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**Question: What was the key outcome of Bajaj Finserv's acquisition of Allianz SE's stake in its insurance businesses?**

- A) Complete exit of Bajaj Group from insurance business
- B) Reduction of Bajaj Finserv's ownership below majority level
- C) Increase in Bajaj Group's ownership to 97% with full management control
- D) Merger of Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance
- E) Listing of Allianz SE as a majority partner in India

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Bajaj Finserv, along with Bajaj Holdings & Investment Limited and Jamnalal Sons Private Limited, acquired Allianz SE's 23% stake in its insurance subsidiaries.
- The acquisition involved Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance.
- The transaction value was ₹12,190 crore for Bajaj General Insurance and ₹9,200 crore for Bajaj Life Insurance.
- The total consideration amounted to ₹21,390 crore.
- After the acquisition, Bajaj Group's ownership increased from 74% to 97%, giving it full management control.

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**Question: Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank Limited for a two-year tenure starting October 04, 2026?**

- A) Uday Kotak
- B) Shikha Sharma
- C) Sandeep Bakshi
- D) Chanda Kochhar
- E) N. S. Kannan

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Sandeep Bakshi has been appointed as the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank Limited for a two-year term.
- His tenure will be effective from October 04, 2026 to October 03, 2028.
- He was first appointed as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank in October 2018.
- His term was extended earlier until October 2026 before the current reappointment.

**About ICICI Bank:**

- Established: 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakshi





## Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- **S Prakash** : Chief Executive Officer for the Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships General Insurance Council (replaced Praveen Kumar)
- **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)

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**Question: Which bank won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' award at the 21st Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Banking Technology Awards 2026, and where was the event held?**

- A) State Bank of India – New Delhi
- B) HDFC Bank – Bengaluru
- C) Canara Bank – Chennai
- D) ICICI Bank – Hyderabad
- E) Karnataka Bank – Mumbai

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Karnataka Bank won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' award.
- The award was presented at the 21st Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Banking Technology Awards 2026.
- The award ceremony was held in Mumbai.
- The recognition highlights Karnataka Bank's effective adoption of FinTech innovations and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in banking services.

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**Question: Bank of Baroda has signed an MoU with which institution to boost infrastructure financing?**

- A) NABARD
- B) SIDBI
- C) IIFCL
- D) NHB
- E) EXIM Bank

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Bank of Baroda signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) to collaborate on infrastructure financing.
- The partnership will facilitate joint lending and loan syndication for a wide range of infrastructure projects across India.
- The objective is to accelerate infrastructure development and support long-term economic growth.
- IIFCL will provide sectoral expertise, while Bank of Baroda will contribute its banking and credit capabilities.

**About IIFCL:**

- Established: 2006
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Managing Director: Palash Srivastava





## Recently signed banking agreements

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with TechFini to enhance its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities.
- The Delhi Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Reserve Bank of India to operate under RBI's complete banking, cash management, and debt management framework for the first time.
- The Department of Posts and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a landmark MoU to implement a nationwide Contact Point Verification system.
- Fyno has partnered with Kerala Grameena Bank (KGB) to deploy a unified customer communication platform.
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited has entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank to expand life insurance distribution through ESFB's branch network.
- BharatPe, in partnership with YES Bank, launched 'Pay Later with BharatPe', an instant Credit on UPI product powered by NPCI.
- Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) entered into a definitive agreement with MUFG Bank Limited for an investment of ₹39,618 crore (USD 4.4 billion).

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**Question: In which year did Public Sector Banks launch a Credit Assessment Model based on digital footprints for MSMEs?**

- A) 2022
- B) 2023
- C) 2024
- D) 2025
- E) 2026

**Answer:** Option D

**Explanation:**

- Public Sector Banks launched a Credit Assessment Model based on digital footprints for MSMEs in 2025.
- Between 1 April and 31 December 2025, more than 3.96 lakh MSME loan applications amounting to over ₹52,300 crore were sanctioned under digital credit underwriting programmes.
- The model uses digitally fetched and verifiable data to enable automated MSME loan appraisal and model-based limit assessment for both Existing-to-Bank (ETB) and New-to-Bank (NTB) borrowers.
- Digital footprints include KYC authentication, mobile and email verification, GST data analysis, bank statement analysis via Account Aggregator, ITR verification, Credit Information Companies (CICs) data, and fraud checks.
- Benefits to MSMEs include online application from anywhere, reduced paperwork and branch visits, instant in-principle sanction, faster turnaround time, objective credit decisions, and integration with CGTMSE credit guarantee schemes.
- Loan applications are sourced through an end-to-end digital journey on the Jan Samarth Porta





**Question: The World Bank approved a USD 286 million loan for which programme in India?**

- A) National Health Mission (NHM)
- B) Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- C) West Bengal Health System Reform Program (WBHSRP)
- D) National Digital Health Mission
- E) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The World Bank approved a USD 286 million loan for the West Bengal Health System Reform Program (WBHSRP).
- The loan is provided through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- It has a tenure of 16.5 years with a grace period of 3 years.
- The programme aims to strengthen and reform the health system in West Bengal.

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**Question: The Union Cabinet approved ₹5,000 crore equity support to which institution?**

- A) NABARD
- B) SIDBI
- C) RBI
- D) EXIM Bank
- E) NHB

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet approved equity support of ₹5,000 crore to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The decision was taken under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The equity will be infused by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in three tranches.
- ₹3,000 crore will be infused in FY 2025–26, while ₹1,000 crore each will be provided in FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28.
- The move will enhance SIDBI's lending capacity, improve credit flow to MSMEs, and help maintain a healthy CRAR.

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**Question: Till which year has the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?**

- A) 2027–28
- B) 2028–29
- C) 2029–30
- D) 2030–31
- E) 2035–36

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to FY 2030–31.
- Government support will continue for promotional and developmental activities as well as gap funding to ensure the scheme's sustainability.
- APY was launched on 9 May 2015 to provide old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector.
- The scheme is open to Indian citizens aged 18–40 years and offers a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the age of 60.

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**Question: Where was the 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) held?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Mumbai
- D) Chennai
- E) Kochi

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- The 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) was held in Kochi, Kerala.
- It was organised by the All-India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF).
- The theme of ISC 2026 was “Spice 360 – Getting Future Ready.”
- The conference was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa.
- The Guest of Honour was Martin Sonntag, CEO of Oterra (Denmark).

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**Question: What was India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) in December 2025, and how did it perform compared to December 2024?**

- A) US\$ 74.01 billion with negative growth of 1.01%
- B) US\$ 72.80 billion with zero growth
- C) US\$ 70.15 billion with positive growth
- D) US\$ 76.50 billion with negative growth of 2.5%
- E) US\$ 80.94 billion with positive growth

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) in December 2025 were estimated at US\$ 74.01 billion.
- This represented a negative growth of 1.01% compared to December 2024.
- Merchandise exports stood at US\$ 38.51 billion, while merchandise imports were US\$ 63.55 billion.
- Services exports amounted to US\$ 35.50 billion and services imports to US\$ 17.38 billion.
- Total imports (merchandise + services) during December 2025 were US\$ 80.94 billion.
- As a result, India recorded a trade deficit of US\$ 6.92 billion in December 2025.

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**Question: The financial approval limit of the Central Silk Board has been increased to how much?**

- A) ₹50 lakh
- B) ₹75 lakh
- C) ₹1 crore
- D) ₹2 crore
- E) ₹5 crore

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Government increased the Central Silk Board's (CSB) financial approval limit to ₹1 crore.
- The Ministry of Textiles raised the ceiling from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore by amending Rule 22 of the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955.
- The move aims to speed up project clearances, reduce administrative delays, and improve implementation of schemes in the silk sector.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Summits / conference

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations and other Government partners and industry stakeholders, organised the National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC) 2026 in New Delhi
- The India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM)–2026 is a three-day conference starting from 21 January 2026, held in New Delhi.
- The 6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers’ (ADGMIN) Meeting was held virtually, reaffirming the shared commitment of ASEAN Member States and India to deepen cooperation in the digital domain.
- India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).
- 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.

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**Question: What is the significance of Wings India 2026 in the context of India's civil aviation sector?**

- A) It is a defence-only aviation exhibition
- B) It is Asia's largest civil aviation event showcasing the future of Indian aviation
- C) It is a regional aviation meet limited to South India
- D) It focuses only on airline ticketing reforms
- E) It is an annual training programme for pilots

**Answer:** Option B

Explanation:

- Wings India 2026 is Asia's largest civil aviation event.
- It will be formally launched with a grand inaugural ceremony led by the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Rammohan Naidu.
- The event will be held from 28 to 31 January 2026.
- The venue is Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- The theme is: "Indian Aviation: Paving the Future – From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation and Safety to Sustainability."

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**Question: What key provision is included in the OECD's global minimum corporate tax agreement involving the United States?**

- A) Increase of global minimum tax rate to 20%
- B) Complete withdrawal of the United States from the agreement
- C) Uniform tax rate without any exemptions for all countries
- D) Mandatory carbon tax on multinational corporations
- E) Carve-out exempting U.S.-based multinational companies from the 15% global minimum tax

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- The OECD finalised an agreement on the global minimum corporate tax with participation from the United States and over 100 countries.
- A key provision is a carve-out that effectively exempts U.S.-based multinational companies from the 15% global minimum tax framework.
- U.S. officials stated that American companies already face a 15% domestic corporate minimum tax.
- The U.S. international tax regime already ensures adequate taxation of multinational corporations.

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**Question: Why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in the Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrations during his visit to Gujarat?**

- A) To mark the completion of a new temple construction project
- B) To commemorate 500 years of the Somnath Temple
- C) To mark 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on Somnath Temple and 75 years of its post-Independence reconstruction
- D) To launch a national religious tourism scheme
- E) To announce a new cultural heritage law

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan, Veraval, and participated in Omkar mantra chanting during the Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrations.
- The celebrations marked 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 CE by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- 2026 also marks the 75th anniversary of the temple's post-Independence reconstruction and reopening to devotees on 11 May 1951.
- PM Modi led the Shaurya Yatra at the Somnath Temple complex and paid floral tributes to Veer Hamirji Gohil and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for their roles in protecting and restoring the temple.
- During the visit, PM Modi also inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for the Kutch and Saurashtra regions at Marwadi University, Rajkot.
- The conference aims to promote investment, industrial growth, and regional development in western Gujarat





## India's Rankings in Different Indices

- **Export Preparedness Index 2024** published by NITI Aayog : Maharashtra (1st in Large States ), Uttarakhand (1st in Small States)
- **Henley Passport Index 2026** : India (80th), Singapore (1st)
- “**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)

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**Question: Who has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025?**

- A) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- B) Graca Machel
- C) Malala Yousafzai
- D) Michelle Bachelet
- E) Graça Silva

**Answer: Option B**

Explanation:

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025 was awarded to Graca Machel, a Mozambican rights activist.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 crore, a citation, and a trophy.
- She was selected by an international jury chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon.
- Graca Machel has served as First Lady of South Africa (wife of Nelson Mandela) and Mozambique (widow of Samora Machel).
- She was honoured for her outstanding contributions to peace, women's rights, and the wellbeing of women and adolescents.
- In 2018, she received the WHO Gold Medal, the highest honour of the World Health Organization.

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**Question: Port Infrastructure and Digital Governance projects worth ₹235 crore were launched at Chennai under which programme?**

- A) Sagarmala Programme
- B) Maritime India Vision 2030
- C) Viksit Bharat, Viksit Ports
- D) National Logistics Policy
- E) Smart Ports Initiative

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched Port Infrastructure & Digital Governance projects in Chennai under the Viksit Bharat, Viksit Ports programme.
- The projects are implemented by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and cover Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore), Tamil Nadu.
- Total project value is ₹235 crore, with ₹129.36 crore for Chennai Port and ₹105.64 crore for Kamarajar Port.
- Key digital initiative includes the e-Port Clearance Portal, launched under the One Nation–One Port Process (ONOP).
- A ₹18 lakh cheque was provided to the Royal Madras Yacht Club for sailing training of students from Chennai Port School.

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**Question: Who will take over as Group CEO of Eternal from February 1?**

- A) Deepinder Goyal
- B) Nandan Reddy
- C) Albinder Dhindsa
- D) Amit Agarwal
- E) Ritesh Agarwal

**Answer: Option C**

Explanation:

- Deepinder Goyal has stepped down as Group CEO of Eternal Ltd. (formerly Zomato).
- Blinkit founder and CEO Albinder Dhindsa will take over as Group CEO from February 1.
- Deepinder Goyal will continue as Vice-Chairman, focusing on new ideas and high-risk innovations outside Eternal's core business.
- The board approved Albinder Dhindsa's appointment as part of a leadership restructuring to keep Eternal focused and disciplined as a public company.

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**Question: What were the key outcomes of German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz's official visit to India?**

- A) Signing of a single defence agreement and expansion of military cooperation only
- B) Focus solely on cultural exchanges without economic commitments
- C) Strengthening of the India–Germany Strategic Partnership through multiple MoUs, green development funding, and people-to-people initiatives
- D) Announcement of a free trade agreement between India and Germany
- E) Limiting cooperation only to the renewable energy sector

**Answer: Option C**

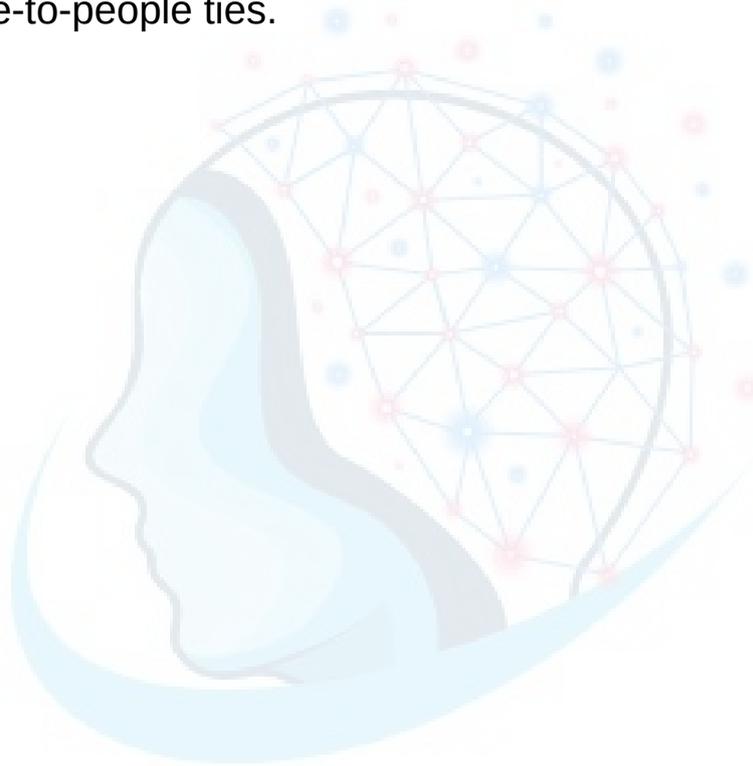
**Explanation:**

- German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited India for a two-day official trip.
- He and Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2026 at the Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad (10–14 January 2026).
- Both leaders held a high-level bilateral meeting in Gandhinagar to review the India–Germany Strategic Partnership, which has completed 25 years.
- During the visit, 19 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Joint Declarations were signed between India and Germany, covering economic cooperation, green development funding, and people-to-people initiatives.
- An MoU was signed between NIELIT (MeitY) and Infineon Technologies AG for cooperation in electronics and semiconductor manufacturing and design.
- A Joint Declaration was signed to establish a National Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Skilling in Renewable Energy at the National Skill Training Institute, Hyderabad.
- An MoU was signed between the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), Lothal, and the German Maritime Museum–Leibniz Institute for Maritime History for development of NMHC.
- Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation signed an MoU for youth hockey development.
- Germany announced visa-free transit for Indian passport holders travelling through Germany.





- Germany committed new funding of €1.24 billion under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership for projects in renewable energy, green hydrogen, PM e-Bus SEWA, and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.
- India–Germany Triangular Development Cooperation projects will be scaled up in Ghana, Cameroon, and Malawi.
- Germany also opened an Honorary Consulate in Ahmedabad to enhance cultural, economic, and people-to-people ties.



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**Question: Which company ranked first as the most valuable IT service brand in 2026?**

- A) TCS
- B) Infosys
- C) IBM
- D) Accenture
- E) NTT Data

**Answer:** Option D

**Explanation:**

- According to Brand Finance, the world's top 25 IT service brands reached a total value of \$167.2 billion in 2026, up 2% from 2025.
- Accenture retained its position as the most valuable IT services brand globally for the 8th consecutive year.
- Accenture's brand value stood at \$42.3 billion, ranking it first globally.
- India's TCS and Infosys secured the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.
- The top five most valuable IT service brands in 2026 were Accenture, TCS, Infosys, IBM, and NTT Data.
- The rankings reflect the continued global dominance of large IT service companies despite uncertainty in global technology spending.





**Question: What is the main objective of the agreement signed between India and Israel at the Second Global Summit on “Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026”?**

- A) Joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean Sea
- B) Establishment of Indo–Israel Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture
- C) Promotion of marine tourism between India and Israel
- D) Development of offshore wind energy projects
- E) Joint research on deep-sea mining

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The agreement was signed at the Second Global Summit on “Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026” held in Eilat, Israel.
- The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh.
- The primary objective is to establish new Indo–Israel Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture.
- These centres will be modelled on the existing 43 Indo–Israel Agricultural Centres of Excellence already functioning under bilateral cooperation.

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**Question: Which brand ranked first among Indian brands in the 2026 rankings?**

- A) Infosys
- B) LIC
- C) Reliance Group
- D) Tata Group
- E) SBI Group

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Tata Group ranked 1st among Indian brands in 2026 with a global rank of 61.
- Infosys secured 2nd position among Indian brands with a global rank of 150.
- LIC ranked 3rd among Indian brands with a global rank of 169.
- Reliance Group stood 4th among Indian brands with a global rank of 231.
- SBI Group ranked 5th among Indian brands with a global rank of 256.
- The rankings reflect the strong global presence and growing brand value of leading Indian companies.

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**Question: Why is the global conference on women in agri-food systems being organised in India in March 2026?**

- A) To discuss declining agricultural productivity worldwide
- B) To highlight the growing role and participation of women in agri-food systems
- C) To announce new fertilizer subsidy schemes
- D) To promote mechanisation replacing women workers
- E) To focus only on export-oriented agriculture

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Leading organisations like ICAR, TAAS, CGIAR, and PPV&FRA are jointly organising the conference in Pusa, New Delhi, from 12–14 March 2026.
- The main aim is to highlight and address the expanding role of women in agriculture and agri-food systems globally and in India.
- Women's share in India's agricultural workforce increased from ~30% in 2017–18 to ~49% in 2023–24, while men's share declined from 40% to 36%.
- The conference underscores the need for gender-responsive policies, innovation, and institutional support in agri-food systems.

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**Question: What is the theme of the Ministry of Culture's tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2026?**

- A) Indian Freedom Struggle
- B) 75 Years of Independence
- C) 150 Years of Vande Mataram
- D) Cultural Diversity of India
- E) National Symbols of India

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Culture will present a tableau themed “150 Years of Vande Mataram” at the Republic Day Parade 2026.
- Vande Mataram was composed in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in his novel Anandamath in 1882.
- Rabindranath Tagore first performed it publicly at the 1896 Indian National Congress session in Kolkata.
- The song played a vital role in India's freedom struggle and was adopted as the National Song of India in 1950.

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**Question: What is the objective of the Aravalli Green Wall Project launched by the Government of India?**

- A) To create a new national park in the Aravalli range
- B) To promote urban infrastructure development in Aravalli districts
- C) To restore degraded land and strengthen eco-restoration of the Aravalli landscape
- D) To expand mining activities in the Aravalli region
- E) To develop a new wildlife safari corridor

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project aims to restore degraded land and strengthen eco-restoration of the Aravalli landscape.
- It was inaugurated during the National Conference on Eco-restoration of the Aravalli Landscape in New Delhi by Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav.
- The project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and India's commitment under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land.
- A report titled "Eco-restoration of the Aravalli Landscape" prepared by the Sankala Foundation was also released during the conference.
- The initiative focuses on rejuvenating ecological balance, preventing desertification, and enhancing green cover in the Aravalli region.
- Under the initiative, 6.45 million hectares of degraded land in the Aravalli region has been identified.
- Greening work has been initiated over 2.7 million hectares across Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- The project is being implemented by Divisional Forest Officers from 29 Aravalli districts.
- The Aravalli ecosystem is ecologically significant and is protected by four tiger reserves and 18 protected areas.





**Question: Which NASA astronaut retired after completing a 27-year career and holds the record for the most spacewalk time by a woman?**

- A) Peggy Whitson
- B) Kalpana Chawla
- C) Sunita Williams
- D) Christina Koch
- E) Sally Ride

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Sunita Williams, a NASA astronaut, retired after a 27-year career with the space agency.
- She flew on three missions to the International Space Station (ISS) and spent a total of 608 days in space, the second-highest by any NASA astronaut.
- She completed nine spacewalks totaling over 62 hours, the most by any woman astronaut.
- Williams also became the first person in history to run a marathon in space, highlighting her pioneering achievements in human spaceflight.

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**Question: What did the Supreme Court of India rule regarding unreserved (general category) seats in public recruitment?**

- A) Unreserved seats are open to all candidates purely on merit, irrespective of category
- B) Reserved category candidates cannot compete for unreserved seats
- C) Unreserved seats are only for general category candidates
- D) Reserved candidates must always be counted in their reserved quota
- E) Reservation benefits apply equally in unreserved category

**Answer:** Option A

**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court of India ruled that unreserved (general category) seats are open to all candidates purely on merit, regardless of whether they belong to reserved or non-reserved categories.
- If a candidate from a reserved category (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) scores higher than the general cut-off without using any reservation relaxations, they must be counted under the unreserved category.
- The Bench of Justice M. M. Sundresh and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma clarified that the unreserved category is an open competition pool.
- This ruling arose from a dispute related to the 2013 recruitment drive of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for Junior Assistant (Fire Service) posts.

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**Question: Digital Green has launched an AI-backed, localised climate-smart advisory initiative for smallholder farmers. What is the core tool used under this initiative?**

- A) AgriBot
- B) Kisan AI Portal
- C) FarmerChat
- D) e-NAM Plus
- E) CropSense

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Digital Green has launched an AI-backed, localised climate-smart advisory initiative to support smallholder farmers.
- The initiative is implemented with support from Cisco India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- The core tool of this initiative is FarmerChat, an AI-powered, multimodal mobile application.
- FarmerChat provides crop management guidance and pest diagnosis through photo uploads.
- The app delivers climate-smart, practical, and actionable recommendations to farmers.





**Question: Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya were granted full statehood on which date?**

- A) 15 August 1947
- B) 26 January 1950
- C) 21 January 1972
- D) 1 November 1966
- E) 2 October 1963

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya were granted full statehood on 21 January 1972.
- This was done under the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.
- President Droupadi Murmu extended Statehood Day greetings to the people of these states, highlighting their rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions, and natural beauty.
- She also appreciated the contribution of the people of these states to India's national progress and wished them a future of peace and prosperity.

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