

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- MD & CEO : Kriti Krithivasan

Q. Frontier 50 Initiative is launched by:

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank
- C) Reserve Bank of India
- D) NITI Aayog

Answer : D

- ✓ NITI Aayog launched the Frontier 50 Initiative to amplify grassroots adoption of technology and scale impact creation.
- ✓ It will support 50 Aspirational Districts / Blocks to pick use cases from the Repository and deploy those frontier technologies that have potential to accelerate saturation of services across ADP/ABP themes.
- ✓ **Launched by:** NITI Aayog under its Frontier Tech Hub.
- ✓ The Frontier Tech Repository showcases 200+ impact stories from across India in four sectors – Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, and National Security.
- ✓ It brings to life how states and startups are deploying technology with purpose to transform livelihoods.

NITI AAYOG IN NEWS 2025

- According to NITI Aayog, this sector is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030, reflecting its economic and ecological potential.
- The "We Rise" initiative, a joint project by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World, aims to help women-led businesses in India expand globally
- The second edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report (2023-24) was released in July 2025 by NITI Aayog.
- All districts in Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura are classified as "Front Runners".
- Hnahthial (Mizoram) was the best-performing district, with Longding (Arunachal Pradesh) having the lowest score.
- The report was developed in collaboration with the UNDP and the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (MDoNER).
- India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, according to NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, referencing IMF data.
- India is now a USD 4 trillion economy, trailing only the US, China, and Germany.
- Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and NITI Aayog join hands to catalyse healthy entrepreneurship ecosystems across India
- Telangana government, in partnership with NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub, is launching the Quantum Frontier Tech Charter to build a quantum innovation ecosystem in Hyderabad.
- NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's tenure was extended by one year in February 2025.
- The Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission launched the inaugural issue of NITI Aayog's report titled "Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025" in New Delhi.
- Odisha tops the ranking in fiscal health among 18 major States, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa with scores of 55.2 and 53.6, respectively.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- Founded : 1st January 2015
- Preceding : Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters : New Delhi

- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman K Bery
- CEO : BVR Subrahmanyam

Q. Who has been appointed as India's Executive Director (ED) to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

- A) Vikas Sheel
B) L Satya Srinivas
C) Tarun Bajaj
D) Rajiv Gauba

Answer : B

- ✓ L Satya Srinivas Appointed as India's Executive Director to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of L Satya Srinivas, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce (DoC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), as India's Executive Director (ED) to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ He succeeds Vikas Sheel.
- ✓ India remains a major stakeholder in the ADB, being the 4th largest shareholder and its biggest borrower after Japan, the United States, and China

Q. Which of the following new purity grades were introduced for silver hallmarking under the revised IS 2112:2025 standard in India?

- A) 916 and 999
B) 958 and 970
C) 900 and 925
D) 958 and 999

Answer : D

- ✓ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) introduced voluntary hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles, enhanced with a digital Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID) system to ensure purity verification and quality assurance for consumer protection, effective from 1 September 2025.
- ✓ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) introduced voluntary hallmarking for silver jewellery in October 2005.
- ✓ Under this scheme, silver jewellers receive a certificate of registration as per IS 2112, allowing them to manufacture and sell hallmarked silver jewellery.
- ✓ About HUID-Based Hallmarking for Silver.
- ✓ The initiative aims to strengthen consumer rights, ensure transparency, prevent malpractices in the silver jewellery market, and align silver hallmarking norms with gold.
- ✓ Hallmark Components: It consists of three components,
- ✓ BIS Standard Mark with the word 'SILVER'
- ✓ Purity Grade
- ✓ HUID Code (6-digit alphanumeric unique identifier)
- ✓ Purity Grades: The revised IS 2112:2025 standard introduces seven purity grades: 800, 835, 925, 958, 970, 990, 999, replacing the previous system under IS 2112:2014, with 958 and 999 newly added for better alignment with gold hallmarking standards.
- ✓ The products covered under hallmarking in India include gold jewellery and artefacts as well as silver jewellery and articles
- ✓ Gold Hallmarks : It is a process that requires jewellers to obtain BIS registration to manufacture and sell jewellery, followed by assaying and testing to determine metal purity, and hallmarking with the BIS logo (triangular-shaped stamp mark), purity grade (18K, 22K and 24K), and a unique HUID code (6-digit alphanumeric code).

- Q.** What is the main purpose of the "BIS Care" app?
A) To check the authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products.
B) To shop for electronic goods online.
C) To monitor daily energy usage in homes.
D) To design new product standards.

Answer : A

- ✓ The BIS Care app was launched by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), with the initial launch in 2020 being officiated by the then Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- ✓ The app allows consumers to check the authenticity of BIS-certified products, like ISI-marked and hallmarked goods, and file complaints.

- Q.** Which bank signed an MoU with DPIIT to support startups under the Startup India initiative?
A) ICICI Bank
B) HDFC Bank
C) Axis Bank
D) State Bank of India

Answer : A

- ✓ ICICI Bank has partnered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to support DPIIT-recognised startups under the Startup India initiative.
- ✓ The MoU, signed introduces a Startup Engagement Programme that will provide accelerator access, structured mentorship, pilot opportunities, and ecosystem networking for startups

DPIIT IN NEWS 2025

- Startup India-DPIIT signs MoU with CarDekho Group to strengthen startup ecosystem in mobility, fintech and emerging tech sectors.
- DPIIT and ICICI Bank sign MoU to support startups across India.
- DPIIT signs MoU with Pfizer Limited to strengthen India's healthcare innovation ecosystem.
- DPIIT signs MoU with Zepto to support manufacturing startups through Zepto Nova Innovation Challenge.
- DPIIT signs MoU with Ather Energy to strengthen EV manufacturing and clean mobility ecosystem.
- L'Oreal India has signed a MoU with the DPIIT to support startups in the beauty and personal care sector.
- IndusInd Bank inks MoU with DPIIT to Empower India's Startup Ecosystem.
- DPIIT inks pact with Global energy alliance for people and planet to aid climate tech startups.
- DPIIT has partnered with Flipkart, Tally Solutions, and HDFC Bank.
- DPIIT inks pact with Yes Bank to strengthen India's startup ecosystem.
- DPIIT and Mercedes-Benz Partner to Boost Startups, Road Safety, and Sustainability.
- DPIIT and Paytm join hands to boost fintech and manufacturing startups in India.
- DPIIT and Korea Transport Institute Sign MoU to Boost Collaboration in Logistics and Infrastructure Development.

- Q.** Which part of its Indian operations is Deutsche Bank seeking to exit?
A) Corporate Banking
B) Private Wealth Management
C) Retail Banking
D) Technology and Back-office operations

Answer : C

- ✓ Deutsche Bank is reportedly exploring the sale of its Indian retail banking assets, inviting bids from domestic and foreign lenders.
- ✓ This comes as part of its global strategy to make retail operations more profitable and streamline branch presence.

- ✓ As per the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and FEMA, 1999, RBI approval is required for any sale/transfer of banking assets in India, including retail operations.

- Q.** Which domestic banks are reportedly considering acquiring Deutsche Bank's retail and wealth management assets?
- A) HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank
 - B) Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank
 - C) State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank
 - D) Axis Bank and RBL Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ German lender Deutsche Bank is reportedly in discussions with several lenders in India to sell its retail and wealth management business.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank, Federal Bank, and Emirates NBD India have reviewed the portfolio and are engaged in negotiations.

- Q.** Which credit rating agency recently upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' with a 'Stable' outlook?
- A) Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I)
 - B) Standard & Poor's (S&P)
 - C) Moody's Investors Service
 - D) Fitch Ratings

Answer : A

- ✓ Japan's Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' in September 2025.
- ✓ This upgrade marked the third sovereign rating increase for India in 2025, following upgrades from S&P and Morningstar DBRS.
- ✓ R&I cited India's robust macroeconomic fundamentals, prudent fiscal management, high growth, and progress in fiscal consolidation as reasons for the upgrade.

- Q.** Who is the permanent chairperson of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?
- A) Prime Minister of India
 - B) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - C) Union Finance Minister
 - D) Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance

Answer : C

- ✓ The 32nd meeting of the sub-committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was chaired by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Sanjay Malhotra, to discuss economic challenges due to US tariffs, KYC simplification, and measures for financial inclusion
- ✓ **Key Discussions and Focus Areas**
- ✓ **Economic Challenges:** The impact of tariffs imposed by the US and the necessary responses to these challenges.
- ✓ **KYC Simplification:** Efforts to simplify the Know Your Customer (KYC) process to enhance financial sector efficiency.
- ✓ **Financial Inclusion:** Measures to improve financial inclusion and review of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30.
- ✓ FSDC is the apex-level body set up in December 2010.
- ✓ The Finance Minister is the Chairperson of FSDC.
- ✓ The FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- ✓ All members of FSDC are also part of the Sub-Committee.

- ✓ The meeting discussed global and domestic financial developments with possible implications for financial stability.
- ✓ FSDC aims to ensure financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination, and systemic stability.
- ✓ It brings together regulators like RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, and the Finance Ministry under one umbrella

Q. Which committee first recommended the idea of creating a super regulatory body that later became the FSDC?

- A) Vijay Kelkar Committee B) Urjit Patel Committee
C) Raghuram Rajan Committee D) Narasimham Committee

Answer : C

- ✓ The Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, chaired by Raghuram Rajan, proposed the creation of an autonomous, apex-level "Financial Stability and Development Council" in its 2008 report (titled A Hundred Small Steps) to address the need for better coordination among India's various financial regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA) and to monitor macro-prudential regulation of the economy.

Q. What is the minimum net worth requirement for SEBI-registered custodians as of September 2025?

- A) ₹50 crore B) ₹60 crore
C) ₹75 crore D) ₹100 crore

Answer : C

- ✓ SEBI has increased the minimum net worth requirement for custodians from ₹50 crore to ₹75 crore to strengthen risk management and financial stability in the securities market.
- ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a notification amending the SEBI (Custodian) Regulations, 1996.
- ✓ It raised the minimum net worth requirement for custodians from ₹50 crore to ₹75 crore.
- ✓ The move aims to strengthen risk management systems and enhance investor protection.
- ✓ Existing custodians have been given a 3-year compliance window to meet the new threshold.
- ✓ They safeguard assets of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Mutual Funds, Portfolio Managers, and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Q. Which bank launched India's first eRUPI Person-to-Person (P2P) Digital Gifting feature?

- A) State Bank of India B) ICICI Bank
C) Bank of Baroda D) HDFC Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Bank of Baroda Launches India's First eRUPI P2P Digital Gifting Feature.
- ✓ Bank of Baroda (BOB) introduced an industry-first eRUPI Person-to-Person (P2P) Digital Gifting feature on its bob (e) Pay UPI (Unified Payments Interface) app, utilizing the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s eRUPI system.
- ✓ The launch enables customers to send purpose-specific prepaid digital vouchers, marking a significant step in India's digital payments ecosystem.
- ✓ The eRUPI P2P digital vouchers can be issued for values ranging from Rs. 1 to Rs. 10,000. Users can generate an unlimited number of vouchers, subject to the prevailing daily UPI transaction limit, providing flexibility for gifting small or large amounts.
- ✓ This innovation aligns with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s vision of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) adoption and extends eRUPI usage from Business-to-Consumer (B2C) to Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions, strengthening India's digital payment infrastructure.

Q. What is the new uniform minimum investment threshold for privately placed InvITs, as per the recent SEBI circular?

- A) ₹10 lakh
B) ₹50 lakh
C) ₹1 crore
D) ₹25 lakh

Answer : D

- ✓ Sebi notifies easier delisting rules for PSU & revises InvITs norms.
- ✓ **Key relaxation:** No need for two-thirds public shareholder approval; adoption of a fixed-price mechanism ($\geq 15\%$ above floor price) instead of reverse book-building, with revised floor price computation norms.
- ✓ **Investor protection:** Proceeds from unsubmitted shares after the 1-year exit window must be deposited with the stock exchange within 30 days and retained for 7 years for claims.
- ✓ **InvITs reform:** Minimum primary market investment in privately placed InvITs cut to ₹25 lakh (from ₹1 crore/₹25 crore), aligning with secondary market norms.

Q. Who was the issuer of the \$500 million Reg-S bond listed on the NSE-IX at GIFT City in September 2025?

- A) ICICI Bank
B) Muthoot Finance
C) State Bank of India
D) Tata Capital

Answer : C

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the listing of its Regulation S bonds worth \$500 million at NSE-IX in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- ✓ The bonds carry a coupon rate of 4.50% and have received credit ratings of BBB from S&P and BBB- from Fitch.
- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) listing \$500 million in "Regulation S" bonds on the NSE International Exchange (NSE-IX) at GIFT City.
- ✓ Issuer: State Bank of India (SBI)
- ✓ Amount: \$500 million
- ✓ Bond Type: Regulation S (Reg-S) bonds
- ✓ Listing Location: NSE International Exchange (NSE-IX) at GIFT City
- ✓ Coupon Rate: 4.50%
- ✓ Other Listing: Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX-ST)
- ✓ Credit Ratings: BBB from S&P and BBB- from Fitch
- ✓ Issuance: Through the bank's London branch
- ✓ Benchmark: Priced at a spread of 75 basis points over the benchmark, which is the five-year U.S. Treasury

Q. World Bank approved a loan of how much amount for Phase 1 of the SHORE Project in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka?

- A) USD 150 million
B) USD 212.64 million
C) USD 850 million
D) USD 300 million

Answer : B

- ✓ World Bank Approves USD 212.64 Million Loan for SHORE Project in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ✓ World Bank (WB) Board of Executive Directors approved a loan of USD 212.64 million under the Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE) Project to enhance coastal management in Tamil Nadu (TN) and Karnataka.
- ✓ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), part of WB, provided the loan with a 23-year tenure, including a 6.5-year grace period.

- ✓ The approval is part of the larger USD 850 million SHORE program, with USD 212.64 million allocated for Phase 1 to address India's coastal challenges.

Q. Which bank recently partnered with BharatPe to launch India's first EMI-driven RuPay Credit Card?

- A) Federal Bank
- B) Unity Small Finance Bank
- C) IDFC First Bank
- D) Axis Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Unity Bank and BharatPe Launch India's First EMI-Driven RuPay Credit Card.
- ✓ Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) partnered with BharatPe to launch India's first Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI)-driven credit card, called the 'Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card'.
- ✓ The card functions on the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated RuPay network and is UPI-enabled, offering a transparent and inclusive access to credit.
- ✓ The Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card introduces an auto-EMI conversion feature where any monthly unpaid spends above Rs. 1000 are automatically converted into EMIs, with flexible repayment options of up to 12 months.
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card requires applicants to be between 21 and 65 years of age, with a minimum annual income of Rs. 2.5 lakh for salaried individuals and Rs. 5 lakh for self-employed individuals.
- ✓ As part of its benefits, the card provides flat 2% unlimited rewards on EMI-converted transactions, redeemable as Zillion Coins for vouchers, bill payments, or products worth up to Rs. 5,000.

Q. Which one of the following entity has planned to issue its first rupee-denominated bond in the Indian domestic market before March 2026?

- A) ADB
- B) IMF
- C) NDB
- D) AIIB

Answer : C

- ✓ New Development Bank (NDB) Plans First Rupee-Denominated Bond in India.
- ✓ The New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral development bank established by BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), plans to issue its first rupee-denominated bond in the Indian domestic market before March 2026.
- ✓ The move is aimed at providing local currency financing for Indian projects and is seen as a step towards the internationalisation of the Indian rupee.
- ✓ It will look to raise between \$400 million and \$500 million through 3-5 year bonds in the first tranche.
- ✓ Rupee-Denominated Bond in India
- ✓ A rupee-denominated bond is a type of debt instrument issued in Indian rupees (INR), where investors lend money to the issuer (government, company, or institution) and receive interest plus repayment in rupees.

Q. Which country became the 8th to adopt UPI services for Indian travellers?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Singapore
- C) Mauritius
- D) Qatar

Answer : D

- ✓ NPCI International & QNB Enable UPI Payments for Indian Travellers in Qatar

- ✓ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NPCI, in partnership with Qatar National Bank (QNB), launched QR-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services for Indian travelers in Qatar.
- ✓ **Key Highlights:**
- ✓ **First Merchant:** Qatar Duty Free, Hamad International Airport, Doha.
- ✓ **UPI Integration:** Qatar becomes the 8th country to adopt UPI, after Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and UAE.
- ✓ **Payment Conversion:** Transactions settle instantly, converting INR to QAR at prevailing forex rates.
- ✓ **Payment Solution Provider:** NETSTARS, a Japanese Payment Aggregator (PA).

- Q.** Bank of Baroda received approval to operate as a Trading-Cum-Clearing Member (TCM) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) from which regulatory authority?
- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 - C) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
 - D) Ministry of Finance

Answer : C

- ✓ Bank of Baroda Gains Approval for Bullion Exchange Operations at GIFT City.
- ✓ Bank of Baroda has received approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to become a Trading-Cum-Clearing Member (TCM) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) at GIFT City, allowing it to execute, clear, and settle bullion trades.
- ✓ This approval enhances its existing operations in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and positions the bank to play a more significant role in the bullion market.

- Q.** Which quick-commerce platform partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to create 10,000 jobs via the NCS Portal?
- A) Blinkit
 - B) Swiggy Instamart
 - C) BigBasket
 - D) Zepto

Answer : D

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed an MoU with Zepto in September 2025 to enhance job opportunities and youth employability through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal.
- ✓ Under this partnership, Zepto will provide 10,000 urban job opportunities, particularly benefiting youth, women, and first-time job seekers.
- ✓ The initiative also focuses on improving employability by formalising gig workers, integrating them with the e-Shram portal, and linking them to social security benefits.

ZEPTO IN NEWS 2025

- DPIIT signs MoU with Zepto to support manufacturing startups through Zepto Nova Innovation Challenge
- Zepto launches "Zepto Pharmacy" a 10 minute medicine delivery service
- Zepto 2nd most downloaded Food & Beverage app globally in 2024 after McDonald's
- Zepto officially changed its parent company name from Kiranakart Technologies Pvt Ltd to Zepto Private Ltd
- Zepto was co-founded in 2021 by Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra.

Q. Which company recently partnered with JioBlackRock to launch India's first Systematic Active Equity Fund?

- A) Paytm Money
B) Zerodha
C) Groww
D) ICICI Direct

Answer : A

- ✓ Paytm Money Partners with JioBlackRock to Launch India's First Systematic Active Equity Fund.
- ✓ Paytm Money, a subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited (OCL), recently partnered with JioBlackRock, a joint venture (JV) between Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) and BlackRock, to launch India's first Systematic Active Equity (SAE) fund for retail investors, named the 'JioBlackRock Flexi Cap Fund'.
- ✓ The New Fund Offer (NFO) of JioBlackRock Flexi Cap Fund is available on the Paytm Money application from September 23 to October 7, 2025.
- ✓ The fund allows a minimum investment of Rs. 500, which can be made via Lumpsum or Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), making it accessible for retail investors.

Q. What is the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit set by the RBI for the central government for the second half of FY 2025-26?

- A) Rs 25,000 crore
B) Rs 50,000 crore
C) Rs 75,000 crore
D) Rs 1 lakh crore

Answer : B

- ✓ RBI sets Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for the central government at Rs 50,000 crore for the second half of FY 2025-26 to manage temporary mismatches in receipts and payments.
- ✓ WMA limit decided in consultation with the Government of India, with RBI retaining the flexibility to revise the limit based on prevailing circumstances.
- ✓ Interest rates on WMA will follow the prevailing repo rate, while overdrafts will attract 2% above the repo rate; RBI may trigger fresh market loan floatation once 75% of the WMA limit is utilised.
- ✓ Central government's total borrowing for FY 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 14.72 lakh crore, reduced from the Budget estimate of Rs 14.82 lakh crore, with H2 borrowing planned at Rs 6.77 lakh crore.

Q. State Bank of India (SBI) has revised the minimum threshold for its auto-sweep (MOD) facility to what amount?

- A) ₹35,000
B) ₹40,000
C) ₹50,000
D) ₹60,000

Answer : C

- ✓ SBI has increased the auto-sweep (Multi Option Deposit – MOD) threshold from ₹35,000 to ₹50,000, meaning customers must now maintain a minimum of ₹50,000 in their savings account before surplus funds are converted into fixed deposits.
- ✓ Under the facility, surplus funds above the threshold are transferred into fixed deposits in multiples of ₹1,000, earning higher interest at prevailing term deposit rates.
- ✓ The scheme ensures easy liquidity through a reverse sweep, where funds are automatically moved back from MOD deposits if the savings balance falls short.

- Q.** Government of India signed a \$125 million loan agreement with which international financial institution for the Assam Urban Sector Development Project?
- A) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 - B) World Bank
 - C) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - D) New Development Bank (NDB)

Answer : A

- ✓ Government of India and ADB sign \$125 million loan to upgrade urban services in Assam.
- ✓ The project, called the Assam Urban Sector Development Project, aims to upgrade urban services, improve water supply, and strengthen climate resilience.
- ✓ It will build 6 new Water Treatment Plants (72 MLD), lay 800 km of pipelines, and introduce real-time monitoring to cut water losses.
- ✓ In Guwahati, stormwater management in the Bahini Basin will be upgraded with flood diversion channels and a retention pond.
- ✓ The project also promotes urban governance reforms like GIS-based property tax and digital billing

- Q.** Which Indian company became the first payment aggregator to integrate with Apple Pay for cross-border transactions in September 2025?
- A) Paytm
 - B) Razorpay
 - C) PhonePe
 - D) CRED

Answer : B

- ✓ Razorpay has become the first Indian payment aggregator to integrate with Apple Pay for cross-border transactions.
- ✓ The move enables Indian merchants to offer one-tap, biometric checkout to global customers, boosting trust and ease of payments.
- ✓ Early pilots showed 58% higher conversions, 45% faster checkout, and 12% higher order value. Apple Pay, with 500M+ global users, gives Indian brands wider international reach.
- ✓ Brands like Sabyasachi, Akasa Air, Mokobara, House of Masaba have already adopted it.
- ✓ The integration complies with India's cross-border payment regulations and strengthens Razorpay's global expansion.

- Q.** Which international body hailed India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a global model for digital payments?
- A) World Bank
 - B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 - C) Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
 - D) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Answer : D

- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF) hailed India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a global model for digital payments
- ✓ UPI processed over 20 billion transactions in August 2025, worth ₹24.85 lakh crore, making it the world's largest retail fast payment system.
- ✓ Built on India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) – Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for financial inclusion, Aadhaar for digital identity, and mobile internet penetration.
- ✓ The IMF praised UPI's interoperability, low-cost design, and open architecture, which prevent monopolies and encourage innovation.

Answer : B

- ✓ International Asset Reconstruction Company (IARC) has announced, the appointment of Abhishek Maheshwari as its new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ✓ International Asset Reconstruction Company (IARC)
- ✓ **Purpose:** IARC is a privately held asset reconstruction company (ARC) based in India. It is registered with the Reserve Bank of India and is involved in acquiring, managing, and resolving non-performing loans (NPLs) and distressed debt from the banking system.
- ✓ **History:** Founded in 2002, the company was formerly known as First Asset Reconstruction Company.
- ✓ In 2024, the RBI issued new directions that, among other things, increased the minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) requirement for ARCs to ₹300 crore.

Q. Which regulatory body launched the Bima Sugam portal?

- A) SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)
- B) RBI (Reserve Bank of India)
- C) IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)
- D) NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)

Answer : C

Q. Bima Sugam is often compared to which existing Indian digital public infrastructure?

- A) GST (Goods and Services Tax) portal
- B) Aadhar
- C) MyGov portal
- D) UPI (Unified Payments Interface)

Answer : D

- ✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India have officially announced the launch of the much-awaited Bima Sugam portal.
- ✓ It is a unified digital marketplace for insurance, designed to bring insurers, intermediaries, and customers onto a single platform.
- ✓ It is backed by the Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council (GIC).
- ✓ Features of Bima Sugam Portal
- ✓ It helps users to buy, sell, service, renew, manage, and even claim insurance policies with ease and full transparency.
- ✓ This platform will serve as a centralised database to answer insurance-related queries and help consumers navigate the complex world of insurance.
- ✓ It will cover life insurance in all its forms, including term plans, savings products (both participating and non-participating), annuity and pension plans, as well as ULIP products.
- ✓ Bima Sugam, the Indian digital insurance marketplace, has an authorized capital of ₹500 crore and a paid-up capital of approximately ₹310 crore.

Q. International Finance Corporation (IFC) committed Rs.498 crores for the Madhurawada Sewerage System Project in which Indian state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Karnataka
- C) Odisha
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ IFC Commits Rs.498 Crores to GVMC for Madhurawada Sewerage Project in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank (WB) Group, committed Rs.498 crores (USD 60 million) to the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal

- ✓ The scheme will incentivize only those involved in actual extraction of critical minerals and not those doing only black mass production.

Q. What is the duration of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)?

- A) FY 2023-24 to FY 2028-29 (six years)
- B) FY 2024-25 to FY 2030-31 (seven years)
- C) FY 2025-26 to FY 2035-36 (ten years)
- D) No fixed tenure specified in the mission document

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) has a tenure of seven years, running from the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 to FY 2030-31.

Q. Which GST slab is newly introduced for luxury and sin goods like cigarettes, pan masala, sugary drinks, and yachts?

- A) 12%
- B) 18%
- C) 28%
- D) 40%

Answer : D

- ✓ 56th GST Council Meeting Held on September 3–4, 2025, in New Delhi Chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ Revised GST rates will be effective from 22 September 2025 across all states and union territories.
- ✓ The previous four-slab system (5%, 12%, 18%, 28%) is replaced by three slabs: 5%, 18%, and 40%.
- ✓ GST-exempt (0%) items include Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk, paneer, pizza bread, khakhra, and plain roti/paratha.
- ✓ 5% GST applies to hair oil, soap, toothpaste, biscuits, chocolates, dry fruits, school supplies, and bamboo furniture.
- ✓ 18% GST now covers small cars, motorcycles ≤350cc, TVs, ACs, and cement—reduced from 28%.
- ✓ A new 40% GST slab targets luxury and sin goods like cigarettes, pan masala, sugary drinks, yachts, and private aircraft; Life and Health Insurance are now fully GST-exempt.

Q. According to the new GST rates, what will be the tax on health and life insurance ?

- A) 18%
- B) 12%
- C) 5%
- D) Zero

Answer : D

- ✓ Health and education
- ✓ Life-saving medicines, health-related products, some medical devices – reduced from 12–18% to 5% or zero.
- ✓ Educational services, books, and learning kits – reduced from 5–12% to zero or 5%

Q. Sohan Lal Commodity Management Limited (SLCM) signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with which two banks for unified collateral management services?

- A) State Bank of India and Canara Bank
- B) IDBI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India
- D) Indian Bank and Punjab National Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ SLCM Ties Up with IDBI & Punjab Sind Bank for Collateral Services.

- ✓ SLCM Partners with IDBI Bank & Punjab & Sind Bank for Collateral Services, at Mangaluru, Karnataka, Sohan Lal Commodity Management Ltd (SLCM) signed MoUs with IDBI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank.
 - ✓ To offer unified collateral management services across India, enabling farmers and agri-traders to access post-harvest credit and secure warehousing through formal banking channels
- Q.** The primary objective of the RBI's 8-day VRRR auction to absorb ₹1.5 trillion from the banking system is to:
- A) Increase liquidity in the banking system to spur lending.
 - B) Inject money into the banking system to stabilize a liquidity deficit.
 - C) Absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system to manage inflation.
 - D) Encourage banks to borrow more from the RBI.

Answer : C

- ✓ The RBI is conducting an 8-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction to absorb ₹1.5 trillion from the banking system to manage surplus liquidity and control inflation. This action drains excess cash from banks, which helps prevent short-term interest rates from falling too low and ensures stability in the money market.

- Q.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently launched a new microsite (indiancurrency.rbi.org.in) to enhance public awareness of Indian banknotes. Which of the following is a key feature of this new platform?
- A) A live tracker for all ATM cash levels across India.
 - B) A platform for online trading of government securities.
 - C) A 360-degree interactive view of banknotes to help identify security features.
 - D) A portal to apply for new bank licenses.

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a dedicated microsite for banknotes: indiancurrency.rbi.org.in.
- ✓ The platform is designed to provide the public with comprehensive information on Indian banknotes, replacing the earlier microsite paisaboltahai.rbi.org.in.
- ✓ **Key Highlights:**
- ✓ **Purpose:**
- ✓ To offer an interactive platform for accessing detailed information about Indian banknotes.
- ✓ Enhances public awareness of banknote design, security features, and circulation.
- ✓ **Features:**
- ✓ 360-degree view of banknotes.
- ✓ Multimedia content: videos, audios, animations.
- ✓ Interactive games to educate users about currency.
- ✓ Dedicated section on the exchange of banknotes.
- ✓ Simple and efficient navigation for users of all ages.

- Q.** The government's PSB Manthan 2025 conclave set a vision for:
- A) Making India's PSBs world's largest employers
 - B) At least two PSBs in world's top 20 banks by 2047
 - C) Launching India's first digital-only bank by 2027
 - D) Privatizing all PSBs by 2035

Answer : B

- Q.** The Ministry of Finance has announced that the interest rates for Small Savings Schemes for Q3 FY26 (October-December 2025) will remain unchanged from the previous quarter (Q2 FY26). Which of the following schemes offers the highest interest rate during this period?
- A) Public Provident Fund (PPF) B) National Savings Certificate (NSC)
C) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) D) Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)

Answer : C

- ✓ MoF Keeps Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for Q3 FY26
- ✓ Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), announced that the interest rates of Small Savings Scheme (SSS) will remain unchanged, for 3rd Quarter of Financial Year 2025-26 (Q3 FY26), i.e. from October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, maintaining the same rates as Q2FY26 (July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025).
- ✓ This marks the seventh consecutive quarter with no change in SSS interest rates, which were last revised by the DEA in Q4 of FY24
- ✓ Interest Rates on Small Savings Scheme (SSS).
- ✓ Post Office Savings Deposit (POSD) : 4.0%
- ✓ Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) : 7.5% (will mature in 115 months)
- ✓ Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.1%
- ✓ Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) : 8.2%
- ✓ National Savings Certificate (NSC) : 7.7%
- ✓ Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) : 8.2%
- ✓ Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) : 7.5%
- ✓ Since 2016, MoF has been reviewing the interest rates on SSS on a quarterly basis. The Shyamala Gopinath Committee formulated the method for determining the SSS interest rates in January 2023, which are 25 to 100 basis points (bps) higher than the government bond yields
- ✓ **What are the National Small Savings Schemes?**
- ✓ The National Small Savings Scheme is managed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India offered to the general public through the post office and also through banks in the case of the Public Provident Fund. The government offers interest rates on the deposits made by the public in these schemes.
- ✓ The investment in these schemes is 100 % safe as it is guaranteed by the government of India.
- ✓ **Use of the Deposits**
- ✓ The money received by the government is pooled by the government in the National Small Savings Fund which is used by the central government to meet its fiscal deficit.
- ✓ **Categories of Schemes**
- ✓ The National Small Savings Schemes are grouped into three categories - Post office deposits, savings certificates, and social security schemes.
- ✓ **POST OFFICE DEPOSITS & INTEREST RATES**
- ✓ Under the Post Office deposits, there are saving accounts and time deposits (recurring and fixed)
- ✓ **Saving Accounts:**
- ✓ The minimum account opening requirement is Rs 500 and no maximum limit.
- ✓ It is the only savings account in India that is not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ **Recurring Deposit:**
- ✓ The minimum account opening is Rs 100 and Rs 10 per month.
- ✓ There is no maximum deposit limit.

- ✓ The maturity (duration) period is 5 years.
- ✓ **National Citizen Savings Scheme:**
- ✓ It is for persons above 60 years.
- ✓ The minimum account opening requirement is Rs 1000 and the maximum is Rs 30 lakhs.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme is 5 years.
- ✓ **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:**
- ✓ For girl children below 10 years of age.
- ✓ Accounts can be opened in a maximum of two girls' names.
- ✓ Minimum account opening Rs 250 and maximum 1.50 lakhs in a financial year.
- ✓ Deposit for a maximum period of 15 years from the opening of the account.
- ✓ The account can be closed after 21 years from the date of opening of the account or at the time of marriage of the girl after she attains 18 years of age.
- ✓ **SAVING CERTIFICATES**
- ✓ **National Saving Certificates (NSC):**
- ✓ The minimum account opening amount is Rs 1000 and no maximum limit.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme is 5 years.
- ✓ The principal and interest amount is paid after 5 years.
- ✓ **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP):**
- ✓ The minimum account opening is Rs 1000 and no maximum limit.
- ✓ The interest rate is 7.5% and the deposit amount doubles in 115 months.
- ✓ The principal and interest amount is paid after 115 months.
- ✓ **SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES**
- ✓ **Public Provident Fund:**
- ✓ Only one account per person can be opened in the post office or banks.
- ✓ The account can be opened in the name of minors.
- ✓ Minimum account opening Rs 500 and maximum Rs 1.5 lakh in a financial year.
- ✓ Duration -15 years.

Q. Which of the following is NOT one of the seven guiding "sutras" in the RBI's FREE-AI framework?

- A) Innovation over Restraint B) People First
C) Profitability over Protection D) Accountability

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently introduced the Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI), outlining 7 guiding sutras for the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial sector.
- ✓ These principles aim to ensure AI innovation is balanced with risk mitigation, emphasizing accountability, fairness, and trust.
- ✓ **Here is a breakdown of the seven sutras:**
 1. Trust is the Foundation
 2. People First
 3. Innovation over Restraint
 4. Fairness and Equity
 5. Accountability
 6. Understandable by Design
 7. Safety, Resilience, and Sustainability.
- ✓ The Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August 2025 to guide the ethical adoption of AI within the Indian financial sector.
- ✓ It is headed by Professor Pushpak Bhattacharyya of IIT Bombay.

Q. Which of the following is NOT one of the six strategic pillars of the RBI's FREE-AI framework?

- A) Infrastructure B) Policy
C) Capacity D) Profitability

Answer : D

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) FREE-AI framework is structured around six strategic pillars and seven guiding principles called "Sutras".
- ✓ **The six pillars are:**
- ✓ **Infrastructure:** Building shared data infrastructure and AI innovation sandboxes.
- ✓ **Policy:** Developing sector-specific AI policy guidance.
- ✓ **Capacity:** Investing in skills, competence, and training for AI oversight.
- ✓ **Governance:** Establishing clear accountability and oversight for AI systems.
- ✓ **Protection:** Ensuring consumer safeguards, bias mitigation, and data privacy.
- ✓ **Assurance:** Implementing independent audits, continuous monitoring, and impact assessments.

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently capped the aggregate investment by all Regulated Entities (REs) in an AIF scheme at what percentage of the scheme's corpus?

- A) 10% B) 15%
C) 20% D) 25%

Answer : C

Q. Which type of bonds are being issued by SBI to raise the ₹20,000 crore?

- A) Infrastructure Bonds only
- B) Equity Bonds only
- C) Additional Tier 1 (AT1) and Tier 2 Bonds
- D) Foreign Currency Bonds only

Answer : C

Q. What is the total financial outlay of the new Central Sector Scheme approved for the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)?

- A) ₹1,000 crore
- B) ₹2,000 crore
- C) ₹500 crore
- D) ₹20,000 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Centre Approves Rs 2000 Cr Scheme for Dev of Cooperatives via NCDC.
- ✓ To strengthen the cooperative sector in the country, the central government has approved a Rs 2000 crore grant to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) through a new central sector scheme - "Grant in aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation".
- ✓ The scheme is likely to benefit around 2.9 crore members of 13,288 Cooperative societies of various sectors like Fisheries, Sugar, Textile, Dairy, Livestock, Food Processing, Storage and Cold Storage; Labour and Women-led cooperatives across the country.
- ✓ Duration of the Scheme
- ✓ The duration of the Grant in aid to the National Cooperative Development Corporation scheme is four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29.
- ✓ Financial Allocation for the Scheme
- ✓ The total allocation for the scheme is Rs 2000 crore for the four fiscal years from 2025-26 to 2028-29.
- ✓ The NCDC will get Rs 500 crore per year.
- ✓ The amount is a grant-in-aid. It means that the NCDC will not return the money to the central government.
- ✓ The grant will be provided through budgetary allocation every year.
- ✓ The NCDC will also raise Rs 20,000 crore from the market over a four-year period.
- ✓ About the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- ✓ It was established in 1963 with its headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is a statutory body which was set up under the provisions of the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act 1962.
- ✓ The NCDC is under the Union Ministry of Cooperation.

Q. What is the period for which the ₹2,000 crore grant scheme for NCDC has been approved?

- A) 2024-25 to 2027-28
- B) 2023-24 to 2026-27
- C) 2025-26 to 2028-29
- D) 2026-27 to 2030-31

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved a Central Sector Scheme of ₹2,000 crore as a grant-in-aid to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for four years, from 2025-26 to 2028-29.

Q. Which bank has recently become the first Small Finance Bank (SFB) to receive the RBI's approval to transition into a Universal Bank?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ RBI has granted 'in-principle' approval to AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. (AUSFB) for transitioning from a small finance bank (SFB) to a universal bank.
- ✓ This is the first time after 11 years that an entity has been granted a universal bank licence by the regulator.
- ✓ Last time, the universal banking licences were granted in 2014 to Bandhan Bank and IDFC Bank, which later became IDFC First Bank
- ✓ **Eligibility for SFBs to transitioning into UBs**
- ✓ **Net Worth:** SFBs must have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore.
- ✓ **Status:** SFBs must be scheduled banks with a satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum of 5 years
- ✓ **Profitability:** Should have net profits in the last two Financial Years.
- ✓ **Asset Quality:** Gross non-performing assets (G-NPA) and net NPA (N-NPA) must be less than or equal to 3% and 1%, respectively, over the last two FYs.
- ✓ **About Small Finance Bank (SFB)**
- ✓ **Genesis:** Announced in the Union budget of 2014-15.
- ✓ **Registrations:** Registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ✓ **Licensing:** Licensed and governed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and have no restrictions on where to operate.
- ✓ **Capital Requirement:** 200 crore (except for some SFBs)
- ✓ **Mandates for financial inclusion:** They are required to extend 75% of their ANBC (Adjusted Net Bank Credit) to the priority sector

Q. Which of the following is NOT an eligibility criterion for a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to transition to a Universal Bank, as per RBI guidelines?

- A) The SFB must have been consistently profitable for at least the last two financial years.
- B) The SFB must have a minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore.
- C) The SFB's shares must be unlisted on a recognized stock exchange.
- D) The SFB must have a minimum of five years' satisfactory performance as a scheduled bank.

Answer : C

- ✓ The RBI guidelines state that to be eligible for conversion, an SFB's shares must be listed on a recognized stock exchange

Q. Which institution launched the SWAGAT-FI regulatory framework to facilitate foreign investments in India?

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- D) NITI Aayog

Answer : C

- ✓ Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a single-window gateway called SWAGAT-FI to ease regulatory process for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- ✓ **SWAGAT-FI:** The Sebi's Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI) aims to offer a unified, streamlined and consistent access mechanism for certain categories of FI that are verified as low-risk category.
- ✓ This framework will help reduce regulatory complexity, simplify compliance, and enhance India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

- ✓ **Single Window:** It aims to provide eligible investors a streamlined, single-window registration process for both FPIs and Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs), reducing paperwork, cost, and regulatory complexity.
- ✓ **Review of Know Your Customer (KYC):** Currently, the KYC of FPIs are reviewed every year or three years based on the risk categorisation, while FVCI, are reviewed every year/5 years.
- ✓ Now, it is proposed to increase the periodicity for continuance of registration and review of KYC of SWAGAT-FIs to 10 years.

Q. What does "SWAGAT-FI" stand for?

- A) Simple Window for Automated Growth and Trade - Foreign Investment
- B) Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors
- C) Sovereign Wealth and Government Access for Trade - Financial Institutions
- D) Streamlined Window for Agribusiness Growth And Trade - Financial Inclusion

Answer : B

- ✓ SWAGAT-FI stands for "Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors"

Q. Which category of investors is the SWAGAT-FI framework primarily designed for?

- A) High-risk individual retail investors
- B) Domestic mutual funds
- C) Low-risk foreign investors like sovereign wealth funds and pension funds
- D) Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) exclusively

Answer : C

- ✓ The SWAGAT-FI framework is primarily designed for a select category of "low-risk" foreign investors, specifically large, long-term institutional investors

Q. What is the extended validity period for registration and KYC review proposed under the SWAGAT-FI framework?

- A) 3 years
- B) 5 years
- C) 10 years
- D) Indefinite

Answer : C

- ✓ Under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s SWAGAT-FI framework, the proposed extended validity period for both registration and Know Your Customer (KYC) review is 10 years

Q. What is the general minimum public shareholding (MPS) percentage mandated by SEBI for all listed companies (except for specific large issuers or exempted entities)?

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 25%
- D) 50%

Answer : C

- ✓ SEBI recently proposed to increase the flexibility of minimum public shareholding (MPS) and minimum public offer (MPO) for companies aspiring to get listed, aimed at "simplifying fund-raising by issuers in India.

✓ **About Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS):**

- ✓ The Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule is a regulatory requirement laid out by SEBI under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, and reinforced by the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulations.

- ✓ It is applicable to all listed companies in India.

- ✓ It is driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Finance to enhance export competitiveness by facilitating improved access to export credit, enabling cross-border factoring, and assisting MSMEs in addressing non-tariff barriers in global markets.
- ✓ The Department of Commerce is the lead department for the Mission.
- ✓ The mission is proposed to be implemented through two sub-schemes - Niryat Protsahan (over Rs 10,000 crore) and Niryat Disha (over Rs 14,500 crore).
- ✓ The main elements under the Niryat Protsahan scheme being considered by the government, include interest equalisation support worth over Rs 5,000 crore for six financial years (2025-2031), support for alternative trade finance instruments, a credit card for e-commerce exporters, and other financing mechanisms to bridge liquidity gaps faced by exporters.
- ✓ Similarly, under Niryat Disha, the proposed components include support for export quality compliance (about Rs 4,000 crore), overseas market development (over Rs 4,000 crore), branding, export warehousing and logistics, and capacity building to integrate more Indian enterprises into global value chains.

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the RBI's introduction of "Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS"?

1. The new system is being implemented in two phases to replace the current batch-based processing.
 2. Phase 1 became effective from October 4, 2025, and Phase 2 is scheduled to start from January 3, 2026.
 3. The new system aims to reduce the cheque clearing time from the current T+1 days to a few hours.
 4. In Phase 2, unconfirmed cheques will be deemed approved if no response is received within three hours of presentation.
- A) 1, 2, and 3 only B) 2, 3, and 4 only
C) 1, 3, and 4 only D) All of the above

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI To Introduce Continuous Clearing and Settlement Realisation in CTS in 2 Phases
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a circular for introduction of 'Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS'. As per RBI's circular, the Cheque Truncation System(CTS) which currently processes cheques with a clearing cycle of upto two working days, is set to transition to continuous clearing with 'on-realisation-settlement'.
- ✓ The new mechanism will be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase-I will come into effect on October 04, 2025 while Phase-2 is scheduled to commence on January 03, 2026.
- ✓ It aimed to enhance the efficiency of cheque clearing and reduce settlement risk for participants in the cheque clearing system, as well as to improve customer experience.
- ✓ About Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS.
- ✓ **Single Presentation Time:** As per the new mechanism, there will be a single (cheque) presentation session from 10 AM to 4 PM.
- ✓ **Processing of Cheques:** Cheques received by the bank branches will be scanned, presented, and passed to the clearing house immediately and continuously during the presentation time, thereby reducing the clearing cycle from current 'T+1 days' to just a few hours.
- ✓ The confirmation session shall start at 10 AM and close at 7 PM. For every cheque presented, the drawee bank shall generate either positive confirmation (for honoured cheques) or negative confirmation (for dishonoured cheques)

✓ Following shareholder approvals in July 2025, the merged entity will fully absorb NICBL's customer base, assets, and liabilities—and convert all 27 NICBL branches into Saraswat Bank outlets from 4 August 2025.

Q. Which bank has become the first Indian bank to receive the Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC)?

A) Bank of India

B) HDFC Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : A

✓ Bank of India (BoI) became the first Indian bank to receive the Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) .

✓ The certification was awarded for compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 and the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) 3.0, ensuring barrier-free access for all users, particularly persons with disabilities.

Q. Which organization provided REC Ltd. with the independent opinion statement for compliance with ISO 31000:2018?

A) International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

B) British Standards Institution (BSI)

C) Ministry of Power, Government of India

D) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Answer : B

✓ REC Ltd. received a certification for its adherence to ISO 31000:2018, the international standard for enterprise risk management guidelines.

✓ This makes REC the first Indian Public Sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to achieve this certification.

✓ The certification was provided by the British Standards Institution (BSI), an independent body.

Q. What is the primary purpose of the Reserve Bank of India's SACHET portal?

A) To facilitate online banking transactions for customers of all banks

B) To file complaints about illegal and unauthorised deposit collection by firms

C) To provide a centralized portal for filing income tax returns

D) To track unclaimed bank deposits and other financial assets

Answer : B

✓ Reserve Bank of India's SACHET portal received 3,454 complaints pertaining to the non-repayment of money collected from various kinds of investment schemes between April 2020 and March 2025.

✓ The SACHET portal was launched by the RBI to provide a platform for the public to complain about illegal money pooling activities and unauthorized deposit schemes by unscrupulous entities. The portal allows users to:

✓ Obtain information about entities that are authorised to accept deposits.

✓ Lodge complaints against firms engaging in illegal deposit collection.

✓ Share information about suspicious deposit-taking activities.

✓ Collaborate with regulators and state-level enforcement agencies to address financial fraud.

Q. What is the dividend of LIC to central government?

A) ₹6,818.21 crore

B) ₹2,718.89 crore

C) ₹5,161.41 crore

D) ₹7,324.34 crore

Answer : D

✓ LIC pays ₹7,324.34 crore dividend to government.

- Q. Which insurance company has recently received both ISO 27001:2022 and ISO 22301:2019 certifications?
- A) ICICI Lombard
B) HDFC ERGO
C) SBI General Insurance
D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : D

- ✓ Universal Sompo General Insurance Company (USGIC) Secures ISO 27001:2022 for Information Security & ISO 22301:2019 for Business Continuity.
- ✓ Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited (USGIC) achieved a significant milestone by securing two prestigious international certifications—ISO 27001:2022 for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) and ISO 22301:2019 for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS).
- ✓ These recognitions enhance its global credibility and strengthen customer trust.
- ✓ Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited receiving ISO 27001:2022 highlights the company's strong commitment to safeguarding sensitive data, intellectual property, and financial information.

- Q. The new Income-Tax Act, 2025 that will replace the I-T Act, 1961 is set to come into force recently from which date?
- A) April 1, 2025
B) April 1, 2026
C) April 1, 2027
D) March 31, 2026

Answer : B

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu Gives Assent to Income-Tax Act 2025 and New Law to Replace I-T Act 1961 from April 1, 2026.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu granted her assent to the Income-Tax Act (I-T Act), 2025, which was later notified by the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoLJ) through a gazette notification.
- ✓ The new law is set to replace the Income-Tax Act of 1961 and will come into effect from April 1, 2026.
- ✓ The Income-Tax Act, 2025, has been introduced to replace the decades-old I-T Act, 1961, with a modern and simplified version aimed at reducing complexity and improving compliance.
- ✓ The government emphasized that the Act is designed to ease taxpayers' compliance burden while ensuring transparency and clarity in tax administration.
- ✓ The structural reforms introduced under the new Act include a significant reduction in the number of sections from 819 in the I-T Act, 1961, to 536, and a reduction in chapters from 47 to 23.
- ✓ A major change brought by the I-T Act, 2025, is the renaming of the Assessment Year (AY) and Financial Year (FY) to "Tax Year."

- Q. What was India's seafood export value in FY2024-25?
- A) \$6.45 billion
B) \$7.45 billion
C) \$8.00 billion
D) \$9.10 billion

Answer : B

- ✓ India's seafood exports for FY2024–25 reached USD 7.45 billion, a slight increase from the previous year's USD 7.38 billion, despite a drop in export volume.
- ✓ **Export Value:** USD 7.45 billion (an increase from USD 7.38 billion in FY2023-24).
- ✓ **Export Volume:** 1,698,170 metric tonnes (down from 1,781,602 metric tonnes in FY2023-24).
- ✓ **Key Driver:** Value-added products, particularly frozen shrimp, which accounted for approximately USD 5.17 billion in earnings.

✓ **Major Importers:** The United States (USD 2.71 billion) and China (USD 1.28 billion) were the largest buyers.

✓ **Other Exports:** Frozen fish and squid also contributed to the export value.

Q. Which country was the largest importer of India's seafood in FY2024-25?

- A) China
B) United States
C) European Union
D) Japan

Answer : B

Q. Effective August 1, 2025, ICICI Bank initially announced a significant hike in the minimum monthly average balance (MAB) for new savings accounts in metro and urban areas. What was the initially proposed MAB amount, and what was it revised to after customer feedback?

- A) Initially ₹10,000, revised to ₹15,000
B) Initially ₹25,000, revised to ₹15,000
C) Initially ₹50,000, revised to ₹15,000
D) Initially ₹50,000, revised to ₹25,000

Answer : C

✓ ICICI Bank initially intended to increase the minimum average monthly balance (MAB) for new savings accounts in metro and urban locations from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000, effective August 1, 2025.

✓ However, following significant public backlash, the bank revised this requirement down to ₹15,000 for these areas.

✓ Initial MAB hike (effective August 1, 2025)

✓ Metro and Urban: ₹50,000 (up from ₹10,000)

✓ Semi-Urban: ₹25,000 (up from ₹5,000)

✓ Rural: ₹10,000 (up from ₹2,500)

✓ Penalty: 6% of the shortfall, or ₹500, whichever is lower

Q. What was the total amount of the penalty imposed by IRDAI on Policybazaar in August 2025?

- A) ₹1 crore
B) ₹2 crore
C) ₹5 crore
D) ₹10 crore

Answer : C

✓ IRDAI slaps ₹5 crore penalty on Policybazaar for regulatory violations.

✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of ₹5 crore on Policybazaar Web Aggregator Private Limited, now known as Policybazaar Insurance Brokers Private Limited.

✓ The action follows violations under the Insurance Act, 1938, and associated rules and regulations.

✓ Exercising its powers under Section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938, IRDAI also issued a direction, advisory, and caution to the company.

Q. Who are the primary partners involved in the \$1 billion H-DREAM Fund?

- A) IFC and HDFC Bank
B) IFC and HDFC Capital Advisors
C) IFC and the World Bank Group
D) IFC and the Government of India

Answer : B

✓ HDFC Capital Advisors partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to launch the \$1 billion H-DREAM Fund, aimed at financing green affordable housing projects in India.

✓ IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has invested \$150 million as the anchor, with the remaining \$850 million expected from other institutional investors.

- ✓ Managed by HDFC Capital, the fund focuses on promoting sustainable construction practices while addressing India's housing shortage

Q. Which Indian company secured the highest position in the Fortune Global 500 list for the year 2025?

- A) Adani Enterprises B) Tata Consultancy Services
C) Reliance Industries Limited D) Indian Oil Corporation

Answer : C

- ✓ Reliance Industries Ranks 88th in Fortune Global 500 List 2025 And Walmart Retains Top Spot for 12th Consecutive Year.
- ✓ Fortune magazine released the 71st edition of the Fortune Global 500 List for 2025, ranking the world's largest companies by revenue.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), led by Mukesh Ambani, secured the 88th position globally, maintaining its top position among Indian corporates.
- ✓ The top position on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 was claimed by Walmart Inc. (United States of America) for the 12th straight year.
- ✓ Walmart retained the title of the world's largest retailer with a total revenue of USD 680.98 billion.
- ✓ **Top 10 Indian Companies on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 List**
 1. Reliance Industries (88th globally)
 2. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) (95th globally)
 3. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) (127th globally)
 4. State Bank of India (SBI) (163rd globally)
 5. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) (181st globally)
 6. HDFC Bank (258th globally)
 7. Tata Motors (283rd globally)
 8. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) (285th globally)
 9. ICICI Bank (464th globally)

Q. What was the global rank of the highest-ranked Indian company, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), in the 2025 list?

- A) 86th B) 88th
C) 95th D) 100th

Answer : B

Q. Which of the following companies was the only new Indian company to debut on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 list??

- A) HDFC Bank
B) Tata Motors
C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
D) ICICI Bank

Answer : D

Q. Which company was ranked number one on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 list?

- A) Amazon B) Walmart
C) State Grid D) Saudi Aramco

Answer : B

- ✓ **TOP 10 companies on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 list.**

1. Walmart: (U.S.)
2. Amazon.com: (U.S.)

- President : Brad Smith

Q. Which PSU recently became the first to adopt ISO 22301:2019-based Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for uninterrupted power supply?

- A) ONGC
- B) NTPC
- C) SAIL
- D) GAIL

Answer : B

- ✓ NTPC Becomes 1st PSU to Adopt ISO 22301:2019-Based Business Continuity Plan for Power Supply.
- ✓ NTPC Limited (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), India's largest power generating company, became the first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in the Indian power sector to adopt a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) aligned with the ISO 22301:2019 global standard of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- ✓ This adoption marks a significant step in ensuring uninterrupted power supply and strengthening India's energy security framework.

Q. Which miscellaneous Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) became the first in India to cross a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore?

- A) Muthoot Finance
- B) Shriram Transport Finance
- C) Kerala State Financial Enterprises
- D) Bajaj Finance

Answer : C

- ✓ Kerala State Financial Enterprises Becomes First Miscellaneous NBFC in India to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Turnover in August 2025.
- ✓ Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to surpass a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore.
- ✓ This remarkable feat doubled its turnover from Rs 50,000 crore in just four years, underscoring KSFE's rapid growth and financial strength
- ✓ KSFE became the first miscellaneous NBFC in India to achieve a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore in August 2025, marking a landmark achievement in the NBFC sector.

Q. Which company became the first Indian firm to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)?

- A) Steel Authority of India Limited
- B) Hindustan Zinc Limited
- C) National Aluminium Company
- D) Vedanta Resources

Answer : B

- ✓ Hindustan Zinc Becomes First Indian Company to Join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).
- ✓ Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, made history by becoming the first Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).
- ✓ Headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK), ICMM is a leading global industry body that promotes sustainable development, ethical practices, and environmental responsibility in the mining and metals sector

Q. What is the total value of the recently signed credit line agreement between EXIM Bank and ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development?

- A) USD 40 million
- B) USD 60 million
- C) USD 40 million
- D) USD 50 million

Answer : A

Answer : C

- ✓ India's CEF Group (Clean Energy Fuels Group) secured €38 million in equity and debt funding from the German Export Finance Bank to build Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants.
- ✓ The investment will fast-track two facilities in Jammu and Ahmedabad, as part of a larger plan to establish 22 CBG plants nationwide.
- ✓ These plants will convert municipal and agricultural waste into clean fuel, supporting the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative.
- ✓ The project also promotes rural empowerment, energy independence, and a circular economy, with engineering and financing support from the Rieckermann Group

Q. Who has been appointed as the New MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank?

- A) Varun Berry
B) Arun Sawhney
C) Punit Renjen
D) Rajiv Anand

Answer : D

- ✓ IndusInd Bank appoints Axis Bank's Rajiv Anand as CEO, MD for three years.
- ✓ IndusInd Bank has approved the appointment of veteran Rajiv Anand as its chief executive officer for a period of three years.
- ✓ The appointment is effective from August 25, 2025 upto August 24, 2028.
- ✓ The new appointment of the banking veteran comes as the lender was functioning without a full-time CEO since Sumant Kathpalia resigned at the end of April.
- ✓ IndusInd Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1994
- ✓ Founder : S.P. Hinduja
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- ✓ MD & CEO : Rajiv Anand
- ✓ Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

Q. What is the targeted e-commerce export value for India by 2030 under the Amazon India–Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) initiative?

- A) 150–200 billion US dollars
B) 100–150 billion US dollars
C) 250–350 billion US dollars
D) 200–300 billion US dollars

Answer : D

- ✓ Amazon India & FIEO Signed MoU to Boost E-commerce Exports of MSMEs in India.
- ✓ Amazon India and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an MoU at Niryat Bhawan, New Delhi to boost e-commerce exports by Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ The initiative aims to help India achieve \$200–300 billion in e-commerce exports by 2030 by addressing traditional export challenges.
- ✓ A joint E-commerce Export Task Force will guide policy and infrastructure development.
- ✓ Amazon will support FIEO-nominated sellers with onboarding, compliance, and global scaling. Capacity-building workshops will target key sectors like textiles, toys, and packaged foods.
- ✓ Amazon reiterated its commitment to reach \$80 billion in cumulative exports by 2030, up from \$13 billion already enabled.

Q. Which state topped the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) State Export Rankings 2024–25?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The FIEO State Export Rankings 2024–25, titled Overview of States' Exports, were released on August 5, 2025 by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, using DGCIS data.
- ✓ Gujarat topped for the 5th year with ₹9.83 lakh crore exports (26.6%), led by Jamnagar's petroleum exports.
- ✓ Maharashtra ranked 2nd, followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh (₹1.86 lakh crore), which rose to 5th due to ODOP-led diversification.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh achieved its best-ever rank (11th) with ₹66,218 crore, driven by pharma and engineering goods.
- ✓ Emerging sectors like aerospace, shipbuilding, and green energy saw triple-digit growth.
- ✓ Major export destinations included the US, Netherlands, UAE, and Germany.

Q. Who replaced Rajiv Ranjan as Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

- A) Indranil Bhattacharyya B) Shaktikanta Das
C) Michael Patra D) V. Anantha Nageswaran

Answer : A

- ✓ RBI appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as a new member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- ✓ Bhattacharyya replaces Rajiv Ranjan.
- ✓ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its 56th meeting from August 4 to 6, 2025 under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ The MPC members Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Poonam Gupta and Indranil Bhattacharyya

Q. Which company has become the first Indian forex-services provider to enable contactless cross-border payments via mobile?

- A) Thomas Cook (India) Limited B) Western Union
C) Paytm D) SBI Forex

Answer : A

- ✓ Thomas Cook India Enables Contactless Cross-Border Payments via Mobile.
- ✓ Thomas Cook (India) Limited has become the first Indian forex-services provider to enable contactless cross-border payments by integrating its prepaid foreign exchange (forex) cards with Google Pay, powered by Visa's secure tokenisation, offering users seamless tap-and-pay and online payments in over 95 countries.

Q. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited partnered with which digital payments platform to launch affordable health insurance for the 'Missing Middle'?

- A) Amazon Pay B) Google Pay
C) Paytm D) PhonePe

Answer : D

- ✓ HDFC ERGO General Partners with PhonePe to Launch Affordable Health Insurance for the 'Missing Middle'.
- ✓ HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited (a Joint Venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited – HDFC Ltd and ERGO International AG) entered into a strategic partnership with PhonePe to roll out a low-cost health insurance plan aimed at expanding coverage for underserved citizens in India.

Q. Which insurance company has recently launched the "Smart Shield Plus" term insurance plan with flexible coverage options?

- A) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance B) LIC of India
C) HDFC Life Insurance D) SBI Life Insurance

Answer : D

- ✓ SBI Life Launches "Smart Shield Plus" Term Insurance Plan with Flexible Coverage Options.
- ✓ SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (SBI Life), a Joint Venture (JV) between State Bank of India (SBI) and BNP Paribas Cardif, introduced "SBI Life-Smart Shield Plus", a future-ready term insurance plan tailored to meet customers' evolving protection needs with flexible options and life stage benefits.

Q. Tata AIA Life Insurance has recently launched which women-centric term insurance plan?

- A) Shakti Suraksha B) Shubh Shakti
C) Mahila Jeevan D) Nari Raksha

Answer : B

- ✓ Tata AIA Life Insurance Unveils 'Shubh Shakti' – A Women-Centric Term Insurance Plan.
- ✓ Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited, a joint venture (JV) between Tata Sons Private Limited and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA), has launched 'Shubh Shakti', a dedicated term insurance plan designed exclusively for women.
- ✓ This initiative aims to boost women's participation in the insurance sector by offering financial security, health benefits, and education support tailored to their needs.

Aparchit Exam Warriors