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UPSC



SSC



BANK



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STATE EXAMS

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Ques: Paisalo Digital Limited has recently been appointed as a Business Correspondent (BC) partner for which bank?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) Union Bank of India
- D) Canara Bank
- E) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- Paisalo Digital Limited has been appointed as a Business Correspondent (BC) partner for Indian Overseas Bank.
- This move expands its Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) platform.
- Paisalo Digital already partners with State Bank of India and Bank of India.
- A Business Correspondent (BC) is an agent appointed by banks to provide basic banking services in areas where bank branches are not easily available.

About Indian Overseas Bank (IOB):

- Founded – 1937
- Headquarters – Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- It is a public sector bank.

About Business Correspondent (BC) Model:

- Introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in 2006.
- Aim – To promote financial inclusion in rural and remote areas.





Recently signed banking agreements

- Razorpay, an Indian fintech company, partnered with Sarvam AI, an Indian Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup, to introduce voice-led, multilingual digital commerce solutions in India.
- Private sector lender Axis Bank has announced a partnership with the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI) as its official banking partner.
- Swiggy and HDFC Bank launched two new co-branded credit cards. The new cards are Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card and Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card.
- Axis Bank has been named a preferred financing partner in India for Tesla, the global electric vehicle manufacturer to strengthen financing support for premium electric vehicles (EVs) in India. Axis Bank becomes the first lender in India to offer vehicle loan tenures of up to 10 years for premium EVs, improving affordability for customers.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank has partnered with Home First Finance Company India and IIFL Finance to expand its retail lending business, particularly home loans and gold loans, beyond Jammu & Kashmir.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank ने Home First Finance Company India और IIFL Finance





Ques: The Gruh Sugam Portal has been launched by which organization?

- A) RBI
- B) NHB
- C) NABARD
- D) SEBI
- E) SIDBI

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched the Gruh Sugam Portal to promote a cost-effective housing finance system.
- The portal enables defence and government personnel to easily avail home loans from their place of posting.
- NHB acts as the apex housing finance institution in India, strengthening the housing credit system.
- Established → 1988 | Headquarters → New Delhi
- The Gruh Sugam Portal simplifies the home loan process and improves accessibility for government and defence employees.

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Ques: The Government of India has decided to retain the retail inflation target framework for the period 2026–2031 at what level?

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

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Finance has announced that India's inflation target framework will remain unchanged for another five years (2026–2031).
- The target inflation is set at 4% with a tolerance band of 2%–6%.
- This is the third consecutive 5-year term of the same framework.
- As per Section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the government sets the inflation target every 5 years in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.
- The framework was first introduced on 5 August 2016.
- First term: 2016–2021; Second term: 2021–2026; Third term: 2026–2031.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is now based on a new series with base year 2024.





Ques: What was the total health insurance premium collected in India in FY25?

- A) ₹80,000 crore
- B) ₹1 lakh crore
- C) ₹1.2 lakh crore+
- D) ₹2 lakh crore
- E) ₹50,000 crore

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- India's health insurance sector recorded around 9% growth in FY25.
- Total premium collections exceeded ₹1.2 lakh crore.
- Growth was driven by rising awareness, higher coverage, and increasing healthcare demand.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India introduced timelines for cashless claims (1 hour pre-authorization, 3 hours final approval).
- Over 1.37 lakh grievances were reported, with 93% resolved in FY25.
- Claim rejections mainly occurred due to policy conditions such as co-pay, sub-limits, and room rent caps.
- India's health insurance sector showed strong growth with improved regulations and faster claim processing timelines.





Ques: Kalpana Soren, who was recently honoured with the "Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award", received the award at which event?

- A) G20 Women Summit
- B) World Women Congress
- C) India Economic Summit
- D) NITI Aayog Women Forum
- E) BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit 2026

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- Kalpana Soren is an MLA from Gandey constituency in Jharkhand.
- She was honoured with the "Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award".
- The award was presented at the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit 2026.
- The event was held in New Delhi.

Static GK:

- Jharkhand was formed on 15 November 2000.
- Capital of Jharkhand: Ranchi
- BRICS is a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

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Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- **2026 Stockholm Water Prize** : Kaveh Madani, Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water Environment and Health
- **KISS Humanitarian Award 2025** : Nita Ambani
- **Mark Lynton History Prize 2026** : Historian William Dalrymple
- **Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture** at House of Commons, UK : Renowned Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta
- **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





Ques: The World Bank has placed which country in the 'red category' due to persistently high food inflation over the last 10 months?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Pakistan
- C) Myanmar
- D) Nepal
- E) Bangladesh

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- World Bank has placed Bangladesh in the 'red category' due to persistently high food inflation over the last 10 months.
- This indicates that the risk of food insecurity remains high in the country.
- Apart from Bangladesh, 13 other countries are also in the red category for 10 months.
- These include: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Ukraine, Zambia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Russia.

About World Bank:

- Established – 1944
- Headquarters – Washington, D.C., USA
- It provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries.





Ques: L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has recently become a signatory to which global sustainability initiative?

- A) Paris Climate Agreement
- B) UNEP Finance Initiative
- C) Kyoto Protocol
- D) Green Climate Fund
- E) United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

- L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has become a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact.
- UNGC is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative.
- LTF will integrate ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) principles into its core business strategy.
- The UNGC's Ten Principles cover human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.
- LTF is also a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials.

About United Nations Global Compact (UNGC):

- Launched – 2000
- Headquarters – New York, USA
- It encourages businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies.





Ques: What is the major modification in the UDAN scheme recently?

- A) Launch of new metro airports
- B) Subsidy reduced to 2 years
- C) Subsidy increased from 3 to 5 years
- D) Scheme discontinued
- E) Only international routes added

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The Union Cabinet approved the modified UDAN scheme with an outlay of ₹28,850 crore for 10 years (2026–36).
- ₹10,043 crore is allocated as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to support airlines on regional routes.
- The scheme will develop 100 airports (₹12,159 crore) and 200 helipads (₹3,661 crore) for better connectivity.
- Earlier, the UDAN scheme was launched in 2016 to connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- Airlines earlier received subsidy for 3 years on routes.
- The modified scheme extends the subsidy period to 5 years (major change).
- The new scheme puts a strong focus on infrastructure development (100 airports + 200 helipads).
- It also emphasizes last-mile connectivity in remote, hilly, and island areas.
- A long-term 10-year framework has been introduced for sustainability.





Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking Scheme has been extended for 5 years by the Union Cabinet of India.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched the RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme.
- K Ram Mohan Naidu announced the development of Arasavalli Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Temple under the PRASAD Scheme. The temple is located in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. A foundation stone was laid for modernization of the Indrapushkarini temple tank with ₹24 crore sanctioned
- 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.





Ques: The 9th PharmaMed 2026, recently held in New Delhi, was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with which organization?

- A) FICCI
- B) ASSOCHAM
- C) CII
- D) PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)
- E) NASSCOM

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- The 9th PharmaMed 2026 was hosted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It was organized in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- The event was held in New Delhi.
- Theme: “Healthcare Equity: Reaching Every Citizen of Viksit Bharat.”

Static GK:

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- PHDCCI is a leading industry body established in 1905.





Ques: How many sponsors were announced by JioStar for IPL 2026?

- A) 20
- B) 25
- C) 27
- D) 30
- E) 32

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- JioStar has announced 27 sponsors for Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026.
- Co-presenting sponsors include Google, Campa, Havells & Lloyd.
- After the exit of gaming brands like Dream11 and My11Circle in 2025, new brands have entered.
- Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a new category in cricket advertising.
- Other sponsors include Google Pay, TVS Motor Company (TVS EV), Angel One, Amul, Sunfeast, Birla Opus, Hero MotoCorp, Amazon.
- Associate sponsors include Association of Mutual Funds in India, Asian Paints, Flipkart (Flipkart Minutes), MRF, RuPay, Mondelez International, Mother Dairy, Rapido etc.

Static GK:

- IPL Started → 2008
- Governing Body → Board of Control for Cricket in India





Ques: According to the Forbes World's Wealthiest Individuals Report 2026, who is the richest person in the world?

- A) Jeff Bezos
- B) Bernard Arnault
- C) Elon Musk
- D) Bill Gates
- E) Larry Page

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

- The World's Wealthiest Individuals Report 2026 (40th edition) is published by Forbes.
- Elon Musk has retained his position as the world's richest person.
- The list features a record 3,428 billionaires globally.
- Combined net worth is USD 20.1 trillion (up from USD 16.1 trillion in 2025).
- Alice Walton is the world's richest woman with USD 134 billion.
- A total of 481 women (14%) are on the list.
- Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian with USD 99.7 billion.
- Aravind Srinivas (31) is the youngest Indian billionaire with USD 2.1 billion.

Top Countries With most number of Billionaires:

- USA 989 billionaires
- China 539 billionaires
- India 229 billionaires

Ranking of World's Top 5 Billionaires :

- 1 Elon Musk - 839 Billion (Tesla, SpaceX USA)
- 2 Larry Page - 257 Billion (Google USA)
- 3 Sergey Brin - 237 Billion (Google USA)





- 4 Jeff Bezos - 224 Billion (Amazon USA)
- 5 Mark Zuckerberg - 222 Billion (Facebook (Meta))

Ranking of India's Top 5 Billionaires :

- 21 Mukesh Ambani - 99.7 Billion (Reliance Industries Limited (RIL))
- 31 Gautam Adani - 63.8 Billion (Adani Group)
- 51 Savitri Jindal - 39.1 Billion (Jindal Group (OP Jindal Group))
- 70 Lakshmi Mittal - 31.0 Billion (Arcelor Mittal)
- 71 Shiv Nadar - 30.9 Billion (HCL Technologies Limited)

About Forbes:

- Founded – 1917
- Headquarters – New Jersey, USA
- It is known for rankings like billionaires, richest persons, and global business lists.

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India's Rankings in Different Indices

- **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026** Published by Institute for Economics and Peace 18th Edition : India (13th), Pakistan (1st)
- **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)





Ques: Balendra Shah is set to become Prime Minister of which country?

- A) India
- B) Nepal
- C) Bhutan
- D) Sri Lanka
- E) Maldives

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- Balendra Shah (Balen) has been elected leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) parliamentary party.
- He is set to become the youngest Prime Minister of Nepal and will take oath at Shital Niwas (Presidential Office).
- He earlier served as Mayor of Kathmandu and entered politics as an independent candidate.

Static GK:

- Country → Nepal
- Capital → Kathmandu

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Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President :

- Prime Minister of Nepal : Balendra Shah, popularly known as “Balen”
- Supreme Leader of Iran : Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei
- President of Peru : Jose Maria Balcazar
- Prime Minister of the Netherlands : Rob Arnoldus Adrianus Jetten
- 8th Prime Minister of Barbados : Mia Mottley
- Prime Minister of Thailand : Anutin Charnvirakul
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh : Tarique Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)
- Prime Minister of Yemen : Yemen’s Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani (replaced Salem bin Breik)
- President of Uganda : Yoweri Museveni
- Interim President of Venezuela : Delcy Rodríguez
- 38th President of Chile : José Antonio Kast of Chile’s Republican Party (Replaced Gabriel Boric)





Ques: P. Kumaran has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to which country?

- A) USA
- B) UK
- C) Canada
- D) Australia
- E) France

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- P. Kumaran, a 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- He is currently serving as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He has previously served as Ambassador to Singapore and Qatar, with extensive diplomatic experience.

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Recently appointed ambassador:

- **Vikram Doraiswami** : India's next Ambassador to China (succeed Pradeep Kumar Rawat)
- **Muanpuii Saiawi** : India's next High Commissioner to New Zealand
- **Amit Kumar Mishra** : India's next Ambassador to Georgia
- **Stefan Priesner of Austria** : United Nations Resident Coordinator in India
- **Sergio Gor** : United States Ambassador to India and special envoy to South and Central Asia
- **Manish Gupta** : Ambassador of India to Ireland
- **Senior Indian Foreign Service officer Gourangalal Das** : India's next ambassador to South Korea





Ques: Lionel Robert Jospin, who recently passed away, served as the Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) Spain
- D) France
- E) Canada

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

- Lionel Robert Jospin was the former Prime Minister of France.
- He served as Prime Minister from 1997 to 2002 under President Jacques Chirac.
- He is known for reducing the work week from 39 hours to 35 hours in France.

About France:

- Capital – Paris
- Currency – Euro
- France is a country in Western Europe.

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Ques: International Nowruz Day, also known as the Persian New Year, is observed on which date?

- A) March 20
- B) March 21
- C) March 22
- D) March 23
- E) March 24

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- International Nowruz Day is observed on March 21 every year.
- It marks the Persian New Year and the arrival of spring.
- The day was officially recognized by the United Nations in 2010.
- Nowruz was inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

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Important days :

- 1 March : Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) celebrated its 79th Foundation Day as Khanij Diwas
- 1 March : Zero Discrimination Day (theme for 2026 was "People First")
- 1 March : World Seagrass Day
- 3 March : World Hearing Day (theme for 2026 is "From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children.")
- 4 March : 18th World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation 2026 (Started in 2009)
- 4 March : National Safety Day 2026 (Theme 2026 Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety)
- 7 March : Jan Aushadhi Diwas
- 8 March : International Women's Day (Theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.")
- 10 March : CISF Raising Day
- 10 March : 5th International Day of Women Judges (Theme 2026 Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice)
- 11 March (second Wednesday of March) : No Smoking Day 2026
- 12 March (second Thursday of March) : World Kidney Day (theme for 2026 was "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet.")
- 14 March : Pi Day & International Day of Mathematics (Theme 2026 Mathematics and Hope)
- 14 March : 29th International Day of Action for Rivers Theme 2026 Protect Rivers, Protect People
- 15 March : International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 15 March : World Consumer Rights Day (theme focuses on "Safe Products, Confident Consumers.")
- 16 March : National Vaccination Day (commemorates the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995)
- 18 March : 9th Global Recycling Day 2026 (Theme 2026 Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity)
- 20 March : International Day of Happiness (theme for 2026 is "Caring and Sharing".) (first observed in 2013)
- 20 March : World Sparrow Day





IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

Indian Institute of Technology Ropar's Centre of Excellence in AI for agriculture, Annam.AI, is setting up a scalable weather intelligence network. Punjab has been selected as the first implementation hub. The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Education.

Omaxe Limited has announced naming a stadium stand after Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team. The stand will be part of a 30,000-seater cricket stadium in Dwarka, New Delhi. It will be India's first dedicated "Pink Stand", designed for women and families.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has introduced a payment aggregator facility on its e-payment platform Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE). The aggregator mode expands banking access from 23 banks to 41 banks.

Shriram Finance has received approval from the Competition Commission of India for a \$4.4 billion investment by MUFG Bank. The deal involves MUFG Bank acquiring a 20% stake in Shriram Finance. MUFG Bank is Japan's largest bank and the core banking subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group.

Svatantra Microfin Pvt Ltd has successfully completed its amalgamation with Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd and Svatantra Holding Pvt Ltd. After the merger, the combined entity has emerged as the second-largest NBFC-MFI in India.

