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Ques: What has been a major factor driving the recent surge in municipal bond issuances in India?

A) Increase in foreign direct investment
B) Fiscal incentives under AMRUT 2.0
C) Mandatory bond issuance by municipalities
D) Reduction in interest rates by RBI
E) Privatization of urban local bodies

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• By December of the current financial year, nine municipal bond issuances had already entered the market, showing increased participation by urban local bodies.
• The total outstanding value of municipal bonds stood at ₹3,783.9 crore as of September 30, 2025.
• Nearly ₹1,000 crore was raised in the calendar year 2025 alone, the highest single-year issuance so far.
• The key driver of this momentum is the fiscal incentives provided under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0).
• Under AMRUT 2.0, first-time municipal bond issuers can receive incentives of up to ₹13 crore for every ₹100 crore raised.

Ques: Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships of the General Insurance Council?

A) Praveen Kumar
B) Anup Kumar Saha
C) Karthikeyan Manickam
D) Ida Liu
E) S Prakash

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

• The General Insurance Council appointed S Prakash as the Chief Executive Officer for the Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships.
• He replaced Praveen Kumar in this role.
• The appointment aims to strengthen coordination and development in India's health insurance ecosystem.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector :

• **Anup Kumar Saha :   Whole Time Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank**

• **Ida Liu :   Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HSBC Private Bank**

• **Nianshan Zhang : Director General for Asian Development Bank (ADB) Southeast Asia Department**

• **Karthikeyan Manickam, former Executive Director (ED) of Bank of India : Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB). (Replaced R. P. Ramakrishnan)**

• **Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia : interim Managing Director & CEO of Canara Bank (Replaced Satyanarayana Raju)**

• **Ratan Kumar Kesh : Executive Director (ED) of Bandhan Bank**

• **Brajesh Kumar Singh :   Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Canara Bank. (replaced K. Satyanarayana Raju)**

• **Ms. Shahla Ayoub : Independent Directors in J&K Bank for Tenure 3 Years (Dec 26, 2025 – Dec 25, 2028)**

Ques: Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the high-level committee formed to formulate guidelines for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS)?

A) Ajay Tyagi
B) Supratim Bandyopadhyay
C) M S Sahoo
D) Ramesh Abhishek
E) Urjit Patel

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee to formulate guidelines and regulations for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS).
• The committee is a 15-member body aimed at strengthening confidence and predictability in NPS payout mechanisms.
• The committee is chaired by M S Sahoo, former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
About PFRDA:
• Established: 2003
• Headquarters: New Delhi
• Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann

Ques: What restriction has the Reserve Bank of India imposed on resident Indians under the Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, 2026?

A) Ban on foreign investments
B) Prohibition on issuing credit guarantees to NRIs
C) Restriction on remittances
D) Ban on foreign borrowing
E) Restriction on export payments

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• The Reserve Bank of India issued the Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, 2026.
• Under these regulations, resident Indians are prohibited from issuing credit guarantees in favour of non-resident Indians (NRIs).
• RBI clarified that no person resident in India shall be a party to a guarantee if any other party to the guarantee is resident outside India.
• Resident Indians may act as surety or principal debtor only if the underlying transaction is permitted under foreign exchange law.
• Both parties must also be eligible to lend or borrow under FEMA (Borrowing and Lending) Regulations, 2018.
• These conditions do not apply to fully collateralised dealer banks, agents of foreign shipping or airline companies, and resident-to-resident guarantees.

Recent News Headlines related to Defence

• India achieved another milestone in indigenous defence capability with the successful flight test of the third-generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

• 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.

Ques: Why has NHAI launched a pilot initiative to deliver real-time safety alerts on National Highways during Road Safety Month 2026?

A) To control traffic congestion
B) To prevent accidents caused by sudden cattle movement
C) To promote FASTag usage
D) To monitor vehicle speed limits
E) To improve toll collection efficiency

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• During Road Safety Month 2026, NHAI, in collaboration with telecom service providers, launched a pilot project to deliver real-time safety alerts to National Highway users approaching stray cattle–prone zones.
• The initiative aims to reduce accidents caused by sudden cattle movement, especially during foggy and low-visibility conditions.
• The pilot is being implemented on the Jaipur–Agra and Jaipur–Rewari National Highway corridors, identified as high-risk areas for stray cattle movement.
• Location-based alerts will be sent to commuters about 10 km in advance of high-risk stretches, allowing sufficient time for precautionary measures.
• Safety advisories are delivered through Flash SMS, followed by a voice alert conveying the same message.

Ques: What is the key objective behind the launch of the National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP) by the Indian Olympic Association?

A) To promote professional leagues only
B) To strengthen Olympic education and sports development through a national framework
C) To select athletes for the next Olympic Games
D) To manage sports funding and sponsorships
E) To regulate international sports federations in India

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) launched the National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP) and reactivated the National Olympic Academy (NOA) as a nationwide framework for Olympic education and sports development.
• The reactivated National Olympic Academy aims to promote Olympic values, education, and capacity-building across the country.
• P.T. Usha, President of the IOA, has been named President of the National Olympic Academy (NOA).
• Olympic medalist and IOA Vice President Gagan Narang has been appointed as the Director of the NOA.

About Indian Olympic Association :

• Established : 1927
• HQ : New Delhi
• President : P. T. Usha

Ques: What was the key issue reported regarding ISRO's PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission launched in January 2026?

A) Satellite was not launched at all
B) Launch was postponed due to weather
C) Rocket failed to reach its intended orbit
D) Communication lost after one day
E) Successful launch with partial data loss

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• ISRO's first PSLV mission of 2026, PSLV-C62, failed to reach its intended orbit.
• The rocket was carrying the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-N1.
• The failure occurred about 10 minutes after lift-off on January 12, 2026.
• PSLV-C62 was carrying a total of 16 satellites.
• These included EOS-N1 and the surveillance satellite Anvesha developed by DRDO.
• The mission also carried eight foreign satellites from countries including Thailand, Spain, Brazil, Nepal, and the United Kingdom.
• This marked the first time in PSLV's three-decade history that the rocket failed consecutively for the second time.
• In the previous mission, PSLV-C61 (May last year) carrying EOS-09 had also failed to reach its designated orbit due to third-stage issues.

Ques: Who has been sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court?

A) Justice Hima Kohli
B) Justice Revati Mohite-Dere
C) Justice Soumen Sen
D) Justice Indira Banerjee
E) Justice Bela M. Trivedi

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• Justice Revati Mohite-Dere, a judge of the Bombay High Court, was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
• She succeeded Justice Soumen Sen, who has been transferred to the Kerala High Court.
• In India, High Court judges are appointed by the President under Article 217 of the Constitution of India.

Ques: Who inaugurated the high-tech Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

A) Narendra Modi
B) Rajnath Singh
C) Amit Shah
D) Nitin Gadkari
E) Dharmendra Pradhan

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah inaugurated a high-tech Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
• During the visit, he also inaugurated 9 development projects and laid the foundation stones for 2 additional projects.
• The total investment involved in these projects is ₹373 crore.
• The ICCC has been developed at a project cost of ₹229 crore.
• ICCC is a technology-driven, multi-agency security and coordination facility aimed at strengthening surveillance, security, and inter-agency coordination in the strategically important island territory.

Ques: Which film won the maximum number of awards at the 83rd Annual Golden Globe Awards?

A) One Battle After Another
B) Adolescence
C) The White Lotus
D) Barbie
E) Oppenheimer

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

• The 83rd Annual Golden Globe Awards were presented at the Beverly Hilton in California, USA.
• The ceremony was hosted by comedian Nikki Glaser for the second consecutive year.
• The film One Battle After Another won the highest number of awards, securing 4 Golden Globe Awards.
• It also led the nominations with a total of 9 nominations.
• In television categories, Adolescence won the most awards (4), while The White Lotus received the highest number of nominations (6).

List of Golden Globe Awards 2026 Winners :

Films :

• Best Motion Picture (Drama) : Hamnet
• Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) : One Battle After Another
• Best Screenplay : Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
• Best Supporting Actor : Stellan Skarsgard (Sentimental Value)
• Best Supporting Actress : Teyana Taylor (One Battle After Another)
• Best Director : Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
• Best Actor (Drama) : Wagner Moura (The Secret Agent)
• Best Actress (Drama) : Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)

• Best Actor (Musical or Comedy) : Timothee Chalamet (Marty Supreme)
• Best Actress (Musical or Comedy) : Rose Byrne (If I Had Legs I'd Kick You)
• Best Original Score : Ludwig Goransson (Sinners)
• Best Animated Feature : KPop Demon Hunters
• Best Original Song : Golden (KPop Demon Hunters)
• Best Non-English Language Film : The Secret Agent

Television Awards :

• Best Series (Drama) : The Pitt
• Best Series (Musical or Comedy) : The Studio
• Best Limited Series : Adolescence
• Best Actor (Drama Series) : Noah Wyle (The Pitt)
• Best Actress (Drama Series) : Rhea Seehorn (Pluribus)
• Best Actor (Comedy Series) : Seth Rogen (The Studio)
• Best Actress (Comedy Series) : Jean Smart (Hacks)
• Best Actor (Limited Series) : Stephen Graham (Adolescence)
• Best Actress (Limited Series) : Michelle Williams (Dying for Sex)
• Best Supporting Actor (Limited Series) : Owen Cooper (Adolescence)
• Best Supporting Actress (Limited Series) : Eri Doherty (Adolescence)
• Best Stand-Up Comedy Performance : Ricky Gervais (Mortality)
• Best Podcast : Good Hang with Amy Poehler

Recent Appointment in different departments :

• **Dina Powell McCormick : President and Vice Chairman of Meta**

• **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**

Ques: Which initiative has been launched by IndiaAI in collaboration with the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to automate verification of financial documents using Artificial Intelligence?

A) IndiaAI Audit Automation Mission
B) IndiaAI Financial Reporting Compliance Challenge
C) Digital India Financial AI Scheme
D) AIKosh Compliance Accelerator
E) NFRA Smart Accounting Programme

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• IndiaAI launched the IndiaAI Financial Reporting Compliance Challenge in collaboration with the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
• IndiaAI functions under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
• The initiative is part of the IndiaAI Application Development Initiative (IADI).
• It aims to develop AI-based systems for automated verification of financial documents against regulatory frameworks.
• Indian startups and companies are invited to build scalable AI engines for financial compliance.
• Up to 10 shortlisted teams will receive ₹5 lakh each for solution refinement using datasets from AIKosh.
• Select teams may be invited for an on-premises development round in New Delhi.

Ques: What is the name of the first-ever joint Military–Civil Fusion exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Pune?

A) Sanjha Shakti
B) Sahayog Shakti
C) Suraksha Setu
D) Yudh Abhyas
E) Prahar

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

• The Indian Army conducted its first-ever two-day joint Military–Civil Fusion exercise named Sanjha Shakti.
• The exercise was held at the Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, Pune, under the aegis of the Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa Area of the Southern Command.
• It saw participation from the Indian Army along with 16 key civilian agencies.
• Participating civilian agencies included Maharashtra Police, Force One, and fire and emergency services.
• More than 350 civilian personnel took part, highlighting enhanced coordination between military and civil authorities.

Ques: Which Indian mountaineer recently scaled Mount Aconcagua, and why is this achievement significant?

A) Anshu Jamsenpa – Fastest ascent record
B) Aritra Roy – Part of Seven Summits challenge
C) Arunima Sinha – First amputee climber
D) Malavath Purna – Youngest climber
E) Santosh Yadav – Multiple Everest climbs

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.
• Mount Aconcagua, at about 6,961 metres, is the highest mountain outside Asia.
• The ascent is part of Aritra Roy's Seven Summits challenge, which involves climbing the highest peaks on all seven continents.
• This achievement highlights India's growing presence in global mountaineering.

Recent Headlines Related to Inauguration :

• Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS) of the National Security Guard (NSG).

• Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh from the Ministry of Science and Technology inaugurated the National Environmental Standard Laboratory and the National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration.

• Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh) inaugurated the Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and India's first commercial-scale tropical RAS-based Rainbow Trout Aquaculture Farm and Research Institute in Kandukur Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana.

• Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, inaugurated Sanskaar Shaala, also known as Shankar Shaala, at the Lohia Lions Auditorium in Guwahati.

• India inaugurated its first government hospital-based AI clinic at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Kasna, Greater Noida.

• Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the redeveloped Batadrava Than at Borduwa village in Nagaon district, Assam.

Ques: Human rabies has been declared a notifiable disease in which region, to ensure mandatory reporting under the Epidemic Diseases Act?

A) Maharashtra
B) Kerala
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Uttar Pradesh
E) Delhi

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

• Human rabies has been declared a notifiable disease in Delhi under the Epidemic Diseases Act.
• A notifiable disease must be mandatorily reported to government health authorities.
• The reporting obligation applies to government hospitals, private hospitals, medical colleges, and private medical practitioners.
• Reporting is mandatory for suspected, probable, and confirmed cases.
• Rabies is a viral zoonotic disease affecting the central nervous system, with an almost 100% fatality rate once clinical symptoms appear.

Ques: What does the latest data released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy indicate about India's non-fossil fuel electricity capacity?

A) It declined due to low renewable additions
B) It reached 266.78 GW in 2025, showing a 22.6% increase over 2024
C) It crossed the 500 GW target in 2025
D) Growth was limited only to solar energy
E) It includes only solar and wind power

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• India's non-fossil fuel electricity capacity reached 266.78 GW in 2025, registering a 22.6% increase over 2024.
• The capacity includes solar (131.81 GW), wind (54.51 GW), bioenergy (11.61 GW), small hydro (5.16 GW), and large hydro including pumped storage (50.91 GW).
• Around 48 GW of renewable capacity (including hydropower) was added in 2025.
• This progress supports India's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.
• It also strengthens India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Net Zero by 2070 goal.

Ques: Which statement correctly describes the Prerana program?

A) A sports training program conducted at IIM Ahmedabad, with 50 batches completed
B) An experiential learning program started on 15 January 2024 at Vernacular School Vadnagar, involving 20 students per batch from 10 districts, with 81 batches completed in the first cycle, focusing on nine core values and supported by an alumni network
C) A digital learning program for online education conducted in Delhi with only boys participating
D) A scholarship program for higher education, conducted only in private schools
E) A medical training program conducted at IIT Gandhinagar for students of 5 states

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• Prerana is an experiential learning program and a national initiative of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.
• The program was inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and started on 15 January 2024.
• It is conducted at the historic Vernacular School in Vadnagar, established in 1888, where the Prime Minister began his education.
• Each batch involves 20 students from 10 districts, and 81 batches were completed in the first cycle.
• The program focuses on nine core values and is supported by an alumni network.
• Each weekly batch includes 20 students, with one boy and one girl from each of 10 districts across 10 States/UTs, along with Lady Guardian Teachers for balanced gender participation.
• The first cycle completed 81 batches, involving 1,620 students and 810 Guardian Teachers, representing all 785 districts of India.
• Participants engaged with nine core human values such as Swabhiman, Shaurya, Parishram, Satyanishtha, Karuna, Navachar, Vividhta, Shraddha, and Swatantrata.
• The program is guided by teachers from Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar

Navodaya Vidyalayas, trained by experts from IIT Gandhinagar, IIM Ahmedabad, and IKS Division, among others.

• Through storytelling, heritage immersion, indigenous games, collaborative reflection, and experiential activities, students developed confidence, teamwork, leadership, and social responsibility.

• The Prerana Alumni Network supported by the Prerana Alumni Portal continues to connect students, provide mentorship, and encourage knowledge sharing.

Ques: What highlights the growth and performance of India's fisheries sector in recent years?

A) Fish production declined after 2014

B) India became the largest fish producer globally

C) Fish production more than doubled and exports reached a record high

D) No major government schemes were launched for fisheries

E) Seafood exports reduced due to low demand

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• India's fish production increased from 95 lakh tonnes in 2013–14 to around 198 lakh tonnes in 2024–25, showing a growth of over 106%.

• India is currently the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing about 8% to global fish production.

• Since 2014–15, ₹32,723 crore has been approved under schemes such as the Blue Revolution, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi SahYojana.

• India's seafood exports reached an all-time high of ₹62,408 crore in 2024–25.

Ques: IndiaAI Mission has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to build one of India's largest state-level Artificial Intelligence skilling ecosystems?

A) Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited (UPLC)
B) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
C) Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Limited (UPDESCO)
D) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)
E) Digital India Corporation (DIC)

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• IndiaAI Mission, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed an MoU with Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Limited (UPDESCO).
• The MoU aims to build one of India's largest state-level AI skilling ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh.
• A total of 65 Data and AI Labs are planned across the state, equipped with modern computing infrastructure.
• Currently, two labs at NIELIT Lucknow and Gorakhpur are operational.
• One lab in Pilibhit is industry-led, 49 labs have been approved and are under implementation, and 13 additional labs will be identified to complete the network.

Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

• **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 : Indian Army officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar**

• **2026 IEEE Medal of Honor : Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA**

• **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia : Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo (Conferred by Walter Ferrara, the Consul General of Italy in Mumbai)**

• **Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 : Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE)- Asia's 1st and oldest stock exchange at Hong Kong Leadership Awards**

• **'Best International Military Student' Award : Commander Akhil Nair**

• **Damehood (DBE) in King Charles III's New Year Honours List 2026 : Meera Syal**

• **Israel Prize for Peace, Israel's highest civilian honour : US President Donald Trump**

• **Israel Prize for Peace, Israel's highest civilian honour : US President Donald Trump**

• **IFFCO Sahitya Samman 2025 : Hindi fiction writer Maitreyi Pushpa**

• **IFFCO Yuva Sahitya Samman : Ankita Jain for her book "Oh Re! Kisan"**

Ques: Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) by the Centre, and what is his tenure?

A) Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor – Till October 31, 2026
B) Daljit Singh Chaudhary – Till October 2026
C) Praveen Kumar – Till September 2030
D) Rakesh Agarwal – Till December 2026
E) Nagesh Kapoor – Till March 2027

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

• The Centre appointed senior IPS officer Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor as the Director General of ITBP.
• His tenure will continue till October 31, 2026.
• He replaced Praveen Kumar, who was earlier serving as ITBP Director General.
• Praveen Kumar has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), with tenure till September 30, 2030, replacing Daljit Singh Chaudhary.

Recent News Headlines Related to Defence Exercise :

• Exercise AviaIndra-2025 Held in India between Indian Air Force (IAF) & Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF). Aircraft participated are Su-30 MKI, Tejas, IL-78 aircraft, and Mi-17 helicopters. It is Started in 2014.

• Exercise Ektah 2025 8th Edition Held at Maldives between Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). It is Started in 2017.

• Exercise DESERT CYCLONE 2025 is the 2nd edition of the joint army exercise between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

• The 8th edition of Exercise Garuda, a bilateral air exercise between India and France, concluded in France on 27th November 2025.

• The 5th edition of the India–Malaysia joint military exercise Harimau Shakti-2025 began at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan from 5–18 December 2025.

• The 10th edition of the India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces exercise Garuda Shakti began at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

Ques: Which company has signed a contract with the Indian Army to overhaul, upgrade and provide long-term support for the Pinaka Multiple Launcher Rocket Systems (MLRS)?

A) Bharat Electronics Limited
B) Larsen & Toubro
C) Tata Advanced Systems
D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
E) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• Larsen & Toubro (L&T) signed a contract with the Indian Army, awarded by the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), for overhauling, upgrading, and providing long-term support for the Pinaka Multiple Launcher Rocket Systems.
• Under the contract, L&T will overhaul existing launchers, replace obsolete components, modernize command and control systems, and provide lifecycle support, quality assurance, and training.
• Pinaka is India's indigenously developed Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher System, designed by DRDO and manufactured by Indian companies including L&T and Tata.
• The Pinaka MLRS was inducted into the Indian Army around 1998 and was operationally used during the Kargil conflict in 1999.
• Pinaka has a range of about 40 km in its Mk-I version, 60–75 km in Mk-II and extended-range variants, and over 90 km in advanced versions.

Ques: Where was the rare Sandalwood Leopard, exhibiting a strawberry (pale reddish-pink) colour morph, sighted for the first time in Karnataka?

A) Bandipur National Park, Karnataka
B) Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
C) Vijayanagara district, Karnataka
D) Ranakpur, Rajasthan
E) Gir National Park, Gujarat

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

• The first sighting of a rare Sandalwood Leopard in Karnataka was reported from the Vijayanagara district.
• The leopard displayed a strawberry or pale reddish-pink colour morph, also referred to as the Sandalwood Leopard.
• Globally, only about five such cases of this rare colour morph have been recorded.
• The previous recorded sighting in India occurred in Ranakpur, Rajasthan, in 2021.
• Scientists suggest hypomelanism or erythrism as the possible cause behind this unusual coloration.
• The sighting is significant from a conservation perspective as it highlights the genetic diversity within leopard populations.

Important days :

• 17 December : 22nd International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers 2025 (Started in 2003)

• 18 December : 52nd Arabic Language Day   (Theme 2025 Innovative Pathways for Arabic: Policies and Practices for a More Inclusive Linguistic Future) (Started in 2012)

• 18 December : 25th International Migrants Day   (Theme 2025 My Great Story: Cultures and Development) (Started in 2000)

• 18 December : National Minority Rights Day

• 20 December : International Human Solidarity Day 2025 (Theme 2025 Solidarity for Sustainable Development: Uniting Communities for a Shared Future)

• 20 December : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) observes its Raising Day

• 21 December : World Basketball Day 2025   (Started in 2023)

• 21 December : 2nd World Meditation Day (1st - 2024)

• 22 December : National Mathematics Day 2025   (Commemorates Birth date (138th) of Srinivasa Ramanujan, born in 1887)

• 22 December : National Mathematics Day

• 23 December : National Farmer's Day

• 24 December : National Consumer Day (theme "Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice.")

• 25 December : 12th Good Governance Day (theme "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore (Governance Towards Villages)")

• 19th to 25th December : Good Governance Week

• 26 December : 4th Veer Bal Diwas

• 27 December : 6th International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2025 (Started in 2020)

• 1 January : Global Family Day (Started in 2000)

• 2 January : World Introvert Day (Theme 2026 Quietly Changing Tomorrow)

• 3 January : International Mind-Body Wellness Day

• 4 January : World Braille Day (Started in 2018)

• 5 January : National Bird Day (started in 2002)

• 6 January : World Day of War Orphans (Started in 1995)
• 6 January : 9th National Siddha Day ("Siddha for Global Health.")
• 8 January : Earth's Rotation Day
• 9 January : Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)
• 10 January : World Hindi Day, also known as Vishwa Hindi Diwas
• 12 January : National Youth Day, also known as Rashtriya Yuva Divas and Vivekananda Jayanti

IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

The Innovation Tamil Nadu Technology Hub signed a Letter of Intent with XeedQ GmbH, a German quantum technology company, with an aim to launch India's first state-backed Quantum computing programme

PM-YUVA 3.0 interaction took place at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi.

Bharat Forge Limited and Germany's Agile Robots S.E. signed a MOU in Pune, Maharashtra, to explore a strategic collaboration in Artificial Intelligence driven robotics and intelligent industrial automation.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has entered into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with the National Dairy Development Board to enhance collaboration in multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the entire dairy sector.

Shri Surjit Bhujabal, the Special Secretary & Member (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), inaugurated the integration of the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway–Land Port Management System (ICEGATE–LPMS) at the Integrated Check Post (ICP), at Agartala, Tripura.