

# EXAM GENIUS

Presents

# ***WEEKLY GENIUS BANKING AND FINANCE***

**In ENGLISH**

**19 - 25 APRIL 2026**

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 STATE EXAMS

**Ques: What was the year-on-year growth rate of bank credit in India as of March 31, 2026?**

- A) 10%
- B) 12%
- C) 13.4%
- D) 15%
- E) 16%

**Answer: Option E**

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**Explanation :**

- Bank credit in India grew by 16% year-on-year as of March 31, 2026.
  - Deposits increased by 13.4% during the same period.
  - The data was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
  - Total deposits stood at ₹267.8 lakh crore, while bank credit reached ₹219 lakh crore.
  - Investments grew by 4.7% to ₹71.4 lakh crore.
  - In absolute terms, deposits increased by ₹31.7 lakh crore and credit by ₹30.1 lakh crore.
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**Ques: What was India's unemployment rate (UR) in March 2026 as per PLFS data?**

- A) 4.5%
- B) 4.9%
- C) 5.0%
- D) 5.1%
- E) 5.5%

**Answer: Option D**


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**Explanation :**

- India's unemployment rate rose to 5.1% in March 2026.

- It increased from 4.9% in February 2026, marking a five-month high.
  - The data is based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistics Office.
  - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) stood at 55.4% in March.
  - Worker Population Ratio (WPR) declined to 52.6%.
  - LFPR represents the percentage of people working or seeking work.
  - WPR indicates the proportion of employed persons in the population.
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**Ques: As per IMF projections, India is expected to become the world's third-largest economy by which year?**

- A) 2027
  - B) 2028
  - C) 2030
  - D) 2031
  - E) 2035
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**Answer: Option D**

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**Explanation :**

- According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) April 2026 data, India slipped to the 6th largest economy in 2025 with GDP around \$3.92 trillion.
  - This decline is temporary due to rupee depreciation and GDP base year revision, not due to slowdown in growth.
  - India is projected to become the 4th largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan.
  - By 2031, India is expected to become the 3rd largest economy, surpassing Germany.
  - Despite temporary ranking changes, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies globally.
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**Ques: The 'Super Sales Saathi' mobile app launched by LIC is primarily**

### **designed for whom?**

- A) Policyholders
- B) Bank officials
- C) LIC agents
- D) Government employees
- E) Investors

**Answer: Option C**

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### **Explanation :**

- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched two mobile apps — MyLIC and Super Sales Saathi.
- The apps were launched by M. Nagaraju in Mumbai.
- Both apps are powered by LIC's DIVE platform (Digital Innovation & Value Enhancement).
- The MyLIC app is a one-stop platform for policyholders to manage policies, pay premiums, and access benefits.
- Super Sales Saathi is specifically designed for LIC agents with features like customer management and real-time updates.
- The initiative aims to enhance digital services, improve security, and provide a user-friendly experience.

### **Static Part:**

- LIC – Largest life insurance company in India
  - Established – 1956
  - Headquarters – Mumbai
  - DIVE Platform – Focuses on digital innovation and faster services
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**Ques: How many banks have been authorised by the Indian government to import bullion for 3 years starting April 1, 2026, and which two banks are authorised to import only gold?**

- A) 15 Banks — SBI and HDFC
- B) 17 Banks — PNB and Bank of India
- C) 17 Banks — Union Bank of India and Sberbank
- D) 15 Banks — Union Bank of India and Sberbank
- E) 20 Banks — Deutsche Bank and ICBC

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation :**

- The Government of India, through Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), has authorised 17 banks to import bullion for three years (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029).
- Out of these, 15 banks — including State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Deutsche Bank and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China — can import both gold and silver.
- Only Union Bank of India and Sberbank are authorised to import only gold.
- Delay in issuing the authorisation list had halted imports, leaving over 5 tonnes of gold and around 8 tonnes of silver stuck without customs clearance.
- India is the second-largest gold importer globally, importing \$72 billion worth of gold in 2025–26 (24% increase), while silver imports rose to \$12 billion.
- DGFT also changed the classification of gold, silver and platinum from ‘free’ to ‘restricted’, making licences mandatory for certain importers.

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**Ques: The ‘Water Forward’ initiative launched by the World Bank Group aims to ensure water security for how many people globally by 2030?**

- A) 200 million
- B) 400 million
- C) 600 million
- D) 800 million
- E) 1 billion

**Answer: Option E**

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**Explanation :**

- World Bank Group launched the global initiative ‘Water Forward’.
- The initiative aims to ensure water security for over 1 billion people by 2030.
- A key feature is the introduction of country-led “Water Compacts”.
- Under these compacts, governments will define reforms, strengthen institutions, and create investment pathways.
- The World Bank Group itself targets to provide water security to 400 million people.
- The initiative is supported by institutions like Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Investment Bank, and New Development Bank.
- The initiative focuses on improving financing and accelerating water-related projects globally.

**Static Part :**

- World Bank Group – Provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries
- Headquarters – Washington, D.C., USA
- SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

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**Ques: What was India’s trade deficit in FY 2025–26 as per official data?**

- A) \$94.6 billion
- B) \$100.5 billion
- C) \$110.2 billion
- D) \$119.3 billion
- E) \$125.0 billion

**Answer: Option D**

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**Explanation :**

- India’s trade deficit widened to \$119.3 billion in FY 2025–26.
- It increased from \$94.6 billion in the previous financial year.

- The rise was mainly due to higher imports, which grew by 6.4% to \$979.4 billion.
  - Exports also grew by 4.22% to \$860 billion.
  - Merchandise exports increased by 1% to \$441.78 billion.
  - Services exports rose by nearly 8% to \$418.31 billion.
  - Exports to China increased by \$5 billion.
  - Trade surplus with the United States narrowed to \$34.4 billion from \$43 billion.
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**Ques: What is the proposed FDI limit in India's pension sector as per recent news?**

- A) 49%
- B) 74%
- C) 80%
- D) 100%
- E) 26%

**Answer: Option D**

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**Explanation :**

- The Government of India is considering increasing the FDI limit in the pension sector from 49% to 100%.
- The move aims to align the pension sector with the insurance sector, where 100% FDI is already allowed.
- A Bill to amend the PFRDA Act, 2013 is expected in the upcoming Parliament session.
- The amendment may be introduced in the Monsoon or Winter Session 2026.
- Currently, the FDI limit in the pension sector is capped at 49%.
- Earlier, Parliament increased the FDI limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%.
- The amendment may also include separation of NPS Trust from PFRDA.
- NPS Trust functions may be brought under charitable trust or Companies Act framework.

**Ques: As per the RBI's new NBFC Branch Authorisation Directions, 2025, which NBFCs are allowed to expand their branches across India?**

- A) NBFCs with NOF up to ₹50 crore
- B) NBFCs with low credit rating
- C) NBFCs with NOF above ₹50 crore and AA or above rating
- D) All NBFCs without restrictions
- E) Only deposit-taking NBFCs

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation:**

- Reserve Bank of India issued new guidelines titled NBFC Branch Authorisation Directions, 2025.
  - NBFCs with net owned funds (NOF) above ₹50 crore and credit rating of AA or above can expand across India.
  - NBFCs with NOF up to ₹50 crore or lower ratings can open branches only within their home state.
  - NBFCs must notify RBI for branch expansion; if no objection is raised within 30 days, they can proceed.
  - Applications must be submitted via the PRAVAAH portal.
  - National Housing Bank regulates Housing Finance Companies, which must inform NHB before opening branches and cannot open branches abroad.
  - NBFC-ICCs lending against gold must take prior RBI approval for opening more than 1,000 branches.
  - For branch closure, NBFCs must give at least 3 months' public notice and inform RBI/NHB.
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**Ques: SEBI has approved which exchange's plan to set up a coal exchange in India?**

- A) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- B) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- C) Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)
- D) India International Exchange (India INX)

E) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation :**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the plan of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) to set up a coal exchange.
- MCX will create a new subsidiary named MCX Coal Exchange.
- Initially, MCX will hold 100% stake in this subsidiary.
- The investment for setting up the exchange will be up to ₹100 crore.
- Approval will also be required from the Coal Controller Organisation of India.
- This initiative aims to bring transparency and efficiency in coal trading in India.

**Static Part :**

- MCX Established – 10 November 2003
- Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Regulator – SEBI (since 2015)
- FMC merged with SEBI – 28 September 2015
- Key Indices:
  - MCX iCOMDEX – Commodity index series
  - BULLDEX – Bullion index (Gold & Silver)
  - METLDEX – Base metals index
- Clearing Body – MCXCCL (Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation Limited)

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**Ques : PayPoint India became the first private fintech to join which RBI system?**

- A. UPI
- B. NPCI Network
- C. Centralised Payment System (CPS)
- D. IMPS
- E. Bharat BillPay

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation :**

- PayPoint India Network became the first private fintech to get membership in RBI's Centralised Payment System (CPS).
  - It now gets direct access to RTGS and NEFT, reducing dependency on intermediary banks.
  - PayPoint has received its own IFSC code and can directly manage settlement with RBI.
  - CPS is operated by RBI as a unified platform for processing both large-value and retail transactions.
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**Ques: As per SBI Research, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for FY27?**

- A) 5.5–6.0%
- B) 6.0–6.5%
- C) 6.8–7.1%
- D) 7.5–8.0%
- E) 8.0–8.5%

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation :**

- SBI Research projects India's GDP growth at 6.8–7.1% in FY27.
- India is facing global challenges such as oil price shocks and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.
- Despite these challenges, strong domestic fundamentals are supporting economic growth.
- This indicates resilience and stability in India's economy.

**Static Part:**

- GDP – Gross Domestic Product
  - FY27 – Financial Year 2026–27
  - SBI – State Bank of India
  - SBI Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
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**Ques: CheQ has partnered with which bank to launch India's first LED-powered co-branded credit card?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) SBI
- D) Axis Bank
- E) AU Small Finance Bank

**Answer: Option E**

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**Explanation :**

- CheQ partnered with AU Small Finance Bank to launch India's first LED-powered co-branded credit card named "CheQ AU Credit Card".
- The card lights up during transactions using energy from the NFC field of POS terminals.
- It eliminates the need for a battery, making it more innovative and efficient.
- The card supports dual networks – Visa for global transactions and RuPay for UPI payments.
- This innovation enhances user experience and promotes digital payments in India.

**Static Part :**

- AU Small Finance Bank Established – 1996 (as NBFC), Bank status in 2017
  - Headquarters – Jaipur, Rajasthan
  - Visa – Global payment network
  - RuPay – Indian domestic card payment network by NPCI
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**Ques: What is the theme of the RBI's 4th Global Hackathon "HaRBinger – Innovation for Transformation"?**

- A) Digital Payments for All
- B) Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity
- C) Future of FinTech Innovation
- D) Inclusive Growth through Banking
- E) Smart Financial Ecosystem

**Answer: Option B**

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**Explanation :**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the 4th edition of its Global Hackathon "HaRBinger – Innovation for Transformation".
  - The theme of the hackathon is "Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity".
  - The hackathon focuses on three key problem statements.
  - These include Tokenised KYC, Offline CBDC, and Enhancing Trust.
  - The initiative aims to promote innovation and strengthen the digital banking ecosystem.
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**Ques: Who has been appointed as the part-time chairman of Bandhan Bank with approval from the Reserve Bank of India?**

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) Debasish Panda
- C) Rajnish Kumar
- D) Atanu Chakraborty
- E) Amitabh Chaudhry

**Answer: Option B**

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**Explanation :**

- Bandhan Bank received RBI approval to appoint Debasish Panda as its part-time chairman.
- The appointment is for a tenure of 3 years, approved via an RBI letter dated April 22.
- In another development, Punjab National Bank partnered with fintech firm Kiwi.
- The partnership aims to introduce credit-enabled UPI payments.
- PNB will launch “PNB Kiwi Credit Card” on the RuPay network operated by National Payments Corporation of India.
- This initiative will benefit around 180 million customers and allow UPI payments through credit cards.
- It strengthens India’s digital payment ecosystem and expands credit usage via UPI.

#### Static Part:

- Bandhan Bank – Private Sector Bank
- Founded – 2015
- Headquarters – Kolkata
- Punjab National Bank – Public Sector Bank
- Founded – 1894
- Headquarters – New Delhi

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**Ques: Vibha Padalkar, whose tenure was recently extended, is the MD & CEO of which company?**

- A) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- B) SBI Life Insurance
- C) Max Life Insurance
- D) HDFC Life Insurance
- E) LIC

**Answer: Option D**

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#### Explanation :

- Vibha Padalkar’s tenure as MD & CEO of HDFC Life Insurance has been

extended for five more years.

- She was first appointed to this position in 2018.
- HDFC Life Insurance is one of India's leading private life insurance companies.
- The extension reflects the company's confidence in her leadership.

**Static Part :**

- HDFC Life Insurance Founded – 2000
- Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Sector – Life Insurance
- Regulator – IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

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**Ques: Which AI company's model 'Mythos' is being reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India and global regulators for potential cybersecurity risks to the banking sector?**

- A) OpenAI
- B) Google DeepMind
- C) Anthropic
- D) Meta AI
- E) Microsoft Copilot

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation :**

- RBI is in talks with global regulators, Indian banks, and government officials to assess risks from Anthropic's AI model 'Mythos'.
- Preliminary assessment suggests Mythos could increase cybersecurity risks by accelerating the discovery and exploitation of software vulnerabilities in financial systems.
- Regulators across Asia, Europe, and the US have already warned banks to strengthen cyber defences and preparedness in response to Mythos developments.
- Japan's financial regulator plans discussions with banks, while Australia's central bank is closely monitoring developments related to Mythos.
- RBI may directly engage with Anthropic to better understand the model's

capabilities and associated risks to India's financial ecosystem.

- Anthropic is a US-based AI safety company founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers including Dario Amodei and Daniela Amodei.

**Static Part :**

- Regulator – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- RBI Governor – Sanjay Malhotra
- Headquarters – Mumbai
- AI Model – Mythos
- Developed By – Anthropic (USA-based AI Company)

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**Ques: SEBI has reduced the minimum investment in Social Impact Funds to what amount to promote accessibility through the Social Stock Exchange (SSE)?**

- A) ₹10,000
- B) ₹5,000
- C) ₹2,000
- D) ₹1,000
- E) ₹500

**Answer: Option D**

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**Explanation :**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the minimum investment in Social Impact Funds from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000.
- This step aims to make social investing accessible to common investors.
- The initiative is implemented through the Social Stock Exchange (SSE).
- SEBI has also enabled the use of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on SSE.
- ZCZP instruments help in transparent funding for social causes.
- SSE is a platform where NGOs and social enterprises can raise funds from the public.
- It is a separate segment of stock exchanges like BSE and NSE and is regulated by SEBI.

### Static Part :

- SEBI Established – 1988 (Statutory status in 1992)
  - Headquarters – Mumbai
  - SSE Purpose – Fundraising for social causes
  - ZCZP Full Form – Zero Coupon Zero Principal
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**Ques: As per the Draft PPI Master Directions 2026 issued by Reserve Bank of India, what is the minimum net worth required for a non-bank PPI issuer at the time of seeking authorisation, and how much must it be scaled up to within three years?**

- A) ₹2 crore → ₹10 crore
- B) ₹5 crore → ₹15 crore
- C) ₹10 crore → ₹25 crore
- D) ₹5 crore → ₹25 crore
- E) ₹15 crore → ₹25 crore

**Answer: Option B**

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### Explanation :

- RBI released draft Master Directions on PPIs proposing stricter capital requirements for non-bank issuers and tighter norms for low-KYC wallets.
- Non-bank PPI issuers must have a minimum net worth of ₹5 crore at authorisation, to be increased to ₹15 crore by the end of the third financial year and maintained thereafter.
- Small PPIs (Minimum KYC): Only one wallet per customer, validity up to 2 years, no reissue after expiry, usable only for goods and services (no cash withdrawal or P2P transfer), and cash loading capped at ₹10,000 per month.
- Full-KYC PPIs: Balance limit of ₹2 lakh retained, P2P transfers capped at ₹25,000 per month, minimum validity of 1 year, and only one full-KYC PPI per holder.
- Issuers must keep PPI funds in a separate escrow account with a Scheduled Commercial Bank, used only for authorised PPI business.

- On inactivity or closure, remaining balance must be transferred back to the source or a verified bank account.

**Static Part :**

- Directions – Draft Master Directions on PPIs, 2026
- Issued By – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Announced – April 22, 2026
- PPI Full Form – Prepaid Payment Instrument
- Net Worth (At Authorisation) – ₹5 crore
- Net Worth (Within 3 Years) – ₹15 crore
- Small PPI – Max validity 2 years, only for goods/services, one per customer
- Small PPI Cash Loading – ₹10,000/month
- Small PPI Balance Cap – ₹10,000
- Full-KYC PPI Balance – ₹2 lakh
- Full-KYC P2P Transfer Cap – ₹25,000/month

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**Ques: The tenure of MD & CEO of which banks has been extended by 3 years recently?**

- A) SBI & PNB
- B) BoB & BoI
- C) Canara Bank & UCO Bank
- D) ICICI & HDFC
- E) Axis & IDBI

**Answer: Option B**

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**Explanation :**

- The Central Government has extended the tenure of MD & CEOs of Bank of Baroda and Bank of India by 3 years.
- Debadatta Chand (BoB) and Rajneesh Karnatak (BoI) will continue in their respective roles.
- The extension for Rajneesh Karnatak is effective from April 29, 2026.

- The extension for Debadatta Chand is effective from July 1, 2026.
- The decision aims to ensure leadership continuity and stability in public sector banks.

**Static Part:**

- Bank of Baroda HQ – Vadodara
- Bank of India HQ – Mumbai
- Tenure Extension – 3 years
- BoB MD & CEO – Debadatta Chand
- BoI MD & CEO – Rajneesh Karnatak

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**Ques: As per RBI's "Digital Payments – E-mandate Framework, 2026", recurring transactions above what amount require additional authentication?**

- A) ₹15,000
- B) ₹10,000
- C) ₹5,000
- D) ₹50,000
- E) ₹1,00,000

**Answer: Option A**

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**Explanation :**

- The Reserve Bank of India issued consolidated guidelines titled "Digital Payments – E-mandate Framework, 2026".
- These norms apply to all payment system providers handling recurring payments through cards, prepaid payment instruments, and UPI.
- Customers must complete a one-time registration process with Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).
- Recurring transactions exceeding ₹15,000 require additional authentication.
- However, transactions up to ₹1 lakh are allowed without additional authentication in specific categories like insurance premiums, mutual funds, and credit card bill payments.

- Issuers must specify validity period and allow users to modify or withdraw mandates anytime.
  - Advance alerts are mandatory at least 24 hours before debit, except for FASTag and NCMC auto-replenishment.
  - No charges can be levied for availing e-mandate services.
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**Ques: Who has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of AU Small Finance Bank?**

- A) Sanjay Malhotra
- B) Vivek Tripathi
- C) Amitabh Chaudhry
- D) Shyam Srinivasan
- E) Rajnish Kumar

**Answer: Option B**

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**Explanation :**

- Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Vivek Tripathi as Executive Director (ED) of AU Small Finance Bank.
- The appointment is for a period of three years.
- He will also serve as a Whole-time Director (WTD) of the bank.
- He is currently serving as Chief Credit Officer (CCO) and has been associated with the bank since 2014.
- The appointment will be effective from April 24, 2026, subject to shareholder approval.

**Static Part:**

- AU Small Finance Bank HQ – Jaipur
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**Ques: Export-Import Bank of India has extended a \$100 million loan to which organization?**

- A) African Development Bank
- B) World Bank
- C) Africa Finance Corporation
- D) International Monetary Fund
- E) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

**Answer: Option C**

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**Explanation:**

- Export-Import Bank of India has extended a \$100 million (approx ₹830 crore) loan to Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).
- The loan will support AFC's mandate to accelerate development of critical infrastructure and industrial assets across Africa.
- Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) is a leading infrastructure solutions provider in Africa.

**Static Part:**

- Africa Finance Corporation Founded – 2007
- Headquarters – Lagos, Nigeria
- EXIM Bank of India Established – 1982
- Headquarters – Mumbai

EXAM  
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