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Ques: Which global investment firm received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake in Federal Bank?

- A) Brookfield
- B) KKR
- C) Blackstone
- D) Carlyle
- E) Warburg Pincus

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Blackstone's acquisition of up to 9.99% stake in Federal Bank.
- With this approval, Blackstone will become the largest shareholder of Federal Bank.
- The total investment value of the deal is approximately ₹6,196 crore.
- The acquisition has been approved under RBI norms governing Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in private sector banks.
- The deal highlights the growing interest of foreign investors in India's private banking sector.

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Ques: Which Regional Rural Bank (RRB) became the first in India to launch a co-branded RuPay credit card?

- A) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank
- B) Kerala Gramin Bank
- C) Karnataka Gramin Bank
- D) Bihar Gramin Bank
- E) Tripura Gramin Bank

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB), in collaboration with its sponsor bank Punjab National Bank (PNB), launched a co-branded RuPay credit card.
- With this initiative, TGB became the first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) in India to introduce a co-branded RuPay credit card.
- It is also the first among the eight RRBs sponsored by PNB to achieve this milestone.
- The launch was held at Agartala, Tripura, marking the Golden Jubilee (50 years) of Tripura Gramin Bank.

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Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- Paysharp has received the Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Punjab & Sind Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open a branch at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines for banks and other regulated entities on resolution plans during natural disasters.
- The RBI has proposed changes to the framework for calculating banks' net foreign exchange (FX) exposure and the associated capital requirements.
- 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.

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Ques: What decision did the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) take regarding the repo rate in its latest policy review?

- A) Reduced to 5.00%
- B) Increased to 5.50%
- C) Kept unchanged at 5.25%
- D) Reduced to 4.75%
- E) Increased to 6.00%

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, continuing the pause on interest rates.
- The decision was taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) amid improving economic growth prospects.
- The MPC revised India's GDP growth projection for FY2025–26 to 7.4%, up from the earlier estimate of 7.3%.
- The policy stance reflects confidence in India's economic momentum following strong policy and reform measures.
- Stable inflation conditions and a robust growth outlook supported the decision to maintain the status quo on interest rates.

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Ques: Under the new Risk-Based Premium (RBP) framework, which category of banks will pay the lowest deposit insurance premium?

- A) Category A
- B) Category B
- C) Category C
- D) Category D
- E) All will pay the same

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- From 1 April 2026, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a subsidiary of RBI, will implement a Risk-Based Premium (RBP) framework.
- Under this system, banks will pay 8–12 paise per ₹100 deposit per year, depending on their risk category.

- Category-wise premium structure:
 - Category A (Lowest Risk): 8 paise
 - Category B: 10 paise
 - Category C: 11 paise
 - Category D (Highest Risk): 12 paise

- Currently, DICGC charges a flat premium of 12 paise per ₹100 deposit to all banks.
- The DICGC Act, 1961 allows differential premium rates based on bank risk assessment.
- Banks will be classified into A, B, C, and D categories based on DICGC's internal risk evaluation.





RECENT LOANS AND AGREEMENTS :

- The World Bank has approved a loan of ₹5,700 crore for the Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project.
- IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited (IGGEFIL) has sanctioned a USD 22.5 million loan to Swarna Solar Limited.
- The World Bank approved a loan of USD 286 million for the West Bengal Health System Reform Program (WBHSRP).
- Piramal Finance Limited has received a total loan of USD 350 million.
- Asian Development Bank provided ₹4,100 crore (USD 500 million) to the Government of Telangana.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided a loan of ₹300 crore (about USD 30 million) to the Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS) issued by Grihum Housing Finance Limited.
- The World Bank has provided a loan of ₹9,821 crore to the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL).

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Ques: Which organisation approved USD 830 million for India's PM-SETU programme?

- A) World Bank
- B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- D) New Development Bank (NDB)
- E) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- The World Bank approved USD 830 million for India's Pradhan Mantri – Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) programme.
- The funding aims to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and improve skilling and employability outcomes across India.
- The loan is part of the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (FY 2026–31) for India.
- Under the CPF, the World Bank Group envisages USD 8–10 billion in annual financing for India.
- The loan has a tenure of 19.5 years, including a 4-year grace period.

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Ques: What disinvestment and asset monetisation target has the Centre set for FY27 under the Union Budget 2026?

- A) ₹34,000 crore
- B) ₹47,000 crore
- C) ₹60,000 crore
- D) ₹75,000 crore
- E) ₹80,000 crore

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- The Centre has set a target of ₹80,000 crore from disinvestment and asset monetisation for FY27 under Union Budget 2026, aiming to strengthen non-tax revenues.
- The ₹80,000 crore target has been budgeted under Miscellaneous Capital Receipts for 2026–27.
- This represents a sharp increase compared to the revised estimate of about ₹34,000 crore for the current financial year.
- For FY26, the government had initially budgeted ₹47,000 crore, but weak execution led to a downward revision.
- Actual receipts in FY25 stood at ₹20,214 crore, highlighting ongoing challenges in achieving disinvestment targets.

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Ques: What was the Asiatic lion population in India as per the 2025 data?

- A) 674
- B) 750
- C) 825
- D) 891
- E) 950

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- The Asiatic lion population in India increased from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025, reflecting successful conservation efforts.
- The information was shared by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh in response to a written question.
- Asiatic lions have expanded into new habitats, including notified forest areas, river corridors, and revenue wastelands in Gujarat.
- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat has been developed as a second home for the Asiatic lion population.
- A hi-tech monitoring unit was established at Sasan-Gir in 2019 for real-time tracking of lions using radio telemetry.

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Ques: Who has assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force's Eastern Air Command (EAC)?

- A) Air Marshal Surat Singh
- B) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor
- C) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia
- D) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar
- E) Air Marshal S. P. Dharkar

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia, AVSM, VM, has assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force's Eastern Air Command (EAC).
- He succeeded Air Marshal Surat Singh, who previously held the post.
- The Eastern Air Command is responsible for safeguarding India's eastern borders, including the North-Eastern region.
- Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor has taken over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force.
- The VCAS assists the Chief of the Air Staff in policy formulation, operational preparedness, and administrative leadership.

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Ques: How many ICC Under-19 World Cup titles has India won after defeating England in the final?

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

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- India won its record 6th ICC Under-19 World Cup title by defeating England by 100 runs in the final.
- The final match was played at Harare Sports Club, Zimbabwe.
- India won the toss and chose to bat first.
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a sensational knock of 175 runs off just 80 balls, dominating the final.
- This victory further strengthened India's dominance in ICC Under-19 World Cup history.

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Ques: Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) has been created through an agreement between which bodies?

- A) Government of India & Nagaland Government only
- B) Government of India, Nagaland Government & NSCN
- C) Government of India, Nagaland Government & ENPO
- D) Nagaland Government & Tribal Councils
- E) Ministry of Home Affairs & ENPO

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) was created through a tripartite agreement between the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO).
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- FNTA will cover six eastern districts of Nagaland: Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator.
- The authority will have devolution of powers over 46 subjects and function through a mini-secretariat headed by an Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary.
- The agreement aims to ensure financial autonomy, faster decision-making, infrastructure development, economic empowerment, and efficient resource utilisation in Eastern Nagaland.
- The arrangement does not affect Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution.
- ENPO represents eight recognised Naga tribes of Eastern Nagaland.





Ques: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals with which European Union body?

- A) European Central Bank
- B) European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)
- C) Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE)
- D) Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)
- E) European Investment Bank

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- MeitY signed an Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals with the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission.
- The agreement was signed in January 2026 to strengthen India–European Union digital cooperation.
- It establishes a framework for interoperability of electronic signatures, electronic seals, and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) systems.
- The implementation will follow India's Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.
- The arrangement will also remain consistent with European Union laws and regulations.
- The initiative supports secure digital transactions, cross-border digital trust, and harmonisation of digital public infrastructure between India and the EU.





Recent Defence related appointments :

- **IPS officer Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor** : Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) (replaced Praveen Kumar)
- **Praveen Kumar** : Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) (replaced Daljit Singh Chaudhary)
- **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor** : 50th Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) (Replaced Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari)
- **Field Marshal Asim Munir** : Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF)
- **Major General Roman Gofman** (currently Netanyahu's military secretary) : Director of Mossad, Israel's intelligence (Replaced David Barnea)
- **Air Marshal Tejbir Singh** : Director General (Inspection and Safety) (succeeds Air Marshal Makarand Bhaskar Ranade)
- **Praveen Kumar**, currently Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) : Additional charge of DG of the Border Security Force (BSF) (Replaced Daljit Singh Chawdhary)
- **Shri Raj Kumar Arora** : Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

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Ques: Which organization has partnered with India for the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC)?

- A) World Bank
- B) IMF
- C) UNDP
- D) UNIDO
- E) WTO

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- India has joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC) to support manufacturing companies and MSMEs.
- The initiative is led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- BCIC has been launched in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- The centre will function as a one-stop platform providing integrated support services to industries across BRICS countries.
- The focus is on strengthening Industry 4.0 competencies, productivity enhancement, and advanced manufacturing practices.
- A Trust Fund Agreement was signed between DPIIT and UNIDO to formalize India's participation in BCIC.
- The National Productivity Council (NPC) has been designated as India's Centre for BRICS Industrial Competencies.





VQues: Who launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card and what is its main objective?

- A) Union Finance Minister – to promote MSME exports
- B) Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to provide instant liquidity to street vendors
- C) RBI Governor – to expand digital banking
- D) Union Housing Minister – to regulate urban vendors
- E) NITI Aayog CEO – to promote fintech innovation

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The initiative is aimed at street vendors who have fully repaid the first two loan tranches under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- It provides a UPI-linked, interest-free revolving credit facility to ensure instant liquidity.
- The scheme also encourages digital transactions and helps build a formal credit history for street vendors.
- The maximum credit limit of the PM SVANidhi Credit Card is ₹30,000.
- Initially, the operating limit is ₹10,000, which can be increased gradually based on satisfactory usage.
- Issuing institutions offer an interest-free credit period of 20 to 50 days, as per their policy.
- In August 2025, the government approved the restructuring and expansion of the scheme till 31 March, 2030 with a total outlay of ₹7,332 crore.

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Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Indian squash player Anahat Singh defeated England's top seed Georgina Kennedy to win the Squash on Fire Open held in Washington.
- Young Indian shuttler Devika Sihag won her maiden BWF Super 300 women's singles title at the Thailand Masters 2025.
- Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov won the Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2026 (Masters).
- Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic to win his first Australian Open title.
- The 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026 was inaugurated on 20 January 2026. In the medal tally, Haryana topped the chart with 5 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals.
- Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina won the 2026 Australian Open women's singles title.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has provisionally banned USA batter Aaron Jones from all formats of cricket under its Anti-Corruption Code.

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Ques: Who won the Global Teacher Prize 2026 carrying a prize money of \$1 million?

- A) Savita Halappanavar
- B) Ranjitsinh Disale
- C) Rouble Nagi
- D) Abhijit Banerjee
- E) Sunita Williams

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Rouble Nagi, an Indian teacher and social activist, won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, which carries a \$1 million award.
- The award was presented during the World Government Summit held in Dubai, UAE.
- The Global Teacher Prize was awarded in its 10th edition by GEMS Education through the Varkey Foundation.
- The prize was presented by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai.
- Rouble Nagi is known for creating hundreds of learning centres and painting educational murals in slum areas.
- Her Rouble Nagi Art Foundation has established over 800 learning centres across India for underprivileged children.

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Ques: Which countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

- A) Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar
- B) Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE
- C) Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Jordan
- D) Oman, Yemen, UAE, Iraq
- E) Kuwait, Iran, Oman, Qatar

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has six member countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- India and the GCC signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) in New Delhi to initiate negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- Signing of the ToR formally marks the beginning of FTA negotiations.
- Collectively, GCC nations are India's largest merchandise trade partners, surpassing the EU and the US.
- Ajay Bhadoo signed the ToR on behalf of India as the Chief Negotiator.
- The GCC side was represented by Raja Al Marzouki, Secretary General of the GCC Secretariat.

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Ques: Under the revised DPIIT norms, for how many years can a deep-tech start-up be recognised as a start-up?

- A) 10 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 20 years
- D) 25 years
- E) No time limit

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has revised the start-up definition and introduced a new “deep-tech” start-up category.
- Under the revised norms, deep-tech start-ups can be recognised as start-ups for up to 20 years from the date of incorporation.
- Deep-tech start-ups focus on new scientific or engineering knowledge, involve high R&D expenditure, and create intellectual property (IP).
- Such ventures typically have long gestation periods, high capital requirements, and technical or scientific uncertainty.
- The maximum annual turnover limit for deep-tech start-ups has been set at ₹300 crore.
- The move aims to boost start-ups in deep science sectors such as space, climate, semiconductors, biotechnology, robotics, quantum technologies, and advanced manufacturing.
- It also sends a signal to investors that deep-tech investments require patience and long-term capital commitment (10–15 years).





Ques: Who was honoured with the inaugural “Ramoji Excellence Award 2025” in the category of Excellence in Journalism?

- A) Pallabi Ghosh
- B) Akash Tandon
- C) Jaideep Hardikar
- D) Srikanth Bolla
- E) Prof. Madhavi Latha Gali

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Jaideep Hardikar, a senior journalist and researcher, was honoured with the inaugural “Ramoji Excellence Award 2025” for Excellence in Journalism.
- The award ceremony was held at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad.
- He was among the seven distinguished honourees in the first edition of the Ramoji Excellence Awards.
- The awards were instituted in memory of late media pioneer Ramoji Rao, founder of the Ramoji Group.

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Ques: Under which initiative will text-based AI models be completed in all 22 Constitutionally recognised Indian languages?

- A) Digital India
- B) Make in India
- C) Bharat GenAI
- D) India Semiconductor Mission
- E) National Language Translation Mission

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Text-based AI models in all 22 Constitutionally recognised Indian languages will be completed under the Bharat GenAI initiative.
- The progress of Bharat GenAI was informed to the Rajya Sabha by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Bharat GenAI is India's first government-owned sovereign Large Language Model (LLM).
- It is a key outcome of the IndiaAI Mission launched in March 2024.
- Sectoral applications include agriculture, Ayurveda, and the legal system.
- The consortium is led by IIT Bombay, with participation from IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Mandi, IIT Indore, and others.
- The model is designed to reflect India's linguistic and cultural diversity, including dialects and regional variations.





Ques: Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) signed a three-year MoU with which institution to enhance cybersecurity and data protection in National Highway operations?

- A) National Forensic Sciences University
- B) CERT-In
- C) IIT Madras
- D) DRDO
- E) NIC

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).
- The objective of the MoU is to enhance cybersecurity and data protection in National Highway operations.
- The collaboration will focus on advanced highway and digital traffic technologies.
- Key focus areas include Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling systems.
- It also covers Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS).
- Other focus technologies include Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.
- The MoU also includes Traffic Management Systems and Weigh-in-Motion (WIM) technology.





Ques: Bharat Taxi, recently launched in India, is best described as what type of platform?

- A) A private cab aggregator
- B) A state-owned transport service
- C) A cooperative-led, driver-owned ride-hailing platform
- D) An app-based luxury taxi service
- E) A foreign-funded mobility platform

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform.
- The launch took place after a successful two-month pilot operation.
- Bharat Taxi has been initially rolled out in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat.
- The platform is planned to be expanded across all States and Union Territories within the next 2–3 years.
- Bharat Taxi follows a driver-owned cooperative model, ensuring ownership, dignity, and empowerment of drivers.
- Bharat Taxi is registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- It operates on a zero-commission and surge-free pricing model.
- Out of every ₹100 earned, ₹80 is directly credited to the drivers' bank accounts.
- The initiative aims to provide a fair and equitable alternative to private ride-hailing platforms.
- Drivers are known as Sarathis (charioteers) and are placed at the centre of ownership, operations, and value creation.





News Headlines Related to Ministry :

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched two additional modules — Survey Module and Waqf Property Lease Module — on the UMEED Central Portal.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare formed a high-level Committee to review and strengthen the functioning of Farmer Producer Organisations in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Education, announced India's first AI-enabled university pilot.
- Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada, dedicated the new Aadhaar App to the nation.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved two MSME Technology Centres (TCs) in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released data on rabi crop area coverage as on January 9, 2026.
- The Ministry of Culture will present a tableau themed "150 Years of Vande Mataram" at the Republic Day Parade 2026.

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Ques: Amelia Valverde (Costa Rica) was appointed as the coach of which Indian team?

- A) Indian Senior Women's Football Team
- B) Indian U-17 Women's Football Team
- C) Indian Men's Football Team
- D) India U-20 Women's Football Team
- E) India Men's U-23 Football Team

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- Amelia Valverde has been appointed head coach of the Indian Senior Women's Football Team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- She is a 39-year-old football manager from Costa Rica.
- Valverde has joined the Indian camp in Antalya, Türkiye, as India prepares for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup.
- Before this appointment, she was the head coach of Costa Rica's senior women's team from 2015 to 2023, making her the longest-serving coach in the history of Costa Rica women's football.
- During her tenure with Costa Rica, she led the team to two FIFA Women's World Cups (2015 and 2023).

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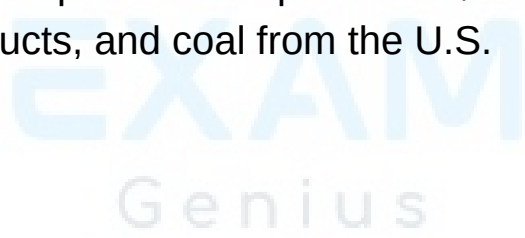
Ques: According to U.S. President Donald Trump, what change was agreed upon in the proposed India–US trade deal regarding reciprocal tariffs?

- A) Reduced from 50% to 30%
- B) Reduced from 30% to 20%
- C) Reduced from 18% to 12%
- D) Reduced from 20% to 10%
- E) Reduced from 25% to 18%

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- U.S. President Donald Trump stated that he and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have agreed to a trade deal between India and the United States.
- Under the proposed agreement, the United States will lower reciprocal tariffs on India from 25% to 18%.
- Trump also mentioned that India would source Venezuelan oil instead of Iranian oil.
- However, India had already stopped importing Iranian crude oil in 2019.
- The agreement follows months of negotiations, during which the Trump administration had imposed a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the U.S.
- Trump claimed that India has promised to purchase \$500 billion worth of energy, technology, agriculture products, and coal from the U.S.





Ques: Which organisation hosted the 24th Indo-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) Plenary Meeting?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) HAL
- D) BARC
- E) BEL

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) hosted the 24th Indo-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) Plenary Meeting in New Delhi.
- The two-day meeting aimed at advancing India–US cooperation in Defence Science and Technologies.
- Delegations from both sides reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation, discussed challenges, and examined proposals related to critical and emerging defence technologies.
- Special focus was placed on enhancing the participation of universities, defence laboratories, and industries in joint research and development (R&D) initiatives.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Chandrika Kaushik (DRDO) and Mr Michael Francis Dodd (US Department of Defense).
- Senior officials, scientists, and technocrats from India's Tri-Services, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the US Department of Defense and State Department participated.





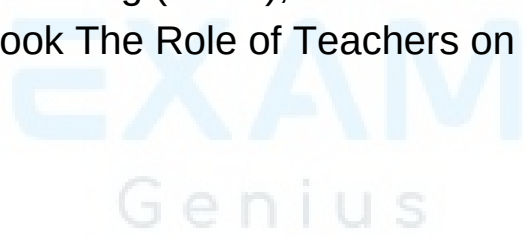
Ques: Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal, who recently passed away, was awarded the Padma Shri in 1974 for his contributions to which field?

- A) Social Work
- B) Public Administration
- C) Science & Technology
- D) Literature and Education
- E) Journalism

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal, a Jesuit priest popularly known as Father Stany, passed away recently.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1974 in the field of Literature and Education.
- Father Kunnunkal played a pivotal role in strengthening and reforming the CBSE, helping establish it as a credible national benchmark for school education.
- He served as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) from 1980 to 1987.
- He was the first Chairperson of the National Open School, now known as the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), and held the post till 1992.
- In 2005, he authored the book *The Role of Teachers on National Regeneration*.





Ques: Which day is observed as the 27th World Cancer Day, and what is the theme for 2026?

- A) February 3 – Close the Care Gap
- B) February 4 – United by Unique
- C) March 4 – Hope & Healing
- D) April 7 – Cancer for All
- E) February 10 – Together Against Cancer

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- World Cancer Day is observed every year on February 4.
- February 4, 2026 marks the 27th World Cancer Day.
- The theme for World Cancer Day 2026 is “United by Unique”.
- This theme represents the second year of the three-year global campaign (2025–2027).
- The campaign emphasizes people-centred cancer care, recognising that every cancer journey is unique.
- The symbol of World Cancer Day is the Lavender Ribbon.
- The awareness colours associated with World Cancer Day are Blue and Orange.

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Important days :

- 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”)
- 25 January (last Sunday of January): World Leprosy Day (Theme : “Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma”.)
- 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
- 27 January : International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, also known as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (theme for 2026 is “Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights.”)
- 30 January : Martyrs’ Day, also known as Sarvodaya Day or Shaheed Diwas (commemorates the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January 1948)
- 30 January : National Leprosy Day
- 31 January : International Zebra Day
- 1 February : Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)





IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

LUXURA Metal Credit Card Launched by Punjab National Bank via Visa Infinite platform

Ministry of Home Affairs revised its promotion guidelines by making a minimum two-year Central Deputation experience mandatory for Indian Police Service officers at the ranks of Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General to become eligible for posting as Inspector General of Police with the Union Government. The directive applies to IPS officers of the 2011 batch onwards.

D'Future – India Digital Conclave 2026 3rd Edition Held at Hyderabad and it is Hosted by Indian Institute of Management Udaipur

Matrixport announced that its Bhutan- based entity, Matrix Bhutan Pte Ltd, received In-Principle Approval from the Gelephu Financial Services Office to operate regulated financial services within or from Gelephu Mindfulness City Bhutan.

The Election Commission of India's (ECI) 3-day conference, "International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026" , concluded at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It was concluded with adoption of – 'Delhi Declaration 2026'

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