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In English
17 Jan 2026



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Ques: According to the World Gold Council, India became the world's _____ largest holder of gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in 2025.

- A) 4th
- B) 5th
- C) 6th
- D) 7th
- E) 8th

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Domestic gold ETF holdings in India increased by 65% to reach 95 tonnes in 2025.
- Due to this rise, India became the 6th largest holder of gold ETFs globally, improving from 8th position in 2024.
- According to the World Gold Council, India's gold ETF holdings were 57.5 tonnes in 2024.
- Net inflows into Indian gold ETFs rose sharply to \$4.4 billion in 2025 from \$1.3 billion in 2024.
- India also emerged as the third-largest gold ETF market globally, after the United States and China.

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Ques: Which bank became the first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) in India to introduce a fully solar-powered mobile ATM van?

- A) Tripura Gramin Bank
- B) Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank
- C) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank
- D) Kerala Gramin Bank
- E) Chhattisgarh Rajya Gramin Bank

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) became the first Regional Rural Bank in India to introduce a fully solar-powered mobile ATM van.
- The solar-powered ATM van is named “TGB on Wheels.”
- The initiative aims to deliver banking services to remote and underserved areas using renewable energy.
- The project was formally inaugurated in July 2023 during the visit of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Tripura.
- The initiative was launched with support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- Currently, Tripura Gramin Bank operates three solar-powered ATM vans in the state.

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Recent News Headlines Related to Summits / conference

- The two-day National Textiles Ministers' Conference commenced in Guwahati, Assam, bringing together Textile Ministers and senior officials from States and Union Territories to discuss the future roadmap of India's textile sector.
- India will be represented by 10 states at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 held in Davos, Switzerland.
- Third Technical Hindi Symposium (Takniki Hindi Sangoshthi) "Abhyuday-3" organised at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore. The program was jointly organised by IIT Indore, IIT Jodhpur and the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).
- The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) participated in the 10th TiE Global Summit – Rajasthan Chapter held at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre (JECC).
- Odisha hosted the Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference on 19–20 December 2025.
- The BRICS Presidency was handed over from Brazil to India at the concluding session of the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting.

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Ques: What was India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation rate in December, according to recent data?

- A) -0.32%
- B) 0.50%
- C) 0.83%
- D) 1.20%
- E) 2.00%

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- India's WPI inflation for December stood at 0.83%.
- In November, India's WPI-based inflation was -0.32%.
- This indicates a rise in wholesale inflation from negative territory in November to positive levels in December.

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Ques: India and Germany signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in which sector, and where was the agreement signed?

- A) Postal and Logistics – Ahmedabad
- B) Education – New Delhi
- C) Defence – Berlin
- D) Renewable Energy – Mumbai
- E) Digital Infrastructure – Frankfurt

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- India and Germany signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in postal and logistics services.
- The agreement was signed in Ahmedabad.
- It was signed during the visit of Friedrich Merz, the Federal Chancellor of Germany.
- The objective is to build efficient, sustainable, and globally competitive logistics networks connecting India with international markets.

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Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- Taimoor is an Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) tested by the Pakistan Air Force from Rawalpindi.
- Two Hyderabad-based space-tech start-ups, TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs, have developed and integrated a 14-kg Earth observation mini-satellite named MOI-1.
- The maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) was successfully conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Ram Mohan Naidu, inaugurated and flagged off the inaugural flight of the indigenous next-generation civil helicopter Dhruv-NG at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facilities in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- INSV Kaundinya is an engineless, indigenously built stitched sailing vessel of the Indian Navy.
- India successfully test-fired the K-4, an intermediate-range Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM), from INS Arighaat, India's second nuclear-powered submarine, in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Samudra Pratap (Yard 1267) is India's first indigenously designed and built Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), formally inducted by the Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

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Ques: Which state launched the ‘Swachh Jal Abhiyan’ to ensure safe drinking water, and what is the key objective of the campaign?

- A) Rajasthan – Rainwater harvesting
- B) Uttar Pradesh – River cleaning
- C) Madhya Pradesh – Zero tolerance for contaminated drinking water
- D) Gujarat – Desalination plants
- E) Chhattisgarh – Groundwater recharge

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched the ‘Swachh Jal Abhiyan’.
- It is a state-wide, technology-driven clean water campaign.
- The objective is to ensure zero tolerance for contaminated drinking water through monitoring, grievance redressal, and accountability.
- The campaign is being conducted in two phases:
 - Phase I: 10 January 2026 to 28 February 2026
 - Phase II: 1 March 2026 to 31 May 2026
- Weekly ‘Jal Sunwai’ hearings will be conducted every Tuesday.
- Citizens can register and track complaints through the CM Helpline (181).

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Ques: Which organisation achieved an “Excellent” rating with a score of 97.36 in the MoU performance evaluation with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for FY 2024–25?

- A) NTPC Limited
- B) Power Grid Corporation of India
- C) Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI)
- D) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- E) NHPC Limited

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) secured an “Excellent” rating in the MoU performance evaluation with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for FY 2024–25.
- SECI achieved a high score of 97.36 out of 100, reflecting strong operational and strategic performance.
- SECI is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- It functions as a key nodal agency for expanding renewable energy capacity in India.

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Ques: Why did the Government of India revoke the Quality Control Order on Flux Cored Solder Wire?

- A) To reduce import duties
- B) BIS certification is no longer mandatory
- C) Product is banned in India
- D) Low domestic demand
- E) Environmental concerns

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- The Government of India revoked the Quality Control Order on Flux Cored Solder Wire.
- After the revocation, compulsory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification is no longer required for this product.
- Earlier, the Flux Cored Solder Wire (Quality Control) Order, 2023 mandated compliance with Indian Standard IS 1921:2005 and BIS marking.
- The decision removes mandatory quality certification requirements for manufacturers, importers, and sellers.

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Ques: Who conferred the 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar (AVRSP) and unveiled the “52 weeks, 52 reforms” roadmap for Indian Railways in 2026?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Piyush Goyal
- C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D) Nitin Gadkari
- E) Dharmendra Pradhan

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred the 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar (AVRSP).
- He honoured 100 railway officers and employees and awarded 26 shields to top-performing railway zones.
- AVRSP is one of the highest service awards of Indian Railways, recognising exemplary service and innovation.
- During the event, Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the “52 weeks, 52 reforms” roadmap for 2026.
- The roadmap aims to implement one major reform every week to improve customer service, maintenance, and quality in management.

Six Core Resolutions :

- Push for systemic reforms and accountability.
- Adoption of technology, innovation, AI, and advanced signalling.
- Upgrade maintenance standards for long-term safety.
- Uncompromising focus on safety by reducing consequential accidents.
- Transform training and talent development within one year via mandatory upskilling and digital tools.
- Eradicate colonial mindset and empower younger officers.





Ques: Who inaugurated Indusfood 2026, Asia's premier global Food and Beverage (F&B) sourcing and trade show?

- A) Chirag Paswan
- B) Piyush Goyal
- C) Dharmendra Pradhan
- D) Narendra Singh Tomar
- E) Ashwini Vaishnaw

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- Indusfood 2026 is Asia's premier global Food and Beverage (F&B) sourcing and trade show.
- The event was inaugurated by Union Minister Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- Indusfood 2026 was the 9th edition of the event.
- It was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The event was organised by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).
- More than 2,200 exhibitors from over 30 countries and 15,000+ buyers from 120+ countries participated.
- Two new pavilions were introduced: Pet Food & Animal Nutrition and Cookware & Kitchenware.
- An MoU was signed between KEZAD (UAE) and TPCI for the India-UAE Food Corridor during the event.





Ques: On which national highway corridor did NHA create four Guinness World Records for continuous laying of Bituminous Concrete in January 2026?

- A) Delhi–Mumbai Expressway
- B) Amritsar–Jamnagar Economic Corridor
- C) Bengaluru–Chennai Expressway
- D) Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G)
- E) Lucknow–Kanpur Expressway

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHA), along with concessionaire M/s Rajpath Infracon Private Limited, created four Guinness World Records on the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor of NH-544G.
- On 6 January 2026, two records were created near Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.
- The first record was for the longest continuous laying of Bituminous Concrete, covering 28.89 lane km (3-lane wide, 9.63 km long stretch) within 24 hours.
- The second record was for the continuous laying of the highest quantity of Bituminous Concrete, totaling 10,655 metric tonnes in 24 hours.
- Two additional Guinness World Records were created on 11 January 2026.
- These included continuous laying of 57,500 metric tonnes of Bituminous Concrete and continuous paving of 156 lane km (3-lane wide, 52 km long stretch), surpassing the previous world record of 84.4 lane km.
- These record-setting achievements were executed across Package-2 and Package-3 of the corridor.
- The 343 km long, access-controlled, six-lane Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor has been designed for safe, high-speed, and scenic travel.





Recently Retired Players :

- **Jinson Johnson** : Retirement from competitive middle-distance running
- **Pakistan-born Australian cricketer Usman Tariq Khawaja** : Retirement from international cricket
- **Mohit Sharma (India)** : Retirement from all formats of cricket
- **Andre Russell (Jamaica)** : Retirement from IPL cricket
- **Kane Williamson (New Zealand)** : retired from Twenty20 internationals
- **Amit Mishra** : Retirement from international cricket
- **Asif Ali (Pakistan)** : Retirement from international cricket
- **Mitchell Starc (Australia)** : Retirement from T20 International cricket
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** : India's legendary off-spinner, officially retired from the IPL
- **Cheteshwar Pujara** : Retirement from all forms of cricket
- **Andre Russell (West Indies)** : Retirement from international cricket

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Ques: Which organisation successfully tested India's indigenous third-generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), and where was the test conducted?

- A) HAL – Pokhran
- B) BEL – Hyderabad
- C) ISRO – Sriharikota
- D) Indian Army – Leh
- E) DRDO – KK Ranges, Ahilya Nagar

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- India successfully conducted the flight test of its indigenous third-generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- The test was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The trial was conducted at the KK Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.
- MPATGM is a third-generation “fire and forget” anti-tank guided missile.
- The missile has been developed by DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) are the development-cum-production partners of the MPATGM.

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Ques: Which Australian cricketer announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026?

- A) Meg Lanning
- B) Ellyse Perry
- C) Alyssa Healy
- D) Beth Mooney
- E) Ashleigh Gardner

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Australia Women's cricket team captain Alyssa Healy announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026.
- The 35-year-old had a remarkable T20I career spanning nearly 15 years, scoring 3054 runs at an impressive strike rate of 129.79.
- She made her international debut in February 2010 and went on to become a six-time T20 World Cup winner.
- She also won the ODI World Cup in 2013 and 2022 with Australia.
- Her records include the highest individual score in an ODI World Cup final (170 vs England, 2022).
- She also holds the record for the highest individual score in a women's T20I (148* vs Sri Lanka, 2019).
- Alyssa Healy has the most dismissals in T20 internationals by any player (men or women), with 126 dismissals.





Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals :

- The portal 'PANKHUDI' was launched by Union Minister Annapurna Devi under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- Union Minister of State Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Ministry of Rural Development, launched the Land Stack portal, a first-of-its-kind national digital land governance initiative.
- Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, launched "Meri Yojana" Portal, an online platform designed to provide citizens with comprehensive information on welfare schemes offered by the Central and State Governments, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi stated that over 7 crore MSMEs have been registered on the Udyam Portal so far.
- The Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development (UMEED) Central Portal for management of Waqf properties has been closed for uploads on 6th December
- Deloitte India will launch an AI-powered tax research platform named Tax Pragya on 9 December 2025.

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Ques: What is the name of the new digital platform launched by the Indian Army to transform logistics management and enable data-driven decision-making?

- A) Logistics Command System (LCS)
- B) Integrated Defence Logistics Portal (IDLDP)
- C) Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME)
- D) Army Logistics Analytics Platform (ALAP)
- E) Digital Supply Chain System (DSCS)

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Indian Army has launched Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME), a new digital platform aimed at transforming logistics management.
- The platform will help commanders take faster, more informed, and data-driven decisions by integrating logistics-related information.
- DIME has been jointly developed by the Indian Army and the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N).
- BISAG-N functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

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Ques: What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2026, and how many destinations can Indian passport holders access without a prior visa?

- A) 85th rank – 31 destinations
- B) 80th rank – 55 destinations
- C) 75th rank – 60 destinations
- D) 90th rank – 45 destinations
- E) 98th rank – 37 destinations

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- According to the Henley Passport Index 2026, India is ranked 80th globally.
- The index is published by Henley & Partners, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm.
- Indian passport holders enjoy visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or e-visa access to 55 destinations worldwide.
- India improved its position from 85th rank in 2025 to 80th in 2026.
- Algeria, India, and Niger are jointly ranked 80th, each with a score of 55.
- The 2026 edition evaluates 277 countries and territories, including sovereign states, regions, and special administrative zones.
- For comparison, Pakistan is ranked 98th with access to 31 countries, and Bangladesh is 95th with access to 37 destinations.
- Singapore tops the index with access to 192 destinations, while Afghanistan ranks last at 101st with access to just 24 destinations.

Ranking of top 5 & Last countries:

- 1 Singapore - 192 Destinations
- 2 Japan, South Korea – 188 Destinations
- 3 Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland - 186 Destinations
- 4 Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway - 185 Destinations





5 Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Arab Emirates - 184 Destinations
80 India - 55 Destinations
101 Afghanistan – 24 Destinations



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Ques: India unveiled the logo and website for which international grouping's presidency in 2026?

- A) BRICS
- B) SCO
- C) G20
- D) ASEAN
- E) QUAD

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- India officially prepared for its BRICS Presidency 2026 by unveiling the logo and a dedicated website.
- The announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- India will assume the BRICS presidency as BRICS completes 20 years in 2026.
- The theme for India's BRICS Presidency is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The BRICS 2026 logo symbolizes unity in diversity, with petals incorporating the colours of all BRICS member countries.

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India's Rankings in Different Indices

- “Top Cities for Women in India 2025” report was published by Chennai-based workplace inclusion firm Avtar : Bengaluru (1st)
- The Global Food City Rankings 2025–26 were published by TasteAtlas : Mumbai (5th), Naples (1st)
- Bloomberg published the World’s Richest Families 2025 report : The Ambani Family (8th), Walton (1st)
- 2025 Passport Index published by Arton Capital : India (67th) United Arab Emirates(UAE) (1st)
- Global AI Vibrancy Tool (GVT) 2025 Published by Stanford Institute : India (3rd), USA (1st)
- Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025/26 : India (131st), Denmark (1st)
- SIPRI Top 100 Arms-Producing and Military Services Companies report 2024 Published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) : Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) – India (44th), Lockheed Martin Corporation - USA (1st)

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Ques: India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) at which place, and who will chair the conference?

- A) Mumbai – Rajya Sabha Chairman
- B) New Delhi – Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla
- C) Bengaluru – Vice President of India
- D) Chennai – Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister
- E) Hyderabad – Chief Justice of India

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).
- The conference will be held in New Delhi.
- Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 60 Commonwealth countries will participate.
- The conference will be chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- The 27th edition of the conference was hosted by Uganda in January 2024.

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Ques: Till which date has NHAI extended its 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' to improve cleanliness at toilet facilities along National Highways?

- A) 31 March 2026
- B) 30 April 2026
- C) 31 May 2026
- D) 30 June 2026
- E) 31 December 2026

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has extended its citizen-centric initiative, the 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge', till 30 June 2026 to enhance cleanliness and user experience at toilet facilities along National Highways.
- Under the extended campaign, clean toilet pictures shared by National Highway users will be assessed daily, and eligible claims will be processed in a time-bound manner.
- The FASTag recharge reward will be credited to the linked vehicle registration number (VRN) within five days of validation, ensuring transparency and responsiveness.
- The initiative was originally launched in September 2025 to encourage users to report unclean toilet facilities at toll plazas on National Highways.
- The initiative received an enthusiastic response, with around 350 commuters reporting unclean toilets, and about 265 eligible entries rewarded with FASTag recharges.
- The initiative is open to all National Highway commuters, who can participate by uploading clear, geo-tagged, and time-stamped photographs through the latest version of the Rajmargyatra mobile application.
- Each eligible vehicle registration number reporting an instance of an unclean toilet will receive a reward of ₹1,000 in the form of a FASTag recharge.





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- The voiceovers for these films were recorded by participants of Voicebox, a skilling initiative by Netflix in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
- The start-ups were discovered and supported through Manthan, a national digital backbone platform that identifies, curates, and connects high-impact innovations with scaling opportunities.
- The eight showcased start-ups include NeoMotion, Blind Vision Foundation, Healthcare Global Enterprises (Innaumation), Innogle, CultYvate, WeVOIS Labs, Greengine Environmental Technologies, and LCB Fertilizers, covering areas such as disability solutions, healthcare, agriculture, waste management, climate action, and the blue economy.





Recent Appointment in different departments :

- **Thierry Sabbagh** : President for India of Nissan
- **Abhishek Dev** : Chairman of APEDA with a one-year extension
- **A. K. Balasubrahmanian** : Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a tenure of three years (replaced Dr. D. K. Shukla)
- **Lav Aggarwal** : Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (succeeded Ajay Bhadoo)
- **Rabindra Kumar Agarwal** : Chairman and Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India. (replaced Ashutosh Agnihotri)
- **Rakesh Agarwal** : Interim Director General (DG) of National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- **Anu Garg** : Chief Secretary of Odisha, first woman to hold the state's top bureaucratic position
- **Pusarla Venkata (P.V.) Sindhu** : Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission
- **Senior Advocates Davinder Pal Singh, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, and Anil Kaushik** : Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) for India in the Supreme Court of India





=Ques : Who has been appointed as President and Vice Chairman of Meta, as announced recently?

- A) Mark Zuckerberg
- B) Nick Clegg
- C) Susan Li
- D) Sheryl Sandberg
- E) Dina Powell McCormick

Answer: Option E

Explanation | व्याख्या:

- Meta has appointed Dina Powell McCormick as its President and Vice Chairman.
- Dina Powell McCormick is a former adviser to former US President Donald Trump.
- Her appointment strengthens Meta's leadership with extensive experience in government, policy, and global affairs.

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Ques: Which Indian Army officer won the United Nations Secretary-General's Award 2025 for Gender-Inclusive Peacekeeping?

- A) Captain Anshuman Singh
- B) Major Swathi Shantha Kumar
- C) Lt Col Priya Jha
- D) Major Neha Sharma
- E) Colonel Ritu Singh

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- Indian Army officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025.
- The award was presented by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- She received it for her service with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- Major Swathi emerged as the global winner in the Gender Category.
- Her award-winning project was titled "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace," focusing on promoting gender-inclusive peacekeeping practices.

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