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Ques: Which satellite-based internet provider has been onboarded by UIDAI to use Aadhaar Authentication for customer verification?

- A. OneWeb
- B. Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd
- C. HughesNet
- D. Viasat
- E. BSNL Satellite

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has onboarded Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd, a satellite-based internet provider.
- Starlink will use Aadhaar Authentication for customer verification, making the process smooth, secure, and easy.
- The appointment was done in the presence of Sh. Bhuvnesh Kumar, CEO UIDAI, Sh. Manish Bhardwaj, Deputy Director General UIDAI and Parnil Urdhwareshe, Director, Starlink India

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Ques: Recently, AU Small Finance Bank launched UPI services for NRE/NRO account holders using international mobile numbers. How many countries' NRIs can benefit from this feature?

- A. 8 countries
- B. 10 countries
- C. 12 countries
- D. 15 countries
- E. 20 countries

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) has launched UPI services for its NRE and NRO account holders using foreign/international mobile numbers.
- This initiative follows the NPCI directive allowing UPI transactions through international numbers.
- With this rollout, NRIs in 12 countries can now make UPI transactions using their international mobile numbers.
- The move aims to strengthen digital banking access for NRIs and promote cross-border convenience

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Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector:

- Bank of Maharashtra SBI Card Launched by Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited in Three variants -ELITE, PRIME, and SimplySAVE.
- According to people familiar with the matter, fintech unicorn CRED is working with IndusInd Bank to launch its first co-branded credit card.
- ICICI Bank will manage the online payment services for India's first barrier-less toll collection system
- ICICI Bank has increased the minimum average monthly balance (MAB) in metros & urban areas for new savings accounts from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000.
- Bank of Baroda has launched its new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) application named 'bob e-Pay' to provide secure, seamless, and real-time cross-border digital payments
- Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched "Shubh Shakti", a term insurance plan specifically designed for women
- RemitFIRST2India is a modern digital remittance platform launched by IDFC First Bank in collaboration with SingX
- Axis Bank has launched the 'Lock FD' feature to protect customers' Fixed Deposits from premature closure through digital channels
- Bank of Baroda has launched 'bob FxOne', a digital foreign exchange platform designed for corporate and MSME customers
- IDFC First Bank Limited and IndiGo have launched new credit card named 'IndiGO IDFC FIRST Dual Credit Card'.

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Ques: According to the latest report by SBI Economic Research Department, which bank emerged as the top beneficiary bank in UPI transactions?

- A. State Bank of India (SBI)
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Yes Bank Limited
- E. Punjab National Bank (PNB)

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- The SBI Economic Research Department (ERD) report on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions shows a significant increase in UPI adoption.
- Average daily transaction value rose from ₹75,743 crore in January 2025 to ₹90,446 crore in August 2025.
- Average daily transaction volume increased by 127 million, reaching 675 million in August 2025.
- Top 5 states by UPI usage (volume %): Maharashtra (9.8%), Karnataka (5.5%), Uttar Pradesh (5.3%), Telangana (4.1%), Tamil Nadu (4%).
- Top 5 states by transaction value: Maharashtra (9.2%), Karnataka (5.8%), Uttar Pradesh (5.3%), Telangana (5.1%), Tamil Nadu (4.7%).
- Top remitter bank: SBI (handling 5.2 billion transactions).
- Top beneficiary bank: Yes Bank Limited, with nearly 8 billion transactions.
- The report highlights the structural shift from cash and debit cards to UPI, with UPI's share in transaction value increasing from 40% in Nov 2019 to 91% in May 2025.





Recent News Headlines Related to SBI :

- The State Bank of India's Economic Research Department (ERD) released state-wise UPI transaction data for the first time. Maharashtra emerged as the leader with 9.8% share in July.
- A unique personal loan program designed especially for Agniveers has been introduced by SBI. Agniveers with an SBI salary account are eligible for loans up to ₹4 lakh under the scheme
- The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, has revised its IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) charges effective from August 15
- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, plans to raise up to ₹15,000 crore in FY26 through Tier-II bonds
- As per Rajya Sabha data, SBI disbursed ₹32,311 crore in education loans between FY 2022-23 and 2024-25, making it the top lender in this category. Union Bank of India ranked second with ₹14,559 crore sanctioned in the same period
- State Bank of India (SBI) has been named the World's Best Consumer Bank for 2025 by Global Finance magazine
- State Bank of India (SBI) posted a 12.48% YoY increase in Q1 FY26 net profit to ₹19,160 crore.
- State Bank of India (SBI) will raise up to Rs.20,000 crore in FY26 through Basel III-compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT1) and Tier 2 bonds
- State Bank of India (SBI) plans to raise Rs.25,000 crore via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) in FY26
- According to a survey by SBI research, India accounted for around 6.7% of the incremental growth in the global economy in FY25, with the State Bank of India (SBI) alone responsible for 1.1% of the increase
- To support India's Net Zero 2070 goals, SBI launched a Solar Rooftop Programme aimed at solarising 4 million homes by FY2027
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to classify the loan account of Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) as "fraud" under RBI guidelines
- SBI inaugurated Global Trade Finance Centres in Kolkata and Hyderabad to boost domestic and international trade services
- In FY25, SBI reported a record profit of Rs.70,901 crore, maintaining its position as the most profitable Indian company for the third consecutive year
- For FY 2024-25, SBI paid a dividend of Rs.8,076.84 crore to the central government



Ques: Which authority has introduced a new framework to onboard Cooperative Banks and enable Aadhaar-based authentication services in India?

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. UIDAI
- D. NABARD
- E. Ministry of Finance

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- To mark the International Year of Cooperatives, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched a framework for Cooperative Banks to provide Aadhaar-based authentication services.
- The framework was developed in consultation with the Ministry of Cooperation, NABARD, NPCI, and cooperative banks.
- It covers all 34 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and 352 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) across India.
- Through this framework, cooperative banks can leverage Aadhaar-enabled services for faster, secure, and hassle-free customer onboarding

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Ques: Which city recently saw the opening of three Niveshak Seva Kendras by IEPFA in collaboration with SEBI, CDSL, NSDL, BSE, and NSE?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru
- E. Hyderabad

Answer: Option E

Explanation :

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, collaborated with SEBI, CDSL, NSDL, BSE, and NSE to open three Niveshak Seva Kendras in Hyderabad.
- These centres aim to provide faster, easier, and more accessible solutions to investors, particularly for unclaimed dividends and KYC/nomination updates.

Key services include:

- Direct facilitation of unpaid dividend transfers pending for 6–7 years.
- Hassle-free KYC and nomination updates.
- For Physical Folios: Submit ISR-1/ISR-2/ISR-3 forms to update KYC, after which all pending dividends are credited.
- For Demat Accounts: Update bank details with your Depository Participant (DP) to receive unpaid dividends.

About IEPFA :

- Established : September 7, 2016
- HQ : New Delhi
- Chairman : Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukherjee



Ques: Mahesh Babu Foundation, which recently got FCRA approval, is primarily involved in which of the following areas?

- A. Wildlife Conservation
- B. Heart surgeries & child healthcare
- C. Agricultural Development
- D. Space Research & Innovation
- E. Disaster Relief & Management

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- Mahesh Babu Foundation focuses on child healthcare, particularly heart surgeries, education for underprivileged children, and smart village development.
- The NGO was inspired by the premature birth of Mahesh Babu's son Gautam, who required NICU treatment.
- It has funded 2000+ heart surgeries in collaboration with Andhra Hospitals and Rainbow Hospitals.
- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) granted the foundation FCRA registration, enabling it to receive foreign donations to expand its initiatives.

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Ques: Which city has launched the “One Freezone Passport”, a unified licensing system enabling companies to operate across all its free zones under a single license?

- A. Dubai
- B. Riyadh
- C. Abu Dhabi
- D. Doha
- E. Muscat

Answer: Option A

Explanation :

- Dubai launched the “One Freezone Passport”, a unified licensing system.
- It allows companies to operate across all free zones with a single license.
- The reform, unveiled by the Dubai Free Zones Council, will lower costs, reduce bureaucracy, and boost expansion.
- Earlier, separate licenses were required for each free zone.
- The initiative supports the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which aims to double Dubai’s GDP by 2033 and make it one of the top three global economic cities.

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Ques: India Post recently launched IT 2.0 – Advanced Postal Technology (APT). Which cloud platform does it run on?

- A. Bharat Cloud
- B. MeghRaj 2.0 Cloud
- C. DigiCloud
- D. National Data Grid
- E. Udaan Cloud

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- India Post launched IT 2.0 – Advanced Postal Technology (APT) to accelerate digital transformation under Digital India.
- The system is developed indigenously by the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT).
- IT 2.0 runs on the MeghRaj 2.0 Cloud and is supported by BSNL's nationwide connectivity.
- Key features include QR-code-based payments, OTP-based delivery, a unified interface, and a 10-digit alphanumeric DIGIPIN for accuracy.
- The initiative is guided under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

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Ques: Rayansh Gupta from Ludhiana recently won 1 Gold and 1 Silver medal for India at the 18th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2025). Where was the event held?

- A. Tokyo, Japan
- B. Jining, China
- C. Seoul, South Korea
- D. New Delhi, India
- E. Paris, France

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- The 18th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2025) was held in Jining, China.
- It is an annual global competition in Earth sciences for high school students.
- Subjects tested include geology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and environmental sciences through individual & team events.
- Objective: Promote scientific temper, research skills & international cooperation.
- India's Performance (2025) : Total: 7 medals + 1 special award
- Highlight: Rayansh Gupta (Ludhiana) won 1 Gold + 1 Silver.
- Supported by: Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India

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Recent News headlines related to Sports

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori, clinched the \$1 million top prize at the US Open mixed doubles tournament

- Real Madrid has been crowned the world's most valuable football club in the Brand Finance Football 50–2025 report
- Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz lifted his first-ever Cincinnati Open title after rival Jannik Sinner (Italy) was forced to retire just 23 minutes into the final.
- The Iga Świątek, Polish star defeated Jasmine Paolini (Italy) 7-5, 6-4 to claim the 2025 Cincinnati Open title, her first hard-court trophy in over a year.
- The Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025 was the third edition of India's premier classical super chess tournament. It carried a record prize pool of ₹1 crore (~\$85,600) – ₹75 lakh for the Masters and ₹25 lakh for the Challengers
- Tanya Hemant from Bangalore clinched the Women's Singles title at the Saipan International 2025 Badminton Tournament
- Bihar is hosting the 12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey for the first time. The tournament will be held from 29th August to 7th September 2025 at the Rajgir International Stadium, Rajgir (Bihar). The mascot is named "Chand"
- India will host the Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 for the first time at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) started from 20–23 August 2025
- Indian shuttler Devika Sihag claimed her first International Challenge title by winning the women's singles event at the Malaysia International Challenge 2025 in Ipoh.
- Six-times MotoGP champion Marc Marquez wins Austrian Grand Prix for first time
- Venus Williams, who received a wild card at the age of 45, will become the oldest tennis player to play singles at the U.S. Open in over 40 years (since Renee Richards, who was 47 in 1981).
- The mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025 is the Himalayan Kingfisher. The event will be held at Dal Lake, Srinagar, from 21–23 August 2025
- S. Rohith Krishna (19-year-old engineering student from Chennai) became India's 89th Chess GM and the 85th male GM
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has approved India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG).





Ques: Which country has been declared free of rubella as a public health problem by the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 18, 2025?

- A. India
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan
- E. Bangladesh

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- On 18 August 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nepal free of rubella as a public health problem.
- Nepal became the first country in WHO's Southeast Asia Region to achieve this milestone.
- Rubella (German measles) is a contagious viral disease spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It is especially dangerous during pregnancy, as it may cause miscarriage, stillbirth, or congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) in infants.
- Symptoms: Mild fever, rashes (starting on the face and spreading), swollen lymph nodes, joint pain, conjunctivitis, and general malaise. Many infections remain asymptomatic.
- Treatment: No specific antiviral treatment exists.
- Prevention: Through immunisation with the MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella).





Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement:

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Air India signed an MoU in Gurugram for the supply of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
- The Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), organized a two-week International Certificate Program on “Heritage and Indigenous Textiles”.
- Assam Rifles & Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Manipur to enhance the technical and operational readiness of personnel, particularly in areas like surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics support in challenging terrains
- India and China recorded a positive bilateral outcome when visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that his country will resume the much-needed supply of fertilizers, rare earth minerals and tunnel boring machines (TBM) as the two countries moved towards normalisation of ties.
- International Business Machines Corporation signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Maharashtra to advance the state’s quantum computing ecosystem. IBM will provide technical expertise to help Maharashtra design and implement its quantum computing initiative
- Astrophel Aerospace Private Limited signed a framework Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to collaborate on the development of reusable rocket engine technology.
- International Business Machines (IBM) & Government of Maharashtra to advance the state’s quantum computing ecosystem
- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed an MoU to launch e-Sushrut@Clinic
- Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited and Prime Aero Services LLP have signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 100% share in Indamer Technics Private Limited, a private sector Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul company
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) signed a 5-year R&D agreement with the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) on 12 August 2025
- MY Bharat, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports signed an MoU with SOUL to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and youth leadership development



Ques: India recently signed a Terms of Reference (ToR) for FTA negotiations with which regional economic bloc?

- A. ASEAN
- B. European Union
- C. Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- D. BRICS Economic Forum
- E. SAARC Economic Alliance

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- India signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyz Republic, to begin negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The FTA aims to boost market access for Indian exporters, diversify into new sectors, enhance competitiveness, and benefit MSMEs.
- The EAEU has a combined GDP of \$6.5 trillion, offering significant trade potential for India.
- Earlier FTA talks started in 2020 but were stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The ToR provides a framework to unlock untapped trade potential, increase investments, and strengthen India-EAEU economic partnership.





Ques: Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield is a joint military exercise conducted annually by which two countries?

- A. South Korea & United States
- B. North Korea & China
- C. Japan & United States
- D. India & United States
- E. South Korea & Japan

Answer: Option A

Explanation :

- Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield is an annual large-scale joint military exercise conducted by South Korea and the United States.
- The 11-day exercise is held from August 18–28, 2025, and is the second of two large-scale exercises held annually in South Korea (the first being in March).
- Participation: Around 21,000 soldiers, including 18,000 South Koreans, take part.
- The exercise involves computer-simulated command post operations as well as field training, enhancing coordination and readiness between the two nations' armed forces.

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Recent News Headlines Related to Defence Exercise :

- The 12th edition of Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25) was held from 14–18 August 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- The 21st edition of Yudh Abhyas (a joint military exercise between India and the U.S.) will be held in Alaska this month
- The Indian Navy and the Hellenic (Greek) Navy held a joint PASSEX (passing exercise) near the Mumbai coast in the Arabian Sea. The Western Naval Command deployed INS Tarkash to conduct a PASSEX exercise with the passing Hellenic Navy Ship HS Psara.
- Exercise Divya Drishti is a high-altitude technology demonstration conducted by the Indian Army in East Sikkim. It aimed to test advanced technologies that enhance battlefield awareness, real-time surveillance, and swift decision-making
- The Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) jointly organize the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), which is one of India's longest continuous maritime exercises
- Talisman Sabre 2025 is the 11th edition of a major bilateral military exercise led by Australia, started on July 13, 2025. It is the largest bilateral military drill between Australia and the United States, held biennially since 2005
- The Indian Army conducted a military exercise titled 'Prachand Shakti' in Meerut. It was organised by the Charging RAM Division at the Kharga Corps Field Training Area
- The Japan Coast Guard Ship Itsukushima arrived at Chennai Port as part of a Global Ocean Voyage Training. The port call will culminate in a joint sea exercise named 'Jaa Mata' (meaning See you later) on July 12, 2025
- ConvEx-3 (2025) is a full-scale international emergency preparedness exercise focused on nuclear or radiological emergencies with potential cross-border impacts
- The 53rd edition of NATO's premier multinational maritime-focused exercise, BALTOPS 25, was launched in Latvia
- Tiger Claw is the first-ever joint exercise between the Special Forces of the Indian Air Force (Garud) and the United States Air Force Special Forces
- The 8th edition of Exercise Shakti 2025, a biennial bilateral military exercise between India and France, will be held at La Cavalerie, France, from June 18 to July 1, 2025
- The India-U.K. joint naval Passage Exercise (PASSEX) took place in the North Arabian Sea on June 9–10, 2025. The Indian Navy was represented by INS Tabar (a stealth frigate), a submarine, and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft



Ques: Parliament recently passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Where will the new IIM be established?

- A. Shillong
- B. Guwahati
- C. Imphal
- D. Itanagar
- E. Kohima

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- Parliament passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, approving the establishment of a new IIM at Guwahati, Assam.
- With this addition, the total number of IIMs in India becomes 22 (21 already functional).
- IIM Guwahati will receive a corpus fund of ₹555 crore, and admissions will begin in the current academic year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that the new IIM will enhance education infrastructure and attract students and researchers from across India.

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Ques: Which ministry/department is leading the “Made in India Label Scheme”, a voluntary certification initiative to establish a trustworthy identity for Indian products?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. NITI Aayog
- E. Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- The Made in India Label Scheme is a voluntary certification scheme that allows manufacturers to demonstrate their products are manufactured in India with good quality.
- The label will carry a QR code and logo providing details such as manufacturing location, validity of the label, and product-specific information.
- The scheme is being led by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) with advisory support from Quality Council of India (QCI) and India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF).
- Government has allocated ₹995 crores for 3 years, after which the scheme is expected to become self-sustaining.
- Eligibility: At least 50% value addition in India, wholly or substantially manufactured/assembled domestically, meeting industry-specific quality standards.





Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- "One Freezone Passport," a new program launched by Dubai (United Arab Emirates (UAE)), enables businesses licensed in one free zone to expand operations into other free zones within the emirate without needing a second license.
- The Shakti Scheme was implemented by the Karnataka Government on June 11, 2023. It provides free bus travel for women across all state-run transport corporations
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched the Shramshree Scheme for migrant workers returning to Bengal after facing harassment in other states
- The SASCI scheme (Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure and Investment) was launched in FY21 with an initial allocation of ₹12,000 crore (COVID pandemic support)
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the Garuda Drishti scheme at Police Bhavan, Nagpur. It is a social media monitoring and cyber-intelligence initiative
- The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chevening Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme.
- The BJP government in Chhattisgarh will relaunch the Congress-era 'Gothan' scheme under the new name 'Gaudham' to Reduce road & highway accidents caused by stray cattle by keeping them in Gaudham centres.
- The Union Cabinet approved ₹12,000 crore for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in FY26
- Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the Annadata Sukhibhava-Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme at Veerayapalem in Prakasam district
- The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) is a Central Sector merit-based scholarship scheme launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education
- The PM E-DRIVE (Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) scheme has been extended till March 2028, but no additional budget has been allocated



Ques: Which footballer has become the first man to win the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year award three times?

- A. Kevin De Bruyne
- B. Erling Haaland
- C. Cristiano Ronaldo
- D. Harry Kane
- E. Mohamed Salah

Answer: Option E

Explanation :

- Liverpool's Mohamed Salah became the first man to win the PFA Player of the Year award three times (2018, 2022, and 2025).
- In the 2024–25 season, Salah scored 29 goals and provided 18 assists, leading Liverpool to the Premier League title.
- In the women's category, Arsenal's Mariona Caldentey was voted PFA Women's Player of the Year.

Other winners of PFA Player of the Year Award 2025 :

- Women's Player of the Year : Mariona Caldentey (Arsenal & Spain)
- Young Player of the Year (Men's) : Morgan Rogers (Aston Villa & England)
- Women's Young Player of the Year : Olivia Smith (Canada & Liverpool)
- PFA Premier League Team of the Year : Liverpool





Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- Miss Universe India 2025 : Manika Vishwakarma, a model from Ganganagar, Rajasthan
- 'Institution Building' and 'Best Inclusion Recruitment Programme' Awards Under Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards 2025 held in Singapore : Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)
- Lalit Kala Akademi Award at the 64th National Exhibition of Art 2025 : Sculptor Premchandra Pukhrambam from Manipur's Kakching district for his wooden sculpture titled "Made Me Change"
- Lifetime Achievement Award at the 17th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) : documentary filmmaker Rakesh Sharma
- Equator Prize 2025 : Bibi Fatima
- Apex Bank award for the 23rd time : South Canara District Central Cooperative (SCDCC) Bank
- International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport Category : Terminal 2 (T2) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, also known as Guwahati International Airport
- M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace : Dr. Arenare, a Nigerian scientist
- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) award : Telangana
- 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award : Union Minister Nitin Gadkari
- Guinness World Record for hosting the largest parent-teacher meeting (PTM) : Andhra Pradesh
- PATA Gold Award 2025 in the category of 'Most Engaging Social Media Campaign' : Kerala Tourism
- PEN Translates award : Hindi author Geetanjali Shree for her book Once Elephants Lived Here
- "Emerging Coastal and Heritage Award" by the U.S.-based International Tourism Conclave and Travel Awards (ITCTA) : Andhra Pradesh Tourism
- GP Birla Memorial Award 2025 : Dr. V. Narayanan, the current Chairman of ISRO and Secretary of the Department of Space
- Mrs Earth International 2025. : Vidhu Ishiq
- Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Puraskar – 2025 in category of Innovation & Technology in Agriculture & Allied Sciences : ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore scientists





Ques: Which global campaign, endorsed by the African Union, aims to replace the Mercator projection map with one showing Africa's true size?

- A. Map Equality Campaign
- B. Correct The Map
- C. Africa First Initiative
- D. True Size Project
- E. Equal Continent Movement

Answer: Option B

Explanation :

- The African Union (AU) has endorsed the global “Correct The Map” campaign to replace the Mercator projection map with one that accurately depicts Africa's true size.
- Issue: Mercator projection distorts continental sizes, especially near the poles. For example, Greenland appears nearly as large as Africa, although Africa is much bigger.
- The campaign urges a shift to the Equal Earth projection, which preserves area accuracy and better reflects Africa's true scale.

Mercator Projection Map:

- Cylindrical map projection, introduced in 1569 by Gerardus Mercator (1512–1594).
- Designed for navigation; enables straight-line compass bearings for sailors.
- Mathematically projects the spherical Earth onto a flat surface.





Ques: Which state assembly recently cleared amendments to the UCC and Anti-Conversion Bills, along with passing a new Minority Education Law in 2025?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Madhya Pradesh
- E. Rajasthan

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- Uttarakhand Assembly passed amendments to UCC (Uniform Civil Code) Bill, 2025, Anti-Conversion Bill, 2025, and introduced the Minority Education Bill, 2025.

UCC Amendment Bill, 2025:

- Extended marriage registration period from 6 months → 1 year.
- Raised penalties for illegal live-in relationships.
- Section 380(2): Married person in a live-in can face up to 7 years jail + fine.
- Section 387: Live-in by force, pressure or fraud → up to 7 years jail + fine.
- Section 390-A: Registrar-General empowered to cancel any registration (marriage, divorce, live-in, inheritance).

Anti-Conversion Bill, 2025 : Increased punishment for forced conversions → from 10 years to life imprisonment in extreme cases.

Minority Education Bill, 2025 :

- Made it mandatory for minority educational institutions (incl. madrasas) to seek affiliation with Uttarakhand Education Board by July 2026.
- Institutions must reapply for minority status recognition.





Ques: Recently, five crucial departments of South-Central Railway (SCR) came under the leadership of women officers. Which of the following is NOT one of those departments?

- A. Operations
- B. Security
- C. Finance
- D. Engineering
- E. Medical

Answer: Option D

Explanation :

- For the first time in South-Central Railway (SCR) history, five key departments – Operations, Commercial, Finance, Security, and Medical – are being led by women officers.
- These departments ensure smooth train operations, passenger safety, financial discipline, and healthcare services.
- The Engineering department is not among the five departments currently led by women officers.

Key women officers include:

- K Padmaja – Principal Chief Operations Manager, handling train scheduling and freight operations.
- Ity Pandey – Principal Chief Commercial Manager, managing passenger services and business development.
- Aroma Singh Thakur – IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, leading Railway Protection Force initiatives.
- Dr. Nirmala Narasimhan – Principal Chief Medical Director, overseeing hospitals and health units.
- T. Hema Suneetha – Principal Financial Advisor, managing financial growth and revenue.





Recent News Headlines Related to First in India and world :

- Champa Raspeda, a student from Odisha's Malkangiri district, has made history by becoming the first member of the Didayi, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), to clear NEET 2025.
- India's first Hydrogen (H_2) powered train has cleared load tests under the Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- NTPC Limited has become the 1st Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in the Indian power sector to adopt a comprehensive Business Continuity Plan (BCP) aligned with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22301:2019, global standard for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS).
- India's first detachable solar panel system between railway tracks was put into service by Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), situated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, marking a significant advancement in green energy innovation, according to the Ministry of Railways (MoR)
- The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has become India's first railway zone to adopt compostable bio-plastic on trains
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched India's first voluntary star-based property rating system focused on digital connectivity
- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has become the 1st Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).
- The Pixxel-led consortium (including SatSure, PierSight, and Dhruva Space) has been awarded the contract to build India's first indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation
- The State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH) is India's first national initiative to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems
- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, has become the first Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).
- Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) became the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to surpass a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore, doubling its business from Rs 50,000 crore within four years
- The first-ever interstate agricultural trade under National Agriculture Market (eNAM) took place between Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Maharashtra.





Ques: India recently test-fired the long-range ballistic missile Agni-5. What is its maximum strike range?

- A. 2,000 km
- B. 3,500 km
- C. 5,000 km
- D. 7,500 km
- E. 10,000 km

Answer: Option C

Explanation :

- India successfully test-fired the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha, under the Strategic Forces Command.
- Agni-5 has a strike range of up to 5,000 km (\approx 3,100 miles), making it capable of covering the entire Asia and parts of Europe, including China and Turkey.
- The missile can reach a maximum speed of Mach 24 (\approx 29,400 km/h) and has a re-entry speed of Mach 20–24, making interception nearly impossible.
- First tested in 2012 by DRDO, after several developmental trials it was handed over to Strategic Forces Command, which conducted the first user trial in 2021.
- The nuclear-capable missile is 17.5 meters long, weighs 50 tons, and is a three-stage rocket with advanced indigenous technologies.

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Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the procurement of 97 LCA Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited delivered the third of four Survey Vessels (Large) to the Indian Navy, the Indian Naval Ship Ikshak (Guide) (Yard 3027)
- Russia is planning to launch the Venera-D Venus Mission between 2034 and 2036. The mission will include a lander, a balloon probe, and an orbital spacecraft
- The Golden Dome Missile Defense System is a \$175 billion next-generation U.S. missile defense program
- Announced the launch of "Mission Sudarshan Chakra" - aimed at neutralising enemy threat and enhancing India's offensive capabilities.
- INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's newest stealth frigate, completed a port call at Casablanca, Morocco during her return voyage to India.
- Punjab has launched the 'Baaj Akh' Anti-Drone System (ADS) from Tarn Taran to curb the supply of drugs from across the border.
- INS Sandhayak is India's first indigenous Survey Vessel Large (SVL) with advanced hydrographic capability.
- Project 17A is the Indian Navy's advanced stealth frigate program, designed with improved weapons, sensors, and reduced radar signature.
- RS-28 Sarmat is Russia's new-generation intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), dubbed 'Satan 2' by NATO
- Skyroot Aerospace successfully conducted the static test of Vikram-1's stage-1 carbon composite solid fuel booster
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved proposals worth about Rs.67,000 crore for the Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Indian Army signed a MOU worth Rs.223.95 Crore with Axiscades Aerospace and Technologies Private Limited for the procurement of 212 advanced 50-ton Tank transporter trailers
- Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based spacetech start-up, will launch its first commercial space mission, LEAP-1, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 in Q3 2025
- Oreshnik is Russia's latest intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile. The name "Oreshnik" translates to "hazel tree" in Russian





IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

The Cabinet has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of late Upendra Nath Verma, educationist, social reformer, social worker, as “state function” every year on August 23 at a place where his statue has been installed in Gayaji town

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has officially approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, to Parashurampuri.

SMBC Asia Rising Fund, a corporate venture capital fund cofounded by Japan’s Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation picks up 4.99% stake in Shivalik Small Finance Bank worth of \$7 million (approximately ₹60 crore) at Valuation ₹1,200 crore

The Delhi Cabinet chaired by Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi, has approved the launch of ‘Delhi Mitra’ application (app), a unified integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

The Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB) recently conducted a public hearing for environmental clearance for the proposed 1,200 MW Kalai-II hydroelectric project

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