 renewable energy target of 200 GW in 2022, eight years ahead of schedule.
- India has also seen a 30-fold increase in solar power capacity over the last decade and built a 500 GW interconnected national grid for renewable integration.
- “India accounts for only 3% of global carbon emissions despite supporting 17% of the world’s population.” Announcement made by Piyush Goel

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Recent News Headlines Related to Summits / conference

- Global Space Exploration Conference 2025 12th Edition Held at New Delhi and Inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh. The Theme is Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance. Last edition held in Oslo, Norway (2023)
- India is leading global dialogue on digital land reforms and climate-aligned governance at the World Bank Land Conference 2025, held from May 5 to 8 in Washington, D.C., USA
- The 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi promoted the 'Orange Economy' at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai, urging global companies to "Create in India, Create for the World."
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 'YUGM: Uniting Academia, Industry, and Innovators for Viksit Bharat' Innovation Conclave in New Delhi
- The 28th National Conference on e-Government (NCeG) is scheduled to occur in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on June 9 and 10, 2025
- The World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 is being held in Mumbai from 1 to 4 May 2025, with a special focus on India's storytelling tradition. A major highlight is the launch of the Bharat Pavilion, themed "Kala to Code".
- In Thimphu, Bhutan, the 6th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting between India and Bhutan took place
- Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting held in Brasília under Brazil's Presidency





Ques: Which country's origin is the 'Igla-S' missile system recently received by the Indian Army?

- (a) USA
- (b) Israel
- (c) Russia
- (d) France
- (e) Germany

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- The Igla-S is a Russian-origin man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) recently received by the Indian Army.
- It is a shoulder-fired missile system capable of targeting low-flying aircraft, UAVs, and helicopters, especially in forward and mountainous regions.
- The missiles were procured under emergency powers of the Government of India for approximately Rs 260 crore.
- Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Ltd. (ADSTL) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, assembled these missiles in India.
- The assembly was carried out under a Technology Transfer (ToT) agreement with Rosoboronexport, a Russian state defense export agency.

About Igla-S Missile :

- It is a shoulder-launched Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) weapon that locks onto targets' heat signatures in the air using infrared (IR) homing.
- It can engage targets up to 6 kilometers (km) away and up to 3.5 kilometers above the ground. The weight is 19 kg.





Ques: What is the title of the autobiography of Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya recently released?

- (a) Meri Zindagi Ka Safar
- (b) Rajneeti ke Raaste
- (c) Janta Ki Awaaz
- (d) Janta Ki Kahani Meri Aatmkatha
- (e) Lok Seva Meri Pehchan

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya recently released his autobiography titled 'Janta Ki Kahani Meri Aatmkatha'.
- The book was originally written in Telugu and later translated into Hindi.
- The title reflects his public service journey and life experiences through the lens of the people's story

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Recent News Headlines Related to Books :

- The School of Life : K. Vasuki's memoir
- "The Johnson & Johnson Files: The Indian Secrets of a Global Giant" : Kaunain Sheriff
- "The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India." : author and former Governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi
- "Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician" : Arun Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma
- March to Glory: The Story of India's 1975 World Cup triumph : K. Arumugam
- Buransh: The Fragrance of Words : Anupama Sharma
- Memories and Milestones : Justice P.N. Prakash
- Beyond the Courtroom: Reflections on Law, Constitution, and Nationhood : Fali Sam Nariman
- Mere Achhe Din : Hari Singh Rana
- 'The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal' (translated from the 1973 Tamil autobiography 'Nan Kanda Bharatham') : S. Ambujammal (original Author)
- "Confessions of Stock Market Wizards" : Safir Anand
- The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India : Sanjeev Chopra
- To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of Christian Medical College Vellore : V.I. Mathan
- March of Glory: The Story of India's 1975 World Cup triumph : Hockey historian, K. Arumugam and Eminent journalist Errol D'Cruz
- "Living with Birds" : Asad Rahmani
- Leo — The Untold Story : P.S. Raman





Ques: Which country's cricket board has banned transgender women from participating in women's cricket at all levels?

- (a) Australia
- (b) South Africa
- (c) England
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) India

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced that transgender women will no longer be allowed to compete in women's cricket at any level.
- This decision follows a UK Supreme Court ruling that defines the legal recognition of women based on biological sex.
- The ECB's announcement came less than 24 hours after the Football Association (FA) made a similar move.
- Transgender individuals can still participate in open or mixed cricket formats.

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Ques: Which company has Airtel Africa partnered with to provide satellite internet services across Africa?

- (a) Blue Origin
- (b) NASA
- (c) ISRO
- (d) SpaceX
- (e) OneWeb

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- Airtel Africa, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, has partnered with SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Elon Musk, to bring Starlink's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite internet services to Africa.
- By May 2025, SpaceX had obtained operating licenses in 9 out of 14 countries where Airtel Africa operates.
- Starlink is already providing satellite internet in over 125 countries and territories across all seven continents.

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Ques: Who was the first non-crop scientist to head the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)?

- (a) M. S. Swaminathan
- (b) Trilochan Mohapatra
- (c) Subbanna Ayyappan
- (d) Rajendra Prasad
- (e) R.S. Paroda

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, a renowned aquaculture scientist, became the first non-crop scientist to lead the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- He contributed significantly to India's Blue Revolution and served in various key roles including as Director of Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture.
- In 2022, he was honored with the Padma Shri award for his contributions to agricultural science and aquaculture.

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Ques: On which date did former U.S. President Donald Trump declare “Victory Day” to commemorate the Allied win in World War II?

- (a) April 30
- (b) May 7
- (c) May 8
- (d) May 9
- (e) November 11

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump declared May 8 as Victory Day for World War II, marking the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany’s surrender in 1945.
- May 8 is widely recognized in Europe as Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day).
- Adolf Hitler died on April 30, 1945; Germany surrendered on May 7, and the surrender took effect on May 8.
- Victory Day commemorates the end of World War II in Europe.
- Trump also proposed recognizing November 11 as Victory Day for World War I, which is already observed as Veterans Day in the U.S.

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Ques: What is the official theme of National Technology Day 2025 in India?

- (a) Tech India: Innovate to Lead
- (b) SHAKTI – Strengthening Science and Innovation
- (c) VIKAS – Vision for Knowledge and Science
- (d) YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration
- (e) NAVACHAR – Nurturing Advanced Vision and Creativity in Research

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- National Technology Day is observed on 11th May every year in India.
- The 2025 theme, as unveiled by the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology, is "YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration".
- The word Yugantar signifies a major transformational shift, reflecting India's journey from technology adoption to global leadership.
- The day commemorates India's successful nuclear tests in 1998 (Operation Shakti) and the first flight of the Hansa-3 aircraft.
- Declared by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, this day honors India's scientific achievements.

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Ques : International Day of Plant Health observed every year on which day ?

- (a) 9 May
- (b) 10 May
- (c) 11 May
- (d) 12 May
- (e) 13 May

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is observed on 12th May, as designated by the United Nations.
- The 2025 theme is “The importance of plant health in One Health”, highlighting its link to human, animal, and environmental health.
- The day raises awareness about how plant health contributes to ending hunger, reducing poverty, and protecting biodiversity.

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Important days :

- 24 April : National Panchayati Raj Day
- 24 April : (4th Thursday of April) : International Girls in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day (Theme 2025 – Girls in ICT for inclusive digital transformation)
- 24 April : International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
- 25 April : World Malaria Day (Theme for 2025: Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, , Reignite)
- 25 April : International Delegate's Day
- 25 April : World Penguin Day
- 24 to 30 April : World Immunization Week (theme for 2025 is "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible")
- 26 April : International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (The day honors the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster)
- 26 April : World Intellectual Property Day (Theme 2025: Music and IP: Experience the Pulse of IP)
- 26 April (Last Saturday of April) : World Veterinary Day (Theme 2025 – Animal Health Takes a Team)
- 28 April : World Day for Safety and Health at Work (Theme 2025 – Revolutionising health and safety: The role of AI and digitalisation at work)
- 29 April : International Dance Day
- 30 April : International Jazz Day (Theme 2025 – Learning for Lasting Peace – SDG Goal 4: Quality Education)
- 30 April : Ayushman Bharat Diwas
- 1 May : International Labour Day (Theme 2025 Safety and health of workers)
- 2 May : 9th World Tuna Day 2025 (Theme 2025 Our Ocean, Our Tuna, Our Future)
- 3 May : World Press Freedom Day (Theme 2025 Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media)
- 3 May : International Leopard Day
- 4 May : World Laughter Day (theme for 2025 was “Laugh for Health, Peace and Happiness.”)
- 4 May : International Firefighters Day
- 5 May : World Portuguese Language Day





IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

The BrahMos missile manufacturing unit will be inaugurated on May 11, 2024, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This unit is part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and aims to produce 80-100 missiles annually.

Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited signed a MoU with Israel-based HevenDrones Limited to establish a Joint Venture (JV) for designing, manufacturing and supplying Hydrogen (H)-powered drones, marking the first of its kind in India

On May 7, 2025, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), completed 66 years of service since its formation in 1960. Motto: “Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam” (Everything is achievable through hard work).

Ajoy Chawla (Present CEO in Tanishq) Appointed as Managing Director of Titan Company Ltd., a Tata Group enterprise. He Replaced C.K. Venkataraman

Vietnam is gearing up for a major leap in its global appeal with the launch of a 10-year golden visa, aimed at attracting long-term tourists, foreign investors, and professionals.

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