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**In English**  
**04 February 2026**



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**Ques: After the proposed merger of Union Bank of India and Bank of India, what will be the overall ranking of the combined entity in India?**

- A) Largest bank
- B) Second-largest bank
- C) Third-largest bank
- D) Fourth-largest bank
- E) Fifth-largest bank

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The initial merger process between Union Bank of India and Bank of India has begun and may be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- The Government of India aims to merge smaller public sector banks with larger ones to reduce the number of PSU banks from 12 to about 4–5.
- The merger would create one of India's largest public sector lenders with an expanded balance sheet, branch network, and customer base.
- The combined entity is expected to become the second-largest PSU bank with assets of about ₹25.4 lakh crore in FY25.
- Overall, it would be the third-largest bank in India after State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank.

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**Ques: Which bank has launched India's first savings account linked to 100% of the RBI Repo rate?**

- A) AU Small Finance Bank
- B) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- E) Slice Small Finance Bank

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Slice Small Finance Bank (Slice SFB) has introduced three new financial products.
- These include a Digital Savings Account linked to the RBI Repo rate, a UPI-integrated credit card, and digital Fixed Deposits (FDs).
- Slice launched India's first savings account linked to 100% of the Repo rate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Interest on the savings account is calculated and credited daily, allowing real-time growth of money.
- The digital Fixed Deposits offer interest rates of up to 7.25% per annum.
- These FDs are insured up to ₹5 lakh by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- The card offers up to 3% cashback, a "Slice in 3" no-cost EMI feature on purchases above ₹2,000, and weekly rewards through Slice Sparks.

**About Slice Small Finance Bank :**

- Established : 2016
- HQ : Guwahati, Assam
- CEO Rajan Bajaj





**Ques: The Reinsurance Advisory Committee (RAC) has been reconstituted by which regulatory body?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- D) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- E) Ministry of Finance

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Reinsurance Advisory Committee (RAC) has been reconstituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- The committee has been reconstituted for a period of three years.
- It has been constituted under Section 101B of the Insurance Act, 1938.
- The RAC is chaired by A.V. Girija Kumar, former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL).
- Aruna Bowrampet, Deputy General Manager (Reinsurance), IRDAI, serves as the Secretary of the committee.
- The objective of the RAC is to strengthen IRDAI's advisory support on reinsurance-related matters.

**About IRDAI :**

ESTD : 1999

HQ : Hyderabad

Chairman : Ajay Seth





**Ques: Which company recently received the Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) Paytm Payments Services
- B) Razorpay
- C) Paysharp
- D) PhonePe
- E) BharatPe

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Paysharp has received the Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The licence enables Paysharp to operate as a physical (offline) payment aggregator.
- This approval will help the company enhance its payment service offerings.
- Earlier, in August 2024, Paysharp had received the Payment Aggregator–Online (PA-O) licence.

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**Ques: State Bank of India (SBI) has launched CHAKRA for what primary purpose?**

- A) Promoting digital retail banking
- B) Financing MSMEs only
- C) Financing sunrise sectors critical to India's economic transformation
- D) Strengthening agricultural credit
- E) Expanding overseas banking operations

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence (CoE).
- CHAKRA aims to finance sunrise sectors that are critical to India's economic transformation.
- The combined potential investment in these sunrise sectors is estimated at around ₹100 trillion over the next five years.
- SBI has estimated a lendable opportunity of about ₹20–22 trillion in these sectors during the same period.
- SBI has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 21 financial institutions.
- Under these MoUs, project finance teams of partner institutions will work alongside the SBI team at CHAKRA.
- This collaboration will enable capacity building and co-financing of projects.

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**Ques: The Supreme Court has linked menstrual health and access to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in schools with which Constitutional Article?**

- A) Article 14
- B) Article 15
- C) Article 19
- D) Article 21
- E) Article 32

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court held that the right to menstrual health and access to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in schools is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The Court observed that lack of menstrual hygiene facilities exposes girls to stigma, humiliation, and discrimination.
- Denial of MHM facilities violates the right to privacy, bodily autonomy, and equal participation in education.
- The Supreme Court directed all States and Union Territories to ensure free access to sanitary napkins in both government and private schools.
- The judgment also emphasized that the Right to Education under Article 21A includes access to basic menstrual hygiene facilities.





**Ques: Who won the 2026 Australian Open Women's Singles title?**

- A) Aryna Sabalenka
- B) Iga Świątek
- C) Jessica Pegula
- D) Coco Gauff
- E) Elena Rybakina

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina won the 2026 Australian Open Women's Singles title.
- She defeated World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in a three-set final held in Melbourne.
- Rybakina maintained composure under extreme heat conditions to secure the victory.
- This was her second Grand Slam title.
- She had earlier won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon four years ago.
- Following this win, Elena Rybakina rose to World No. 3 in the WTA rankings.
- The Australian Open is one of the four Grand Slam tournaments and is played on hard courts in Melbourne.

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**Ques: In which month did UPI record its highest-ever transaction volume of about 21.6 billion?**

- A) October 2025
- B) November 2025
- C) August 2025
- D) September 2025
- E) December 2025

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- UPI transaction volume reached a record 21.6 billion in December 2025, the highest ever recorded.
- This surpassed the previous record of 20.47 billion transactions in November 2025.
- The total value of UPI transactions in December 2025 rose to around ₹28 lakh crore.
- This value exceeded the earlier peak of about ₹27.3 lakh crore recorded in October 2025.
- The growth reflects increased digital payment adoption, festive spending, and expansion of the UPI ecosystem.

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**Ques: Who holds the record for presenting the highest number of Union Budgets in India?**

- A) Manmohan Singh
- B) Yashwant Sinha
- C) Nirmala Sitharaman
- D) Morarji Desai
- E) P. Chidambaram

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai holds the record for presenting the highest number of Union Budgets in India.
- He presented a total of 10 Union Budgets, which remains the all-time record.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented eight consecutive Union Budgets since 2019 and is set to present her ninth.
- With her ninth Budget, she moves closer to Morarji Desai's long-standing record.

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**Ques: Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?**

- A) Dr. D.K. Sunil
- B) Kota Ravi
- C) R. Madhavan
- D) Sanjay Seth
- E) Vinay Dube

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Kota Ravi has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- He has replaced Dr. D.K. Sunil in this position.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was established on 22 December 1940.
- The headquarters of HAL is located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

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**Ques: Under the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), what has India agreed regarding European Union (EU) banks?**

- A) Complete removal of banking restrictions
- B) Allowing unlimited branch expansion
- C) Allowing EU banks to open up to 15 branches over four years
- D) Permitting only representative offices
- E) Restricting operations to metro cities

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- India has agreed to allow European Union (EU) banks to open up to 15 branches over a four-year period under the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- European banks currently operating in India include Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, and Societe Generale.
- Under the FTA, India allows 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector.
- India also permits 74% FDI in banking services under the agreement.
- The agreement provides for a general review by a joint committee within five years of its entry into force.
- Subsequent reviews will be conducted every five years, allowing recalibration based on trade and investment flows.

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**Ques: National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP), recently in news, has been established at which location?**

- A) Kochi, Kerala
- B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- C) Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- E) Paradip, Odisha

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu, has established the National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP).
- NSHIP has been set up in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- NSHIP is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
- The SPV is a Joint Venture between V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOC Port) and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT).
- Both partners hold an equal 50% stake in the SPV.
- It is the first SPV formed under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).
- The Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) was launched under a ₹69,725 crore maritime package in October 2025.
- Under SbDS, ₹19,989 crore has been allocated to enhance domestic shipbuilding capacity.
- The scheme aims to boost India's shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage (GT) per year by 2047.
- The expansion will be achieved through infrastructure and technology upgrades.





**Ques: Which two wetlands were recently added to India's list of Ramsar Sites?**

- A) Sultanpur & Harike
- B) Patna Bird Sanctuary & Chhari-Dhand
- C) Keoladeo & Sambhar
- D) Bhoj Wetland & Wular
- E) Chilika & Pulicat

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- India has added Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) to its Ramsar Sites list.
- With this inclusion, India's total number of Ramsar Sites has increased to 98.
- The addition strengthens India's position in Asia in wetland conservation.
- These wetlands provide critical habitats for migratory birds.

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**Ques: The 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit was organised by which association?**

- A) Fertilizer Association of India
- B) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- C) Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association
- D) National Seeds Corporation
- E) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The 6th edition of the National Crop Nutrition Summit was held in Mumbai.
- The summit was organised by the Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association.
- The summit was inaugurated by Jayakumar Jitendrasinh Rawal, Minister of Marketing & Protocol, Government of Maharashtra.
- P. K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner of India, attended the event as the Guest of Honour.
- The theme of the summit was “Converge, Collaborate & Co-create”.

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**Ques: The 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026 was inaugurated where?**

- A) Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Nawang Dorjan Stobdan (NDS) Stadium, Leh
- C) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- D) Auli, Uttarakhand
- E) Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026 was inaugurated on 20 January 2026.
- The inauguration was done by Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta.
- The event was held at the Nawang Dorjan Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh.
- In the medal tally, Haryana topped the chart with 5 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals.
- Ladakh secured second position with 2 Gold, 5 Silver, and 4 Bronze medals.
- Maharashtra finished third with 2 Gold, 3 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals.
- Khelo India Winter Games 2026 is conducted in two phases.
- Phase 1 (Ice Sports) was held in Leh and has been completed.
- Phase 2 (Snow Sports) will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Phase 1 disciplines include Ice Hockey and Ice Skating. Figure Skating was introduced for the first time in KIWG 2026.
- Phase 2 disciplines include Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Ski Mountaineering, and Snowboarding.
- Players from 21 States and Union Territories are participating in ice sporting events.
- The mascot of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 is “Sheen-E-She (Shan)” — the Snow Leopard.
- The Snow Leopard symbolizes resilience, agility, and the Himalayan legacy.





**Ques: Who has been nominated as the next Chair of the US Federal Reserve?**

- A) Jerome Powell
- B) Janet Yellen
- C) Kevin Warsh
- D) Ben Bernanke
- E) Lael Brainard

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- US President Donald Trump has nominated Kevin Warsh as the next Chair of the Federal Reserve.
- Kevin Warsh will succeed Jerome Powell, whose term as Federal Reserve Chair ends in May.
- Kevin Warsh is a former Federal Reserve Governor and has earlier served on the Fed's Board of Governors.
- The nomination concludes a closely watched search for the next US central bank chief.
- Donald Trump has frequently criticized Jerome Powell for not cutting interest rates aggressively.

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**Ques: PAIMANA portal, recently in news, has been launched by which ministry?**

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- E) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- PAIMANA stands for Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building.
- The PAIMANA portal has been launched by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The portal is designed to monitor Central Sector Infrastructure Projects with a cost of ₹150 crore and above.
- PAIMANA replaces the earlier Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS-2006).
- About 60% of project data flows automatically from Central Ministries and Departments.
- The portal covers ongoing infrastructure projects with revised costs of ₹150 crore and above.





**Ques: The 'Samvad Samaroh' organised to honour WaSH Warriors was conducted by which ministry?**

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- E) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti organised a 'Samvad Samaroh' and recognition programme in New Delhi.
- The programme was organised to honour WaSH Warriors.
- WaSH Warriors are grassroots leaders who have made outstanding contributions in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.
- A total of 58 WaSH Warriors were recognised during the event.
- These WaSH Warriors represented various States and Union Territories.
- The recognition was given under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and related rural water and sanitation initiatives.

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**Ques: How many cancer-related drugs were exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD) in the Union Budget 2026–27?**

- A) 10
- B) 12
- C) 15
- D) 17
- E) 20

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- In the Union Budget 2026–27, the Central Government exempted Basic Customs Duty on 17 drugs and medicines used for cancer treatment.
- The announcement was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget in the Lok Sabha.
- The measure aims to reduce treatment costs and provide financial relief to cancer patients.
- Additionally, customs duty on dutiable goods imported for personal use was reduced from 20% to 10%.
- Seven more rare diseases were added to the list eligible for import duty exemption on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP).

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**Ques: Biopharma Shakti was proposed in the Union Budget 2026–27 with what objective?**

- A) To promote traditional medicine exports
- B) To develop India as a global biopharma manufacturing hub
- C) To regulate drug pricing
- D) To expand health insurance coverage
- E) To strengthen medical tourism

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the 'Biopharma Shakti' initiative in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- The scheme has a total outlay of ₹10,000 crore.
- Its primary objective is to develop India as a global biopharma manufacturing hub.
- The initiative focuses on strengthening biopharmaceutical research, innovation, and large-scale manufacturing capacity.
- Biopharma Shakti aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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**Ques: How many high-speed rail corridors were announced in the Union Budget 2026–27?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में कितने हाई-स्पीड रेल कॉरिडोर की घोषणा की गई?

- A) 5
- B) 6
- C) 7
- D) 8
- E) 10

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation | व्याख्या:**

- In the Union Budget 2026–27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the development of seven high-speed rail corridors.
- केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने 7 हाई-स्पीड रेल कॉरिडोर विकसित करने की घोषणा की।
- The objective is to promote environmentally sustainable passenger transport and reduce carbon emissions.
- इसका उद्देश्य पर्यावरण-अनुकूल यात्री परिवहन को बढ़ावा देना और कार्बन उत्सर्जन कम करना है।
- These corridors will act as growth connectors between major cities and improve inter-city connectivity.
- ये कॉरिडोर प्रमुख शहरों के बीच विकास कनेक्टर के रूप में कार्य करेंगे और कनेक्टिविटी बेहतर करेंगे।
- Proposed routes include Mumbai–Pune, Pune–Hyderabad, Hyderabad–Bengaluru, Hyderabad–Chennai, Chennai–Bengaluru, Delhi–Varanasi, and Varanasi–Siliguri.
- प्रस्तावित मार्गों में मुंबई–पुणे, पुणे–हैदराबाद, हैदराबाद–बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद–चेन्नई, चेन्नई–बेंगलुरु, दिल्ली–वाराणसी और वाराणसी–सिलीगुड़ी शामिल हैं।





**Ques: India has signed an agreement with which technology firm for the procurement of the V-BAT Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)?**

V-BAT मानव रहित विमान प्रणाली (UAS) की खरीद के लिए भारत ने किस तकनीकी कंपनी के साथ समझौता किया है?

- A) Lockheed Martin / लॉकहीड मार्टिन
- B) Boeing Defence / बोइंग डिफेंस
- C) Shield AI / शील्ड एआई
- D) Northrop Grumman / नॉर्थ्रॉप ग्रुमन
- E) Raytheon Technologies / रेथियॉन टेक्नोलॉजीज

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation | व्याख्या:**

- India has signed an agreement with the technology firm Shield AI.
- भारत ने तकनीकी कंपनी शील्ड एआई के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।
- The objective of the agreement is the procurement of the V-BAT Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS).
- इस समझौते का उद्देश्य V-BAT मानव रहित विमान प्रणाली (UAS) की खरीद है।
- JSW Defence Private Limited has begun construction of a manufacturing unit for the production of V-BAT.
- JSW डिफेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने V-BAT के उत्पादन हेतु एक विनिर्माण इकाई का निर्माण शुरू किया है।
- The project involves an investment of USD 90 million.
- इस परियोजना में 90 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का निवेश शामिल है।
- The manufacturing unit is being set up at the Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC), Maheshwaram near Hyderabad, Telangana.
- यह विनिर्माण इकाई हैदराबाद (तेलंगाना) के पास महेश्वरम स्थित इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मैनुफैक्चरिंग क्लस्टर (EMC) में स्थापित की जा रही है।





**Ques: Why is 30 January observed as Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) in India?**

- A) Formation of Indian National Congress
- B) Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- C) Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- D) Quit India Movement launch
- E) Adoption of Indian Constitution

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- 30 January is observed as Martyrs' Day, also known as Sarvodaya Day or Shaheed Diwas.
- The day commemorates the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January 1948.
- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Birla House (now Gandhi Smriti), New Delhi.
- In 2026, India observed the 78th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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