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**AFFAIRS**

**In English**  
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**Ques: Why has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed changes to the framework for calculating banks' net foreign exchange (FX) exposure and capital requirements?**

- A) To align India's FX risk norms with global standards and ensure uniformity
- B) To promote higher foreign currency lending
- C) To reduce banks' capital burden on FX exposure
- D) To exempt small banks from FX risk regulations
- E) To postpone implementation of FX risk norms indefinitely

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The RBI has proposed changes to the framework for calculating banks' net foreign exchange (FX) exposure and the associated capital requirements.
- The objective is to align India's FX risk norms with global standards prescribed by the Basel Committee and ensure uniform implementation across all regulated entities.
- Under the proposed framework, banks will be required to maintain a minimum capital charge of 9% on their net open foreign exchange positions.
- The RBI has invited public feedback on these proposals.
- The proposed changes are expected to come into effect from 1 April 2027.

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**Ques: What key insight was revealed by SEBI's survey on Indian households' participation in the securities market?**

- A) More than 50% households actively invest in equities and bonds
- B) Awareness and participation levels are almost equal
- C) Only about 9.5% of Indian households participate despite higher awareness
- D) Rural households have higher participation than urban households
- E) Participation is highest in complex instruments like derivatives and AIFs

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- A SEBI survey revealed that out of 33.72 crore Indian households, only 3.21 crore households (9.5%) invest in securities such as equities, mutual funds, and corporate bonds.
- Although 63% households (around 21.3 crore) are aware of at least one market-linked product, actual participation remains very low at 9.5%.
- The survey was conducted by Kantar between May and July 2025, covering over 90,000 households across 400 cities and 1,000 villages.
- Nearly 30.51 crore households remain outside the securities market, highlighting significant under-penetration despite strong market growth over the past decade.
- Awareness is highest for mutual funds (53%) and ETFs (49%), while participation in complex instruments like corporate bonds, derivatives, REITs, InvITs, and AIFs is extremely limited.
- Urban households show higher awareness (74%) compared to rural households (56%), reflecting clear geographic disparities.





## Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation and information exchange related to Central Counterparties (CCPs).
- The Reserve Bank of India released the report titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025–26”.
- RBI granted in-principle approval to Payoneer India Private Limited, a subsidiary of US-based Payoneer Global, to operate as a PA–Cross Border.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to Payoneer India Private Limited, a subsidiary of United States of America (USA)- based Payoneer Global, to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)
- Razorpay’s offline payments arm, Razorpay POS (Point of Sale), has received the Payment Aggregator – Physical (PA-P) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026.

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**Ques: What is the key objective of the newly launched Aadhaar App dedicated to the nation?**

- A) To replace physical Aadhaar cards completely
- B) To provide a secure, convenient and privacy-first digital identity platform
- C) To enable only biometric authentication for all services
- D) To store Aadhaar numbers with service providers
- E) To limit Aadhaar usage to government services only

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

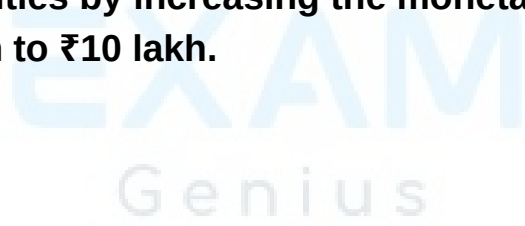
- The new Aadhaar App has been developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as a next-generation mobile application.
- Its objective is to provide Aadhaar Number Holders with a secure, convenient and privacy-first way to carry, share, show and verify their digital identity.
- The app supports real-life use cases such as hotel check-ins via QR code scanning, optional face verification, age verification, hospital admissions, and verification of gig workers.
- Advanced features include face verification for proof of presence, one-click biometric lock/unlock, viewing authentication history, and a QR-based contact card.
- The app allows management of up to five Aadhaar profiles on one device under the concept of “One Family – One App” and enables mobile number updates along with address updates.
- It ensures data minimisation by sharing only digitally signed verifiable credentials and not storing Aadhaar numbers with verifiers, in line with the DPDP Act.





## Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- PhonePe has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its IPO.
- SEBI proposed allowing Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to offset their purchase and sale obligations within the same trading day.
- SEBI has proposed a uniform 30-day time lag for sharing and using price data in investor education and awareness programmes.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated that compliance officers of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) managers must obtain certification from the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) by passing the NISM Series-III-C: Securities Intermediaries Compliance (Fund) Certification Examination, effective from January 1, 2027
- Ashika Group has received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to act as a sponsor and establish Ashika Mutual Fund.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has simplified the procedure for issuance of duplicate securities by increasing the monetary threshold for simplified documentation from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.





**Ques: Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of Fino Payments Bank for a tenure of three years till May 01, 2029?**

- A) Rajesh Kumar
- B) Deepak Mehta
- C) Anil Sharma
- D) Sanjay Malhotra
- E) Rishi Gupta

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Mr. Rishi Gupta has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of Fino Payments Bank for a tenure of three years until May 01, 2029.
- Fino Payments Bank has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for conversion into a Small Finance Bank, becoming the first among payments banks to receive such approval.
- Fino Payments Bank was established in 2015 and its headquarters is located in Navi Mumbai.
- The tagline of Fino Payments Bank is “Qadar Aapki Mehnat Ki”.

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**Ques: Why did the Department of Posts (DoP) sign an agreement with Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL)?**

- A) To introduce postal savings bonds
- B) To promote access to regulated capital market services for citizens
- C) To privatize selected post offices
- D) To replace banks with post offices for all investments
- E) To launch a new digital currency platform

**Answer:** Option B

**Explanation:**

- The Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, signed an agreement with Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL) to promote access to regulated capital market services for citizens across the country.
- India Post, with its nationwide network of over 1.65 lakh post offices, including strong presence in rural and remote areas, plays a key role in extending financial services to underserved populations.
- Under the agreement, citizens can access SSL's services through digital utilities such as onboarding links and QR codes available on official platforms and selected post offices.
- The services include opening demat and trading accounts, investing in mutual funds, participating in IPOs, and accessing other permitted investment products.

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**Ques: What is the significance of Microsoft introducing the 'Maia 200' AI chip?**

- A) It marks Microsoft's entry into consumer smartphone processors
- B) It replaces all third-party AI chips used by Microsoft immediately
- C) It is Microsoft's first AI chip launched in 2026
- D) It is designed exclusively for gaming consoles
- E) It strengthens Microsoft's push to build an integrated AI ecosystem

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Microsoft has introduced the second generation of its in-house artificial intelligence processor, named 'Maia 200', along with a new suite of AI-focused software tools.
- The launch strengthens Microsoft's strategy to build an integrated AI ecosystem across hardware and software.
- Maia 200 builds on Microsoft's first Maia AI chip, which was initially introduced in 2023.
- The Maia 200 AI chip is manufactured by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).
- It uses advanced 3-nanometer (nm) process technology and incorporates high-bandwidth memory for improved AI performance.

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**Ques: At which two major international theatre festivals will the Brazilian production Passado Presente Zenturo make its international debut in 2026?**

- A) Edinburgh Festival & Cannes Theatre Festival
- B) Bharat Rang Mahotsav (India) & GITIS FEST (Russia)
- C) Avignon Festival & Tokyo Theatre Festival
- D) Berlin Theatre Festival & Sydney Arts Festival
- E) Shanghai Theatre Festival & Seoul Drama Festival

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The Brazilian theatre production Passado Presente Zenturo will make its international debut in 2026.
- It will represent Brazil at the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav in India, organized by the National School of Drama (NSD).
- The production will be performed in Bengaluru on February 5, 2026, and New Delhi on February 7, 2026.
- Additionally, it will represent Brazil at the 5th GITIS FEST in Moscow, Russia, scheduled for April 2026.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals :

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched ECINET, a one-stop digital platform integrating all election-related information and services.
- Digital governance in India has taken another step forward with the integration of SAMPANN, a pension management system, with the UMANG platform
- The Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Government of Karnataka, launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing' portal at Karmani Utsav-2026 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Indian Army has launched Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME), a new digital platform aimed at transforming logistics management.
- 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.

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**Ques: What is the objective of NITI Aayog's 'Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0'?**

- A) To launch a long-term infrastructure development programme
- B) To achieve saturation of key development indicators in Aspirational Districts and Blocks
- C) To provide direct financial assistance to all districts
- D) To replace the Aspirational Districts Programme
- E) To conduct a nationwide population census

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- NITI Aayog has launched 'Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0', a three-month nationwide campaign aimed at achieving saturation of key development indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks.
- The campaign will be conducted from January 28 to April 14, 2026, and builds upon the outcomes of the first Sampoornata Abhiyan conducted in 2024.
- Under Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0, five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be saturated in Aspirational Districts and six KPIs in Aspirational Blocks.
- The initiative covers 112 Aspirational Districts and 513 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme.

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**Ques: Why is the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) planning to reduce its total debt below ₹2 lakh crore by March 2026?**

- A) To increase fresh borrowing for new projects
- B) To comply with RBI banking regulations
- C) To improve financial sustainability by cutting borrowing and interest costs
- D) To transfer debt to state governments
- E) To privatize national highways

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- NHAI aims to reduce its total debt to below ₹2 lakh crore by the end of March 2026.
- NHAI's debt had peaked at ₹3.5 lakh crore in 2021–22.
- As of 31 December 2025, the outstanding debt stood at ₹2,35,947 crore.
- No fresh borrowing since 2023 led to a 32% reduction in debt.
- NHAI prepaid loans worth ₹86,000 crore, including ₹50,000 crore to the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).
- Renegotiation of bank loans reduced interest rates by 80 basis points, saving over ₹3,500 crore in the last two years.

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**Ques: Which state launched Raj-UNNATI to monitor development projects?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka
- C) Gujarat
- D) Rajasthan
- E) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Rajasthan has launched Raj-UNNATI, a state-level digital governance platform inspired by the Government of India's PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) model.
- With this initiative, Rajasthan has become the first Indian state to replicate the PRAGATI governance framework at the regional level.
- PRAGATI is an e-governance and monitoring platform initiated by the Government of India in 2014.
- The platform is designed to monitor key infrastructure and development projects in real time.
- It integrates technology, administration, and coordination to reduce delays in public service delivery.

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## Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- **Arijit Basu** : part-time Chairman of IndusInd Bank (succeed Sunil Mehta)
- **Mr. Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat** : Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Karnataka Bank Limited (replaced Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma)
- re-appointment of **Kaizad Bharucha** : Whole-Time Director (Deputy Managing Director) of HDFC Bank
- **Sandeep Bakshi** : MD and CEO of ICICI Bank Limited for a two-year term.
- **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)

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**Ques: What was the main objective of the Federated Intelligence Hackathon organized by the National Health Authority (NHA)?**

- A) To promote commercial AI startups in healthcare
- B) To develop Digital Public Goods (DPGs) for Health Artificial Intelligence
- C) To create a centralized national health data repository
- D) To train doctors in clinical AI applications
- E) To replace existing health IT systems

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The National Health Authority (NHA) organized a Federated Intelligence Hackathon at IIT Kanpur.
- The hackathon focused on developing Digital Public Goods (DPGs) for Health AI.
- It was organized in collaboration with the National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science (NIRDHDS) and IIT Kanpur.
- Key objectives included promoting responsible and ethical AI, privacy-preserving innovation, and federated AI frameworks.
- Federated AI enables data to remain local while only models are shared, enhancing privacy, security, and interoperability.

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**Ques: Where was the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 held?**

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

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 was held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- The summit was inaugurated by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal.
- The theme of the summit was “Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally.”

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The Delhi Government launched the Viksit Delhi Credit Loan Scheme to support MSMEs and entrepreneurs.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry announced that the Government of India selected 5 companies in the 4th round of the PLI scheme for white goods, including air conditioners and LED lights.
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), a Government of India-backed small savings scheme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign, has completed 11 years.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the 'Atal Vichal Agradami Assam' scheme to support research scholars through monthly financial assistance.
- Indian Railways' One Station One Product (OSOP) scheme has emerged as a powerful platform for promoting local craftsmanship and grassroots entrepreneurship across the country.
- The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in January 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism.
- As announced in the Union Budget, the government plans to increase the short-term loan limit for KCC holders from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, likely to be implemented from FY27.





**Ques: ONGC and Reliance Industries signed an agreement to share deepwater offshore resources primarily in which region?**

- A) Mumbai High Basin
- B) Cauvery Basin
- C) Krishna Godavari Basin
- D) Assam–Arakan Basin
- E) Cambay Basin

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- ONGC and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) signed an agreement to share resources for deepwater offshore exploration and production operations.
- The collaboration is focused mainly on India's East Coast, particularly the Krishna Godavari (KG) Basin, and also includes the Andaman offshore region.
- The agreement aims at cost optimisation, faster execution, and better utilisation of high-value assets in complex deepwater projects.
- Shared resources include drilling rigs, marine vessels, pipelines, processing facilities, logistics, and specialised subsea equipment.

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**Ques: Where will one of the new World Economic Forum centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution be established in India?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Telangana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Gujarat
- E) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) will establish five new centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution globally.
- One of these new centres will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- The other centres will be established in France, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates.
- These centres will focus on artificial intelligence (AI), frontier technologies, energy transition, and cyber resilience.
- This will be the third Fourth Industrial Revolution centre in India after Mumbai and Telangana.

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**Ques: Why were the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 approved by the President of India?**

- A) For courage and selfless life-saving acts
- B) For outstanding achievements in sports
- C) For excellence in public administration
- D) For contributions to literature and culture
- E) For service in disaster management planning

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- President of India Droupadi Murmu approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 individuals for their courage and selfless life-saving acts.
- The awards are given in three categories: Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (6 awardees), Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak (6 awardees), and Jeevan Raksha Padak (18 awardees).
- Six individuals were honoured posthumously.
- The Jeevan Raksha Padak was instituted in 1961 to recognise acts of bravery in saving human lives.
- The awards include a medal, a certificate, and a one-time monetary allowance of ₹2 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh, and ₹1 lakh respectively.

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**Ques: Why is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and CAYEIT significant?**

- A) It aims to promote Ayurvedic tourism only
- B) It focuses on traditional medicine exports
- C) It seeks to promote research, technology transfer and innovation in Ayurveda
- D) It replaces existing AYUSH institutions
- E) It is limited to undergraduate education

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of AYUSH, signed an MoU with the Centre for Ayurveda Education, Innovation & Technology (CAYEIT).
- The partnership is a significant milestone in the field of digital health within the Ayurvedic sector.
- The MoU aims to foster cutting-edge research, technology transfer, and innovative educational frameworks in Ayurveda.
- AIIA was established in 2015, headquartered in New Delhi, and is led by Director Dr. Pradeep Kumar Prajapati.

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**Ques: Why did UNESCO announce an emergency assistance package for Vietnam?**

- A) Due to earthquake damage to heritage sites
- B) Due to flooding caused by river overflow
- C) Due to severe damage caused by multiple typhoons
- D) Due to armed conflict affecting education
- E) Due to volcanic eruptions

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- UNESCO announced an emergency assistance package of USD 740,000 to protect cultural heritage and education in Vietnam after severe damage from typhoons.
- The damage was caused by three major typhoons — Wipha, Bualoi, and Matmo — leading to hundreds of deaths and destruction of hundreds of thousands of homes.
- Cultural heritage sites and educational infrastructure were heavily affected.
- UNESCO's support focuses on World Heritage Sites like Hue and Hoi An, including technical damage assessments, emergency protection, conservation planning, and restoration, in coordination with Vietnam's Ministry of Culture.

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**Ques: Who was Sir William Mark Tully, who recently passed away at the age of 90?**

- A) Former editor of The Times of India
- B) Veteran journalist and former BBC Bureau Chief in India
- C) British diplomat to India
- D) Former Director General of Doordarshan
- E) Author and former Indian Information Service officer

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Sir William Mark Tully was a veteran journalist and renowned broadcaster, widely known as the BBC's 'voice of India'.
- He served as the Bureau Chief of BBC, New Delhi for 22 years, shaping international reporting on India.
- He received the Padma Shri in 1992 and Padma Bhushan in 2005 for his contributions to Literature and Education.
- In 2002, he was knighted (KBE) by the British government for his exceptional services to journalism.

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**Ques: When is the 3rd International Day of Clean Energy observed and what is its theme for 2026?**

- A) 24 January – Renewable Energy for Future
- B) 25 January – Sustainable Power for All
- C) 26 January – Clean Energy for People and Planet
- D) 28 January – Energy Transition for Growth
- E) 1 February – Green Energy for Climate Action

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The 3rd International Day of Clean Energy is observed on 26 January.
- The theme for 2026 is “Clean Energy for People and Planet.”
- First observed in 2023, the day emphasizes clean energy’s role in combating climate change, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring energy access for all.

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## Important days :

- 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
- 15 January : Indian Army Day (theme 2026 “Year of Networking and Data Centricity.”)
- 16 January : Foundation Day of Lokpal of India
- 16 January : National Startup Day (Started in 2016)
- 19 January : 21st National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day
- 20 January : Penguin Awareness Day (Started in 1972 )
- 23 January : Parakram Diwas (Marks the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose)
- 24 January : International Day of Education (Theme 2026 The power of youth in co-creating education)
- 24 January : 19th National Girl Child Day (NGCD) (Started in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD))
- 25 January : National Tourism Day (Started in 1982)
- 25 January : National Voters’ Day (Theme : “My India, My Vote”)
- 26 January : International Customs Day (ICD) (Theme 2026 : Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment)
- 26 January : 3rd International Day of Clean Energy (Theme : “Clean Energy for People and Planet.”)
- 27 to 30 January 2026 : 4th edition of India Energy Week (IEW) 2026
- 27 January : National Geographic Day





## IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

- Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru to jointly develop a fully indigenous Artificial Intelligence system aimed at addressing emerging challenges in digital information and modern warfare.
- Nat Sciver-Brunt became the first batter to score a century in Women's Premier League history during WPL 2026, achieving the feat while playing for Mumbai Indians against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Vadodara.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace, the flagship company of Adani Enterprises Limited and Embraer, the Brazilian aircraft manufacturer signed a MOU to establish a small-jet manufacturing facility in India.
- CCI, the Commission has approved acquisition of certain shareholding of Toyota Industries Corporation by Elliott Associates, L.P., Elliott International, L.P., and The Liverpool Limited Partnership (Acquirers).

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