

# EXAM GENIUS

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# *GENIUS* *CURRENT* *AFFAIRS*

**In English**

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**Ques: Jose Joseph Kattur, recently appointed as part-time chairman, is associated with which bank?**

- A) Federal Bank
- B) South Indian Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Axis Bank
- E) Indian Bank

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Jose Joseph Kattur has been appointed as non-executive part-time chairman of South Indian Bank.
- The appointment is for a 3-year term effective from 23 March 2026, after RBI approval.
- He succeeds VJ Kurian.
- He has over 30 years of experience at RBI (1991–2023) and has been an independent director since July 2024.
- South Indian Bank was founded in 1929 and is headquartered in Thrissur.

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## Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector :

- **Keki Mistry** : interim part-time chairman of HDFC Bank (Replaced Atanu Chakraborty)
- **K.V.R. Murty**, a former official of the Ministry of Defence : Whole-Time Member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (replaces Ashwani Bhatiya)
- **Parthanil Ghosh** : MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance (succeed Anuj Tyagi)
- **CFO Ketan Merchant** : MD of Fino Payments Bank
- **Vinay Tonse** : MD and CEO of Yes Bank
- **Dan Bailey** : President of Jio Platforms Limited
- **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi** : Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) (replaced Ramaswamy Narayanan)
- **Rajan Bajaj** : Chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director Slice Small Finance Bank (Replaced Satish Kumar Kalra)





**Ques:** According to the statement by Pankaj Chaudhary, what is the total amount of loans written off by banks in the last 11 financial years?

- A) ₹5.50 lakh crore
- B) ₹7.25 lakh crore
- C) ₹9.75 lakh crore
- D) ₹12.00 lakh crore
- E) ₹15.00 lakh crore

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Banks have written off loans worth ₹9.75 lakh crore in the last 11 financial years.
- The highest write-off was recorded in FY20 at ₹1.59 lakh crore.
- Since then, the amount has been declining, reaching ₹47,568 crore in FY25.
- Earlier trend shows steady rise: ₹31,723 crore (FY15), ₹40,416 crore (FY16), ₹68,308 crore (FY17), ₹99,132 crore (FY18).
- In FY19, write-offs crossed ₹1 lakh crore, reaching around ₹1.59 lakh crore.

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**Ques: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a ₹31.8 lakh penalty on which bank for non-compliance with rules related to inoperative accounts?**

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) HSBC
- D) Axis Bank
- E) Standard Chartered

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The RBI imposed a ₹31.8 lakh penalty on HSBC.
- The penalty was for non-compliance with RBI guidelines on inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits.
- The action followed a statutory inspection based on the bank's financial position as of 31 March 2025.
- HSBC was founded in 1865 and is headquartered in London, United Kingdom.
- Its CEO (2026) is Georges Elhedery and Chairman is Brendon Nelson.

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## Recent Penalties imposed on Banks:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹3.10 lakh on Cashfree Payments India Private Limited. The key issue was an impermissible debit from an escrow account. An escrow account is a temporary account where customer funds are kept securely before being transferred to merchants.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of 2.70 lakh on Manappuram Finance Limited. The penalty was imposed for noncompliance with RBI guidelines on compensation of Key Managerial Personnel (KMP).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹11.50 lakh on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Fair Practices Code' and 'Internal Ombudsman for Regulated Entities'.
- UCO Bank has been imposed a penalty of ₹38.60 lakh.
- A fine of ₹32.50 lakh was imposed on Bank of Maharashtra.
- A penalty of ₹29.60 lakh was imposed on DCB Bank.





**Ques: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its approval for which bank's transition to a universal bank without requiring a Non-Operating Holding Company (NOHC) for now?**

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

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- The RBI has revised its earlier approval for AU Small Finance Bank to transition into a universal bank.
- It has allowed promoter shareholding to continue without setting up a Non-Operating Holding Company (NOHC) for now.
- RBI clarified that NOHC will be required only if the group sets up additional financial service entities in the future.
- Earlier, RBI had granted in-principle approval on 7 August 2025, valid for 18 months for this transition.

**About AU Small Finance Bank:**

- **Established : 2017**
- **HQ : Jaipur, Rajasthan**
- **CEO & MD : Sanjay Agarwal**
- **Tagline : Badlaav Humse Hai**





## Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of Lalbaug Co-operative Bank Ltd., Vadodara with Akhand Anand Cooperative Bank Ltd, Surat
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received the “Initiative of the Year” award from Central Banking, London.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of 36 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) as part of its regulatory actions, while 9 other NBFCs surrendered their licences due to business exits, structural changes, or mergers.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the Counterparty Credit Risk (CCR) framework to align it with Basel III international banking norms.
- Reserve Bank of India has issued revised prudential norms for dividend payouts by commercial banks, which will come into effect from FY27.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the NBFC–Miscellaneous Amendment Directions, 2026 to support the functioning of National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Ltd. (NUCFDC) as the Umbrella Organisation (UO) for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). These special provisions will remain effective until 31 March 2029, unless modified, withdrawn, or extended by the Reserve Bank of India.





**Ques: RBI's "Utkarsh 3.0" framework will guide policy priorities for which period?**

- A) 2025–2028
- B) 2026–2029
- C) 2024–2027
- D) 2027–2030
- E) 2023–2026

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- RBI approved the Medium-Term Strategy Framework "Utkarsh 3.0" for 2026–2029.
- The decision was taken at the 622nd Central Board meeting held in Patna.
- The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The framework focuses on strengthening regulation, financial stability, and institutional efficiency.
- RBI also approved the budget for FY 2026–27 during the meeting.

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**Ques: By 2030, India's digital economy is projected to contribute approximately what percentage to the country's GDP?**

- A) 10%
- B) 13%
- C) 18%
- D) 20%
- E) 30%

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- India's digital economy is projected to contribute nearly 20% to GDP by 2030, up from about 13% currently.
- Growth is driven by digital sectors expanding faster than the overall economy.
- India has signed agreements with 53+ countries to export its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model.
- DPI includes digital identity, payments, and data exchange systems.
- Software service exports (~\$250 billion) are expected to shift towards high-value AI-enabled services.

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**Ques: What is the total outlay proposed under the Biopharma SHAKTI initiative ?**

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹8,000 crore
- C) ₹10,000 crore
- D) ₹12,000 crore
- E) ₹15,000 crore

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Biopharma SHAKTI initiative was proposed in Union Budget 2026–27.
- The total outlay is ₹10,000 crore over 5 years.
- It aims to make India a global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub.
- Focus is on domestic production of biologics and biosimilars.
- It will boost innovation and growth in the pharmaceutical sector.

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**Ques: Yamaha Music India appointed which personality as its brand ambassador?**

- A) Arijit Singh
- B) A. R. Rahman
- C) Sonu Nigam
- D) Shankar Mahadevan
- E) Amit Trivedi

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Yamaha Music India Private Limited appointed A. R. Rahman as its brand ambassador.
- The company is a subsidiary of Yamaha Corporation, headquartered in Hamamatsu, Japan.
- The announcement was made at a press event in Chennai.
- A. R. Rahman highlighted Yamaha's role in his musical journey and said Yamaha products will be used in his music school.
- Yamaha aims to expand its presence in India and inspire young talent through this partnership.

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## Recent Headlines Related to Brand Ambassador :

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** : brand ambassador for the BHIM Payments App
- **cricketer Ravindra Jadeja** : primary Brand Ambassador of City Union Bank for 2 years
- **Jasprit Bumrah** : brand ambassador of Uniqlo
- **Former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan** : inaugural Delhi Khel Mahakumbh by the Government of Delhi
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** : Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** : Shyam Steel
- **Seven-time Olympic medallist sprinter Andre De Grasse of Canada** : International Event Ambassador for the 21st edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon (TMM 2025)
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** : Investor and Brand Ambassador of Perplexity AI
- **MS Dhoni** : Panasonic AC Brand Ambassador





**Ques: Why was the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 withdrawn from the Lok Sabha?**

- A) New law
- B) Committee changes
- C) No support
- D) Merge bill
- E) Protest

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Government withdrew the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 to incorporate recommendations of a Select Committee.
- The bill aims to decriminalise minor offences and rationalise penalties.
- The withdrawal motion was moved by Piyush Goyal and approved by voice vote in the Lok Sabha.
- The 2025 Bill continues reforms initiated under the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023.

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**Ques: INS Taragiri, recently in news, belongs to which project?**

- A) Project 15B
- B) Project 75
- C) Project 17A
- D) Project 28
- E) Project 1135.6

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- INS Taragiri will be commissioned on April 3, 2026.
- The ceremony will be held in Visakhapatnam and presided over by Rajnath Singh.
- It is an indigenous stealth frigate equipped with advanced weapons including supersonic missiles.
- INS Taragiri is the fourth Nilgiri-class ship under Project 17A.
- It was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and delivered on November 28, 2025.
- It highlights India's progress in self-reliance in naval design and construction.

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## Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- Japan plans to join the United States' next-generation missile defence programme called "Golden Dome."
- IG Defence, a defence technology firm based in Odisha, has unveiled "Project KAL", India's first indigenous long-range one-way attack drone.
- The CHEOPS (CHaracterising ExOPlanet Satellite) mission of the European Space Agency discovered an unusual four-planet system around the star LHS 1903.
- President Droupadi Murmu undertook a sortie in the indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Indian Army successfully conducted a high-intensity live firing test of the Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- Vast Space signed an order with NASA for its sixth Private Astronaut Mission (PAM) to the International Space Station.





**Ques: Lionel Messi recently became the second men's footballer to achieve which milestone?**

- A) 500 goals
- B) 700 goals
- C) 800 goals
- D) 900 goals
- E) 1000 goals

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Lionel Messi became the second men's footballer to score 900 goals in official matches.
- He achieved this milestone while playing for Inter Miami CF against Nashville SC in Florida.
- He joins Cristiano Ronaldo, who was the first to reach 900 goals in September 2024.
- This milestone reflects Messi's consistency and long-term excellence in football.

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## Recent News headlines related to Sports

- The World Athletics Council allotted the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships to India.
- The National Para Athletics Championship 2026 will be held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- The 2nd edition of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 was hosted by India in New Delhi.
- New Delhi, the capital of India, will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery in 2027.
- Armand Duplantis, a pole vaulter from Sweden, set a new world record of 6.31 metres.
- Kimi Antonelli, aged 19, won his first Formula 1 race at the Chinese Grand Prix.
- Smriti Mandhana retains No.1 position in Women's ODI batting rankings. Rankings released by International Cricket Council.
- Goa will host the seventh season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) in July 2026. The tournament will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.





**Ques: What is the revised monthly stipend under the PM Internship Scheme?**

- A) ₹9,000
- B) ₹7,000
- C) ₹5,000
- D) ₹10,000
- E) ₹12,000

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The government increased the monthly stipend from ₹5,000 to ₹9,000 to boost participation.
- The scheme now includes sectors like semiconductors, renewable energy, and global capability centres.
- Companies can participate even without mandatory CSR obligations.
- Eligibility criteria: 18–25 years age group.
- Internship duration revised to 6–9 months (earlier 1 year).

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- Small Hydro Power Development Scheme has been approved by the Union Cabinet for the period FY 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹22,584.60 crore.
- Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) has been approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore.
- The Andhra Pradesh government is set to launch a free bus travel scheme for differently abled persons under the “Divyang Shakti” scheme.
- The Chhattisgarh government has launched the “Gaudham Yojana” to promote cattle welfare and protection.
- The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The Stand-Up India Scheme provides loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to eligible beneficiaries.
- The Orunodoi Scheme (Orunodoi 3.0) has been implemented by the Assam Government.





**Ques: The Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative, recently commenced by the Indian Navy, is associated with which concept?**

- A) Trade expansion
- B) Tourism promotion
- C) Space research
- D) Agriculture growth
- E) Maritime security & cooperation

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- The IOS SAGAR initiative focuses on maritime security and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It involves participation from Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) with 16 member nations.
- India assumed the chairmanship of IONS in February 2026 at the conclave held in Visakhapatnam.
- The initiative reflects India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

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**Ques: Which country ranked first in the Global Terrorism Index 2026?**

- A) Pakistan
- B) Afghanistan
- C) Iraq
- D) Syria
- E) Nigeria

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- Pakistan ranked No. 1 in the Global Terrorism Index 2026 for the first time.
- The report is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- Terror-related fatalities in Pakistan increased by 6% in 2025.
- The country recorded 1,139 deaths and 1,045 terror incidents in 2025, the highest since 2013.
- 2025 marked the sixth consecutive year of rising terrorism deaths in Pakistan.
- A major surge in hostage incidents was observed, including the Jaffar Express attack.
- Regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan accounted for the majority of attacks and deaths.

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## India's Rankings in Different Indices

- World Happiness Report 2026, published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford : India (116th), Finland (1st)
- Hurun Global Rich List 2026 for billionaires : India (3rd), China (1st)
- “Global Mind Health in 2025” report released by Sapien Labs (USA) : India (60th)
- Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026 : State Bank of India (SBI) (16th)
- Global Residence Programme Index 2026, published by Henley & Partners : Greece (1st)
- Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Research & Development (R&D) expenditure in 2024 : India (7th), China (1st)
- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) : India (91st), Denmark (1st)
- The Global Soft Power Index 2026 is published by Brand Finance : india (32nd), United States (1st)





**Ques: Who won the Mark Lynton History Prize 2026 for the book “The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World”?**

- A) Ramachandra Guha
- B) William Dalrymple
- C) Romila Thapar
- D) Irfan Habib
- E) Audrey Truschke

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- William Dalrymple won the Mark Lynton History Prize 2026.
- He was awarded for his book *The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World*.
- The prize carries a cash award of \$10,000.
- It is awarded by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism and the Columbia University School of Journalism.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) : Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of the Tata Group
- Academy Awards (98th edition) Best Picture award : One Battle After Another
- Governance Now PSU National Award (12th edition) “Excellence in Innovation” category : Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)
- 60th Jnanpith Award (2025) : Renowned Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu
- META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 : Veteran actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar at 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards, New Delhi
- CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award : Former India captain Rahul Dravid
- GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award : Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises
- Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation : Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, located in Papydy village, Vasai in Maharashtra





**Ques: Why did FIFA impose a fine of \$190,700 on the Israeli Football Association (IFA)?**

- A) Match fixing
- B) Racist behaviour
- C) Financial fraud
- D) Doping violation
- E) Ticket issues

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- FIFA fined the Israeli Football Association for breaching anti-discrimination rules.
- The penalty was imposed due to failure to act against racist behaviour.
- The issue was linked to incidents involving Beitar Jerusalem.

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**Ques: Who received the KISS Humanitarian Award 2025?**

- A) Sudha Murty
- B) Nita Ambani
- C) Indra Nooyi
- D) Ratan Tata
- E) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Nita Ambani received the KISS Humanitarian Award 2025.
- The award ceremony was held at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar.
- The award was presented by Mohan Munasinghe.
- The KISS Humanitarian Award was established in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta.
- It recognizes outstanding contributions to humanity, compassionate service, and social upliftment.

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## IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has progressed towards its long-awaited Initial Public Offering (IPO) by selecting key intermediaries. NSE appointed 20 merchant bankers through a structured and competitive process approved by the IPO Committee led by Injeti Srinivas. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the largest shareholder in NSE with about 10.72% stake.

Government of India (GoI) approved the establishment of quantum teaching laboratories in 23 institutions under the National Quantum Mission (NQM) to strengthen education, research, and workforce development in emerging quantum technologies.

The MoU was signed between Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and Space Applications Centre (ISRO). It focuses on maintenance of existing satellite-based telecommunication nodes. The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), established in 2001, in New Delhi. It is headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC).

The 'Krishi Sakhi Initiative' is a nationwide program focused on empowering women farmers. It aligns with the declaration of 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer by United Nations through Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The 'SPARK – The 100K Collective' initiative is a collaboration between the British Council, Women's Collective Forum, and the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality. The Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality was founded by Smriti Irani. It targets around 1 lakh women entrepreneurs across nearly 300 locations in India.

