

# EXAM GENIUS

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# ***GENIUS CURRENT AFFAIRS***

**In English**

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UPSC



SSC



BANK



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STATE EXAMS

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**Ques: Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced which themed half marathon to honour the Indian Armed Forces and promote fitness?**

- A) PNB Fit India Run
- B) PNB Veer Run
- C) PNB Soldierathon 2026
- D) PNB National Pride Marathon
- E) PNB Unity Run

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Punjab National Bank announced the 'PNB Soldierathon 2026', a themed half marathon, at its Corporate Office in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to honour the Indian Armed Forces.
- It also promotes fitness and a healthy lifestyle among citizens.
- The event encourages discipline, national pride, and community engagement.
- The Soldierathon is part of PNB's CSR initiatives supporting nation-building efforts.

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**Ques: What did the Ministry of Finance state regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India's banking sector in FY 2024–25?**

- A) It increased sharply compared to FY23
- B) It remained unchanged from FY23
- C) It declined significantly compared to FY23
- D) It crossed USD 1 billion
- E) Data was not disclosed

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Finance stated that FDI equity inflows into the banking sector declined to USD 115 million in FY 2024–25, compared to USD 898 million in FY 2022–23.
- FDI inflows include equity inflow, equity capital of unincorporated bodies, reinvested earnings, and other capital.
- Among public sector banks, State Bank of India recorded the highest foreign shareholding.
- Foreign shareholding includes investments from FDI, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI/FII), and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- As per the Reserve Bank of India Master Directions on 'Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies', prior RBI approval is mandatory for acquiring 5% or more of the paid-up capital of a banking company.

**Rankings with their foreign Shareholding :**

- 1 State Bank of India - 11.07%
- 2 Canara Bank - 10.55%
- 3 Bank of Baroda - 9.43%
- 4 Union Bank of India - 7.48%
- 5 Punjab National Bank - 5.85%





## Recent News Headlines Related to SBI :

- The State Bank of India (SBI) became India's fourth most valuable company by market capitalisation.
- State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 24.5% year-on-year increase in standalone net profit to ₹21,028 crore in Q3FY26.
- State Bank of India, India's largest Public Sector Bank, launched a Global Trade Finance Centre to strengthen its trade finance and global banking operations.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence (CoE).
- State Bank of India signed an MoU with the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has awarded a ₹1,000 crore, 10-year cash outsourcing contract to CMS Info Systems Ltd.
- India's largest lender, the State Bank of India, will facilitate bilateral trade settlements between India and Israel in Indian rupees.

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**Ques:** According to a report by State Bank of India (SBI), what percentage of India's agricultural exports to the United States will now face zero tariff?

- A) 50%
- B) 60%
- C) 65%
- D) 70%
- E) 75%

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- According to a report by State Bank of India, nearly 75% of India's agricultural exports to the United States will now face zero tariff.
- Agricultural products worth \$1.36 billion will get access to the US market with zero additional duty.
- Products worth \$1.035 billion are assured zero reciprocal tariff treatment.
- This strengthens India's agricultural trade surplus of around \$1.3 billion with the US.
- Zero-tariff access is expected to improve price competitiveness and boost export volumes.

**Rice:**

- US global rice imports stand at \$1.378 billion, with imports from India at \$341 million.
- The US rice import market share of India is 24.7%.

**Fishery Sector:**

- US global imports of fish and aquatic invertebrates are valued at \$18.84 billion.
- Imports from India amount to \$1.8 billion, giving India a 9.6% share.

**Tea, Coffee and Spices:**

- US global imports are \$14.02 billion, with India exporting \$396 million.
- India's share stands at 2.8%.





### Overall Agricultural Trade Position :

- Across selected categories, total US agricultural imports are \$81.95 billion.
- Imports from India amount to \$2.89 billion, giving India an overall share of 3.5%.



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**Ques: Which organization introduced a Braille-enabled Premier Credit Card to support visually impaired users in India?**

- A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- B) Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- C) BOBCARD Limited (Bank of Baroda)
- D) HDFC Bank
- E) ICICI Bank

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- BOBCARD Limited, the credit card arm of Bank of Baroda, introduced a Braille-enabled version of its Premier Credit Card at an event held in Manipal, Karnataka.
- The card incorporates Braille elements to help visually impaired users identify and use the card easily and confidently during transactions.
- It offers accelerated rewards on travel, lifestyle, dining, and international transactions.
- Additional benefits include complimentary domestic airport lounge access and curated lifestyle privileges.

Braille-Enabled Card Providers in India:

- Punjab National Bank – PNB Braille Credit Card (launched December 2025).
- BOBCARD Limited / Bank of Baroda
  - bob inSIGHT Debit Card (Debit Card)
  - Features tactile dots and a rounded notch for orientation.
- State Bank of India (SBI)
  - Braille Debit Card (Debit Card)
  - Provides Braille-enabled cards on request for visually impaired account holders.





## Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector:

- Axis Bank launched “Rooftop Solar Finance”, a dedicated financing product to help Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) adopt solar energy systems on commercial rooftops.
- Amazon Pay has launched fixed deposit (FD) services on its fintech app as part of its expansion into fixed-income assets.
- Canara Bank will use NPCI BHIM Services’ (NBSL) bank plugins to offer Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services on its banking payments app, Canara ai1Pe.
- PhonePe Payment Gateway (PhonePe PG) has launched ‘PhonePe PG Bolt’ for Visa and Mastercard credit and debit card transactions.
- Axis Finance Limited (AFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Axis Bank Limited, launched the ‘Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan’.
- Axis Bank has introduced a new feature called ‘Safety Centre’ on its mobile banking app to strengthen customer protection against digital fraud.

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**Ques: Who became the first bowler to take 700 wickets in T20 cricket?**

- A) Lasith Malinga
- B) Dwayne Bravo
- C) Rashid Khan
- D) Sunil Narine
- E) Jasprit Bumrah

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Rashid Khan became the first bowler in history to take 700 wickets in T20 cricket.
- He achieved this milestone during a T20 World Cup match against the UAE in New Delhi.
- Rashid completed his 700th wicket by dismissing Muhammad Arfan.
- He reached the landmark in just 518 T20 matches, showcasing remarkable consistency and longevity.
- His key bowling figures include an average of 18.51, strike rate of 16.8, and an economy rate of 6.59.

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**Ques: Which state government launched the 'Sthree Suraksha Scheme' to provide social security pension to unemployed women and transgender women?**

- A) Government of Kerala
- B) Government of Tamil Nadu
- C) Government of Karnataka
- D) Government of Andhra Pradesh
- E) Government of Telangana

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, launched the 'Sthree Suraksha Scheme'.
- The scheme provides social security pension support to unemployed women and transgender women not covered under existing welfare pensions.
- Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive a monthly pension of ₹1,000.
- It targets economically disadvantaged women and transgender women aged 35–60 years who are permanent residents of Kerala.
- Applicants must hold an Antyodaya Anna Yojana (Yellow) ration card or a Priority Household (Pink) ration card.





## Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Services clinched the 79th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy by edging past Kerala 1–0 in the final held at Dhakuakhana Stadium, Assam.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of ₹7.5 crore for the India Under-19 cricket team after winning the 2026 ICC Under-19 World Cup.
- India secured the hosting rights for the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027 following a successful bid by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) defeated Delhi Capitals with a record run chase in the WPL 2026 final held at Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara.
- Haryana Thunders won the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026 title by defeating Delhi Dangal Warriors 5–4 in a closely contested final.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) elected Soraya Aghaei as its first female member from Iran.
- India won its record 6th ICC Under-19 World Cup title by defeating England by 100 runs in the final.





**Ques: Which schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to boost the food processing sector in India?**

- A) PMKSY, PLISFPI and PMFME
- B) PMFBY, PMJDY and PMAY
- C) PMGSY, PMUY and PMEGP
- D) PMAY, PMFBY and PLISFPI
- E) PMFME, PMUY and PMJDY

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing multiple schemes to promote the overall development of the food processing sector.
- Central Sector Schemes include Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) and the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI).
- PMKSY provides financial assistance for setting up and expanding food processing industries and aims to create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chains.
- PLISFPI (2021–22 to 2026–27, outlay ₹10,900 crore) aims to create global food manufacturing champions and promote Indian food brands internationally.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) supports micro food enterprises through financial and technical assistance.  
business assistance and focuses on formalising the unorganised sector up to 2025–26.
- MoFPI ensures effective implementation through dashboard-based monitoring, regular reviews, site visits, coordination with banks, penal provisions for delays, and liaison with State Governments.





## Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana has replaced the Delhi Ladli Scheme (2008) and supports girls from birth to graduation.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) approved the construction of over 3.53 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs unveiled the upgraded National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS 2.0) web portal to significantly expand the reach and inclusivity of the Youth Parliament Programme across India.
- Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana (MGY) was launched by Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- The Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025 has been notified under Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- The Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme was launched by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The Delhi Government launched the Viksit Delhi Credit Loan Scheme to support MSMEs and entrepreneurs.





**Ques: Where will India's first national 'Cow Culture Museum' be established?**

- A) Mathura
- B) Ayodhya
- C) Varanasi
- D) Lucknow
- E) Haridwar

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- India's first national 'Cow Culture Museum' will be established in Mathura.
- The initiative has been taken by the Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad.
- The museum will be set up at the campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University.
- It will showcase the religious, cultural, spiritual, and scientific significance of cows.
- Around 100 digital and symbolic cattle models, including major and endangered breeds, will be displayed.
- A special exhibition on milk and dairy products and a dairy parlour will also be developed on the premises.

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**Ques: Which institution released the ten-year roadmap titled “Technology Services – Reimagination Ahead” to scale India’s technology services sector by 2035?**

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- B) NITI Aayog – Frontier Tech Hub
- C) Reserve Bank of India
- D) Department of Science and Technology
- E) Invest India

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- NITI Aayog’s Frontier Tech Hub released the ten-year roadmap titled “Technology Services – Reimagination Ahead.”
- The roadmap outlines how India’s technology services sector, currently around \$265 billion, can scale to \$750–850 billion by 2035.
- It aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and aims to enhance India’s global competitiveness in the AI era.
- The roadmap was unveiled by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- The Frontier Tech Hub functions as an action tank to anticipate major technology shifts and drive strategic growth.





## Recent News Headlines Related to First in India and World :

- Delhi has become the first state in India to formally partner with Bharat Taxi's cooperative mobility platform, marking a major shift in the organisation of urban taxi services
- The Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda released India's first nationally developed, evidence-based Lung Cancer Treatment and Palliation Guidelines.
- Mumbai's Coastal Road has become India's first 'musical path'.
- V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port, located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, has become the first port in India to initiate the installation of an advanced Anti-Drone System.
- Amaravati will emerge as India's first Quantum Valley, as announced by Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Alwar district in Rajasthan became the first district in India to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the "Insurance for All by 2047" initiative.
- Oman Airports became the world's first airport operator to fully deploy Wi-Fi 7 technology across its entire national network.





**Ques: Who set a new world record while winning gold in the Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 held in New Delhi?**

- A) Niraj Kumar
- B) Akhil Sheoran
- C) Abhinav Bindra
- D) Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar
- E) Swapnil Kusale

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar set a new world record in the Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 held in New Delhi.
- He won the gold medal with a world record score of 362.0.
- Niraj Kumar secured silver with 361.8 points, while Akhil Sheoran won bronze with 343.5 points.
- India achieved a clean sweep of the podium in this event.

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**Ques: Which State became the first in India to adopt a comprehensive Urban Policy?**

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Kerala
- E) Gujarat

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Kerala became the first State in India to adopt a comprehensive Urban Policy to guide development over the next 25 years.
- The policy was prepared by the Local Self-Government Department and approved by the State Cabinet.
- The Kerala Urban Policy Commission was constituted in December 2023 and submitted its report in March 2025.
- The policy envisions 80% urbanisation by 2050 with a focus on scientific planning, climate resilience, and environmentally sensitive development.
- It includes 10 key pillars and promotes Public-Private-People Partnership (PPPP) for sustainable urban growth.





**Ques: According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), what was India's global rank in Research & Development (R&D) spending in 2024?**

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

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- According to the latest data released by the World Intellectual Property Organization under the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, India ranked 7th globally in R&D expenditure in 2024.
- China topped the global R&D spending rankings in 2024.
- Total global R&D spending in 2024 stood at USD 2.87 trillion, up from USD 2.78 trillion in 2023, reflecting around 3% year-on-year growth.
- R&D expenditure as a share of global GDP increased from about 1.48% in 2000 to nearly 2% in 2024, highlighting the growing global focus on innovation-driven growth.

**Ranking of Different countries with their spending :**

- 1 China – 785.9 USD Billion
- 2 United states – 781.8 USD Billion
- 3 Japan - 186 USD Billion
- 4 Germany – 132.2 USD Billion
- 5 South Korea – 126.4 USD Billion
- 6 United Kingdom - 86.5 USD Billion
- 7 India – 75.73 USD Billion
- 8 France – 65.8 USD Billion
- 9 Turkiye – 43.2 USD Billion
- 10 Brazil – 38.4 USD Billion





## India's Rankings in Different Indices

- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) : India (91st), Denmark (1st)
- The Global Soft Power Index 2026 is published by Brand Finance : india (32nd), United States (1st)
- Global Innovation Index (GII) rank : : India (38th)
- Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026 : India (6th), China (1st)
- The Numbeo Safety Index 2026 was published by Numbeo : India (70th), UAE (1st)
- x
- Responsible Nations Index (RNI) : India (16th) , Singapore (1st)
- 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)





**Ques: What is the new loan target under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)?**

- A) ₹1.5 lakh crore
- B) ₹2 lakh crore
- C) ₹3 lakh crore
- D) ₹50,000 crore
- E) ₹75,000 crore

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The loan target under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been doubled from ₹1 lakh crore to ₹2 lakh crore.
- The decision was approved by Narendra Modi to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure, storage, logistics, and the agricultural value chain.
- The enhanced target aims to improve rural infrastructure and boost farmers' income through better supply chain facilities.

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**Ques: Which state recorded its highest marine dolphin population in five years with 765 dolphins counted in the 2026 census?**

- A) West Bengal
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu
- E) Odisha

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- Odisha recorded its highest marine dolphin population in the last five years, with 765 dolphins counted in the 2026 state-wide census.
- The Irrawaddy Dolphin is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- Dolphins are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which provides the highest level of legal protection in India.
- Marine species along the Odisha coast include Humpback Dolphin, Irrawaddy Dolphin, Bottlenose Dolphin, Spinner Dolphin, and Finless Porpoise.

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**Ques: Sarita Yolmo has been assigned 'tour duty' on which UNESCO World Heritage Site narrow-gauge railway line in India?**

- A) Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- B) Kalka–Shimla Railway
- C) Matheran Hill Railway
- D) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- E) Kangra Valley Railway

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Sarita Yolmo has been assigned tour duty on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a narrow-gauge railway line connecting New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling in West Bengal.
- The railway was built during the British era between 1879 and 1881 in the foothills of the Himalayas.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.
- Other Indian mountain railways with UNESCO status include the Nilgiri Mountain Railway and the Kalka–Shimla Railway.

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**vQues: The BAPS Hindu Mandir, the first traditional stone Hindu temple in West Asia, is located in which city?**

- A) Abu Dhabi
- B) Doha
- C) Dubai
- D) Muscat
- E) Riyadh

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The BAPS Hindu Mandir is located in Abu Dhabi.
- It was inaugurated in February 2024 by Narendra Modi.
- It is the first traditional stone Hindu temple in West Asia, built entirely of stone without steel in the superstructure.
- Constructed using pink sandstone from Rajasthan and Italian marble, the temple reflects traditional temple architecture.
- It has become a major centre for worship, cultural exchange, and interfaith harmony in the United Arab Emirates.

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**Ques: Which task force has been assumed by the Indian Navy under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)?**

- A) Combined Task Force 150
- B) Combined Task Force 151
- C) Combined Task Force 152
- D) Combined Task Force 154
- E) Combined Task Force 159

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Navy has assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF-154) under the Combined Maritime Forces.
- Commodore Milind M. Mokashi (Shaurya Chakra) took over as Commander of CTF-154.
- The change of command ceremony was held at CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.
- CTF-154 focuses on maritime security training, interoperability, and capacity building among member nations.

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**Ques: Under IN-SPACe's Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative, how many Indian private startups were selected in February 2026 to develop indigenous small satellite bus platforms?**

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five
- E) Six

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- In February 2026, IN-SPACe, the commercial and regulatory arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), selected three Indian private startups under the Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative.
- The selected startups are Astrome Technologies Pvt Ltd, Azista Industries Pvt Ltd, and Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd.
- Each selected company will receive a grant of ₹5 crore.
- The SBaaS initiative aims to develop, test, and demonstrate robust indigenous small satellite bus platforms.

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**Ques: Which body cleared the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project?**

- A) Supreme Court
- B) Ministry of Environment
- C) National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- D) NITI Aayog
- E) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) cleared the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project.
- The tribunal stated that it found “no good ground to interfere” with the 2022 Environmental Clearance (EC).
- It upheld the review conducted by a High-Powered Committee (HPC) and observed that adequate environmental safeguards were included in the project.
- The mega project includes a transshipment port, international airport, power plant, and township development. It also contains directions to protect coral reefs, turtle nesting sites, and prevent shoreline erosion.

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**Ques: Which country was affected by Cyclone Gezani, making landfall at Toamasina on its eastern coast?**

- A) Mozambique
- B) Madagascar
- C) Tanzania
- D) Seychelles
- E) Comoros

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Cyclone Gezani struck Madagascar, impacting the eastern coastal regions.
- The cyclone made landfall at Toamasina on the country's eastern coast.
- Wind speeds exceeded 195 km/h, causing significant damage to infrastructure and homes.
- More than 2,700 people were displaced due to the cyclone.

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**Ques: India's first government-supported national biobank has been established to focus on which category of rare diseases?**

- A) Autoimmune disorders
- B) Mitochondrial diseases
- C) Neuromuscular disorders
- D) Blood coagulation disorders
- E) Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs)

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- India's first government-supported national biobank has been established to focus on Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs).
- The initiative is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It has been set up by researchers from 28 medical and research institutions across six states and two Union Territories.
- The lead institutions include Foundation for Research in Genetics and Endocrinology (FRIGE) and Institute of Human Genetics, Ahmedabad.
- The biobank integrates biological samples and detailed clinical, biochemical, and genetic data of 530 patients from 15 states.
- It covers 8 LSD subgroups and 27 disorders, with samples such as genomic DNA, plasma, and urine precipitate processed for enzyme and genetic analysis.





**Ques: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) signed a landmark MoU with which State/UT government to promote marine research and Blue Economy initiatives?**

- A) Government of Tamil Nadu
- B) Government of Andhra Pradesh
- C) Government of Gujarat
- D) Government of Puducherry
- E) Government of Kerala

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, signed a landmark MoU with the Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Puducherry.
- The MoU aims to promote marine research, infrastructure development, and Blue Economy initiatives.
- The agreement covers six strategic domains for sustainable coastal development.
- These include sustainable marine fisheries, offshore wind energy, desalination technologies, ocean climate advisory and real-time monitoring, permanent coastal management, and marine spatial planning (MSP).
- The implementation framework includes the designation of nodal officers by both sides and the formation of Joint Working Groups (JWGs).





**Ques: What is the total Central Assistance allocated under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)?**

- A) ₹50,000 crore
- B) ₹75,000 crore
- C) ₹1 lakh crore
- D) ₹2 lakh crore
- E) ₹4 lakh crore

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to accelerate market-linked and reform-driven urban infrastructure development.
- The total Central Assistance (CA) under UCF is ₹1 lakh crore, which will act as a catalytic fund to leverage private and market-based financing.
- The Central Assistance will cover 25% of the project cost, provided that at least 50% of the funding is raised from market sources such as bonds, PPPs, or private investments.
- The fund is expected to mobilize a total investment of ₹4 lakh crore in the urban sector over the next five years.
- The operational period of the Urban Challenge Fund is from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31, with the implementation period extendable up to FY 2033–34.

