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## NATIONAL

### **AURANGZEB'S TOMB -**

- The tomb of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Khuldabad, Maharashtra, is currently under scrutiny. Recent protests have sparked violent clashes in Nagpur. The protests demand the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb, which has been a symbol of historical grievances.
- In response, the Archaeological Survey of India has installed tin sheets around the tomb to protect it from vandalism and to maintain order.
- Aurangzeb ruled the Mughal Empire from 1658 until his death in 1707. His reign lasted for almost 50 years, making him the longest-reigning Mughal emperor. He is often depicted as a religious bigot. However, his reign was marked by military and administrative challenges.
- He faced an agrarian crisis and increasing resistance from the Marathas. His final years were spent in the Deccan, where he died during a campaign against the Marathas.

### **SUPREME COURT COLLEGIUM -**

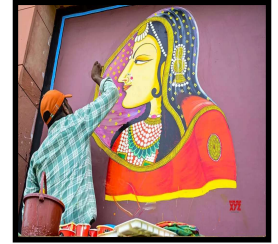
- The Supreme Court collegium plays important role in the appointment and transfer of judges in India's higher judiciary. Recently, the collegium made headlines by transferring Justice Yashwant Varma from the Delhi High Court back to the Allahabad High Court.
- This decision followed the recovery of amount of cash from his residence after a fire incident. The collegium system, while very important, has faced scrutiny regarding its transparency and selection process.



### **PROJECT PARI: REVITALIZING PUBLIC SPACES THROUGH ART -**

- The Ministry of Culture, through the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) and National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA), is dedicated to preserving public art installations created under the Public Art of India (PARI) project.

- As the nodal agency, the LKA has implemented a comprehensive preservation strategy to maintain these installations, ensuring their sustainability and longevity.
- The initiative not only safeguards India's artistic heritage but also transforms Delhi's public spaces into vibrant artistic landmarks, promoting regional art forms globally.



### **INDIA'S WHEAT PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO REACH A RECORD HIGH OF 115.3 MILLION METRIC TONNES (MMT) IN 2024-25 -**

- This represents a 2% increase compared to 113.3 MMT produced in 2023-24.

#### **About Wheat Production in India**

- Wheat is a Rabi crop, sown between October-December and harvested during April-June.
- Wheat is India's second most important cereal crop after rice and serves as a staple food crop in the northern and northwestern regions of the country.
- Wheat is a rich source of Calcium, Thiamine, Riboflavin, and Iron.
- **Wheat Cultivation Area:** Wheat ranks as India's second-largest crop after paddy in terms of area coverage.
- In 2023-24, the total area under wheat cultivation stood at 318.33 lakh hectares.
- **Top Wheat-Producing States in India:** Uttar Pradesh is the largest wheat-producing state, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- **Major Export Destinations (2023-24):** India exported wheat to Nepal, Iraq, South Korea, UAE, and Mongolia.



- India accounts for less than 1% of the global wheat trade.

### WHAT IS RAISINA DIALOGUE 2025 ? -

- The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing global challenges. Hosted annually in New Delhi, this dialogue brings together world leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and scholars to engage in discussions shaping the international order.
- The 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue is set to take place from March 17 to March 19, 2025. This milestone event will once again serve as a critical platform for fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations, highlighting India's pivotal role in global affairs.

### DIFFERENT NAMES OF HOLI IN INDIA: RANG PANCHAMI, SHIGMO, YAOSANG & MORE -

Holi is known by different names across India, each with unique traditions and celebrations. Here are some of the names of Holi in different region:

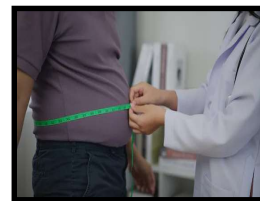


- A. Rang Panchami
- B. Shigmo
- C. Dol Purnima/ Dol Jatra
- D. Yaosang
- E. Dhulandi/ Dhuleti
- F. Phagwah/ Phaghu
- G. Lathmar Holi
- H. Hola Mohalla

### LANCET: 1 IN 3 INDIANS COULD BE OBESE BY 2050 -

- A new study published in The Lancet predicts a significant rise in obesity in India, with nearly 44.9 crore people (21.8 crore men and 23.1 crore women) expected to be overweight or obese by 2050.

- This accounts for almost one-third of India's projected population. The study also highlights a global crisis, estimating that by 2050, over half of all adults and a third of children will be overweight or obese.



### THE AUTOMATED PERMANENT ACADEMIC ACCOUNT REGISTRY (APAAR) ID, AIMS TO STANDARDIZE STUDENT RECORDS. HOWEVER, CONCERNS OVER IMPLEMENTATION, DATA PRIVACY HAVE SPARKED DEBATES AMONG ACTIVISTS -

- APAAR ID:** Introduced under the National Education Policy 2020 and aligned with the National Credit Framework, it aims to establish a "One Nation, One Student ID" system to streamline academic records and facilitate transitions between educational levels.
- APAAR assigns a 12-digit ID, linking academic records to DigiLocker and Academic Bank of Credits for storage and verification.**
- Schools record data, while Higher Education Institutions & Skill Institutes access verified academic records for admissions and recruitment.**
- Concerns About APAAR ID:** APAAR's Aadhaar linkage is causing issues due to spelling mismatches, necessitating updates.
- While the Education Ministry claims APAAR is voluntary, Central Board of Secondary Education's push for 100% enrolment of APAAR raises concerns of implicit mandates, contradicting the Supreme Court ruling in Justice (Retd.) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2019), which held that Aadhaar cannot be required for basic education access.**





- The Advocacy groups are concerned about risks in handling minors' sensitive personal data without robust data protection.

### SIX NEW PROPERTIES ADDED TO INDIA'S UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST -



- India has recently added six new properties to its UNESCO Tentative List, bringing the total count of tentative sites in the country to 62.
- These sites, including Ashokan Edict Sites, Chausath Yogini Temples, and Kanger Valley National Park, were officially included in the list on March 7, 2024, as confirmed by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO.
- The announcement was shared by India at UNESCO on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

### THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA VISITED DHOLAVIRA, APPRECIATING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS OF THE HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION - Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization-

- It was an urban civilization that flourished along the Indus River from around 3300-1300 BCE. It was discovered by John Marshall in the 1920s.
- Major sites of the Harappan civilization include Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Banawali, Dholavira, Lothal, and Ropar.
- Dholavira:
- It is located in Kutch (arid island of Khadir), Gujarat, is a significant archaeological site inhabited from 3000 BCE to 1800 BCE.

- It was discovered by Jagatpati Joshi in 1968.
- It is the fifth-largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization and lies between two seasonal streams, Mansar and Manhar.
- Archaeological findings include terracotta pottery, seals, ornaments, and evidence of metallurgy. It was a trade hub for copper, jewelry, and timber, with inscriptions in Indus Valley script.
- No human remains have been found at the site.
- Dholavira features a walled city with a fortified castle, middle and lower towns, and a cemetery.
- Its advanced water system includes 16 reservoirs and step wells.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.



### THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI) HAS INVITED POLITICAL PARTIES TO DISCUSS STRENGTHENING ELECTIONS AMID ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTORAL ROLL MANIPULATION AND DUPLICATE ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARD (EPIC) NUMBERS -

#### What Are the Legal Provisions Governing Elections-

- **Article 324:** Grants the ECI the authority to supervise, direct, and control the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to Parliament and State legislatures.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** It includes provisions for election officers such as chief electoral officers, district election officers, and electoral registration officers, as well as electoral rolls for Parliamentary, Assembly, and Council constituencies.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA):** Deals with the pre-election process, mainly the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** Lays down detailed procedures for the implementation of electoral roll-related provisions under RPA, 1951.



- E.g., Guidelines for the inclusion, correction, or deletion of names in electoral rolls.
- **Delimitation Act, 2002:** It was enacted to redraw the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on the latest Census data.

### DELHI ELECTION RESULTS 2025 -

- The Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 have begun, and as the counting of votes takes place, the citizens of the capital are eager to see who will form the government for the next five years.
- The competition in Delhi is fierce, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Arvind Kejriwal, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), seeking to reclaim power after 27 years, as the primary contenders. Below, we provide a detailed list of the leading candidates, their respective parties, and constituencies in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.



### HEALTH INITIATIVES IN UNION BUDGET 2025-26 -

- The Union Budget 2025-26 has allocated around Rs 1 lakh crore for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The share of health in the FY26 budget increased marginally to 1.97% from 1.9% in FY25 but overall health allocation remained below 2% of the budget.
- The Economic Survey (ES) 2024-25 and Union budget 2025-26 recommended and announced a number of measures to promote health in the country.
- Among several announcements, the major one is the establishment of Daycare Cancer Centers.
- The National Health Policy 2017 recommends that the health expenditure be increased from 1.15% (2017) of the GDP to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025.



### FORT WILLIAMS RENAMED AS VIJAY DURG -

- Fort William, the Indian Army's Eastern Command HQ in Kolkata, has been renamed Vijay Durg to remove colonial imprints. It is named after Maharashtra's oldest Sindhudurg fort, a former Maratha naval base under Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- Other changes include renaming Kitchener House, inside the fort to Manekshaw House and St. George's Gate to Shivaji Gate.
- The fort is located in Kolkata on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River and was originally named after King William III of England.
- The original fort was built by the British in 1696 under Sir John Goldsborough and completed in 1706.
- It was damaged during the Siege of Calcutta (1756) when Siraj-ud-Daulah defeated the British.
- After the Battle of Plassey (1757), Robert Clive rebuilt it at a new location between 1758 and 1781.



### INCOME TAX BUDGET 2025: NO INCOME TAX FOR UPTO ₹12 LAKH IN NEW TAX REGIME -

- In the Union Budget 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced significant changes to the income tax system aimed at providing relief to the middle class and boosting economic growth.
- These changes are expected to increase disposable income, enhance consumer spending, and contribute to India's economic development, with particular focus on simplifying the tax structure and ensuring a more progressive tax environment. Here's a breakdown of the key changes are mentioned below.
- **Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh will not need to pay any income tax under the new tax regime.**
- For salaried individuals, the exemption limit is ₹12.75 lakh, considering the standard deduction of ₹75,000.

INCOME TAX NEW REGIME	
TAXABLE INCOME	NEW TAX RATE
0-4 LAKH	NIL
4-8 LAKH	5%
8-12 LAKH	10%
12-16 LAKH	15%
16-20 LAKH	20%
20-24 LAKH	25%
ABOVE 24 LAKH	30%



# INTERNATIONAL

## THE COMPLEX STRUGGLE FOR 'KURDISTAN' -

- The future of Kurdistan remains uncertain, with shifting regional alliances and internal divisions.

### Kurds and Kurdistan

- The Kurdish people or Kurds are mostly Sunni Muslim who are traditionally nomadic societies without any official homeland and continue to seek recognition, political rights, autonomy or independence.
- **An estimated 25-30 million Kurds live in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Armenia.**
- The Kurdish independence movement is a nationalist aspiration for self-determination among the Kurdish people with a demand for an autonomous region called Kurdistan.
- Despite their long history, the Kurds remain stateless, as past efforts to establish Kurdistan have been unsuccessful.
- **The struggle for Kurdish identity and autonomy has led to conflicts, revolts, and international involvement over the years.**



## INDIA IMPOSES ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON FIVE CHINESE PRODUCTS -

- **To protect domestic industries from unfairly priced imports, India has imposed anti-dumping duties on five Chinese products:** Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flasks, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Paste Resin. These products were being exported from China at prices lower than their normal market value, causing harm to domestic manufacturers.
- **The duties were recommended by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) under the**

**Ministry of Commerce and will be imposed for up to five years to ensure fair trade practices.**

### Key Points of the Anti-Dumping Duty

- Products Covered
- Soft Ferrite Cores (used in EVs, chargers, telecom devices)
- Vacuum insulated flasks
- Aluminium foil
- Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid (water treatment chemical)
- Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Paste Resin



### Duties Imposed

- Soft Ferrite Cores: Up to 35% duty on CIF value
- Vacuum insulated flask: \$1,732 per tonne
- Aluminium foil: Up to \$873 per tonne (provisional for six months)
- Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid: \$276 to \$986 per tonne (applies to China & Japan)
- PVC Paste Resin: \$89 to \$707 per tonne (applies to China, Korea RP, Malaysia, Norway, Taiwan, and Thailand)

## UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES HAS ANNOUNCED THE UN80 INITIATIVE AS THE UNITED NATIONS MARKS ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025 -

- **Financial Crisis and Budget Constraints:** The UN faces a liquidity crisis for the seventh consecutive year.
- The 2025 UN budget is \$3.7 billion, covering political, humanitarian, disarmament, economic, and social affairs.
- The US has yet to confirm how much it will contribute to the 2025 budget.



### Key Contributors and Payment Uncertainty

- The US and China are the top contributors to the UN's regular budget:

- **US share:** 22% (largest contributor) but owes \$1.5 billion in arrears.
- **China's share:** 20% (increased by 5% in 2025). China has assured full payment but has not specified the timeline.
- As of March 7, 2025, only 73 member states had paid their full assessments.
- **Spending Cuts and Hiring Freeze:** Due to financial uncertainty, the UN has:
  - Reduced spending by up to 20%.
  - Imposed a hiring freeze.
- Remained cautious with financial planning between January and August 2025.

### U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP LAUNCHED LARGE-SCALE MILITARY STRIKES AGAINST YEMEN'S IRAN-ALIGNED HOUTHIS -

- **Location:** Southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula.
- **Capital:** Sana'a (under Houthi control).



#### Borders-

- North → Saudi Arabia
- East → Oman
- South → Arabian Sea & Gulf of Aden
- West → Red Sea
- **Strategic Importance-**
  - Controls eastern shore of Bab el Mandeb Strait, crucial for maritime trade.
  - Located at a vital chokepoint connecting Red Sea → Gulf of Aden → Indian Ocean.
- **Civil War Background-**
  - **About Houthi:** They are a large clan belonging to the Zaidi Shia sect, with roots in Yemen's northwestern Sa'dah province.
  - They are a militant group that has been fighting the civil war in Yemen for a decade.
- **Houthi Movement-**
  - It originated in the 1990s against President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime.

- Currently controls northern Yemen and has a significant presence across regions.

### ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN FINALIZE PEACE TREATY TO END 40-YEAR CONFLICT -

- In a historic breakthrough, Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed on the text of a peace treaty, ending almost four decades of conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The peace agreement was finalized on March 13, 2025, marking a significant step toward establishing stability in the South Caucasus region.
- However, Azerbaijan demands a change in Armenia's constitution before signing the treaty, which has created uncertainty regarding the timeline for its official signing.

### PAKISTAN JAFFAR EXPRESS: WHAT IS THE BALUCH LIBERATION ARMY -

- The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is a separatist group active in Pakistan's Balochistan province. It aims for an independent Baloch state and has carried out several attacks over the years.
- The BLA recently hijacked a passenger train, the Jaffar Express and took over 100 people hostage. This deadly attack resulted in the death of at least six soldiers. The incident has brought global attention to the group and its activities.



### 4TH CONFERENCE OF GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY CHIEFS -

- The National Security Advisor (NSA) of India hosted the 4th Conference of Global Intelligence and Security Chiefs which was organized by India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing

(R&AW), along with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

- The event witnessed the participation of intelligence officials from over 20 countries including the chiefs of the Five Eyes Alliance.



### What is the Conference of Intelligence and Security Chiefs?

- It is a high-level annual security dialogue organized as part of the Raisina Dialogue which is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with think-tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- It was held for the first time in 2022.
- It is modeled on the lines of the annual Munich Security Conference and Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

### **TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING TRANS WOMEN FROM WOMEN'S SPORTS -**

- President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, titled the "No Men in Women's Sports Executive Order." The order prohibits transgender women and girls from competing in female sports, marking the fourth executive order targeting transgender individuals since Trump took office on January 20, 2025.
- This decision has sparked widespread debate, with the administration justifying it as a measure to protect women's sports, while critics argue it is a direct attack on transgender rights.



### **INDIA TO HOST NEXT GLOBAL AI SUMMIT: PM MODI -**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris. The

summit, co-chaired by PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, focused on fostering global cooperation in AI development.

- India's leadership in AI, its commitment to inclusivity, and the establishment of key AI initiatives were highlighted during the event.



### **INDIAN EMBASSY URGES EVACUATION OF BUKAVU AMID DRC CONFLICT -**

- In a crucial move to ensure the safety of Indian nationals, the Indian Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has issued an urgent advisory for Indians in Bukavu to evacuate the city immediately due to escalating violence.
- This announcement follows the rapid advance of rebel forces in the eastern DRC, including the M23 group, which has already captured nearby areas like Goma. The embassy's advisory is a clear reflection of its commitment to protecting Indian citizens during the ongoing crisis.



### **INDIA-QATAR TO DOUBLE TRADE TO \$28B BY 2030 -**

- India and Qatar have decided to upgrade their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and energy. This decision was taken during the two-day visit of Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani to India.



- Both nations aim to double bilateral trade from the current \$14.08 billion to \$28 billion over the next five



years. Additionally, Qatar has expressed interest in expanding investments in India's key sectors.

### **SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE'S LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE UNVEILED -**

- On February 2, 2025, a grand inauguration ceremony was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere.
- This temple is part of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Multi-Cultural Centre. The event was graced by South Africa's Deputy President Paul Mashatile and spiritual leader Mahant Swami Maharaj.**
- The temple is not only a place of worship but also a hub for cultural exchange, education, and social service.



### **FMR ALONG THE INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER -**

- The revised Free Movement Regime (FMR) has led to the activation of 22 border gates out of the 43 planned crossing points along the India-Myanmar border, aimed at regulating movement while maintaining border security.
- India's 1,643-km border with Myanmar runs through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km). 1,472 km of the border has been demarcated.**
- FMR: Introduced in 1968 to facilitate movement due to ethnic and familial ties across the largely unfenced northeastern border.
- The free movement limit was reduced from 40 km to 16 km in 2004 and is now 10 km.
- Assam Rifles:** Oldest paramilitary force in India, established in 1835. Evolved from protecting British Tea estates to maintaining internal security in the Northeast and guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border.
- Assam Rifles played key roles in the Sino-India War (1962), and were known as 'Sentinel of the North East' and 'Friend of the Hill People'.
- Headquarters:** Directorate General of Assam Rifles in Shillong

### **TRUMP IMPOSES 25% TARIFFS ON STEEL & ALUMINUM IMPORTS -**

- U.S. President Donald Trump has officially announced a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports, a move set to take effect from March 4, 2025. The decision eliminates previous country-specific exemptions, impacting key exporters like Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea.**
- The administration has framed this as a step to simplify tariff policies, boost domestic production, and address concerns of foreign dumping. This announcement marks a return to the protectionist trade policies that characterized Trump's first term in office.



### **DRC CONFLICT AND M23 MILITIA -**

- The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has escalated with the M23 militia, backed by Rwanda, capturing the mineral-rich city of Goma.
- The conflict has resulted in 2,900 deaths, displaced nearly 700,000 people, and spread to South Kivu province, a region rich in resources.**
- M23 Formed in 2012 after the failure of a 2009 peace agreement between the DRC government and Tutsi-led National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP).
- M23 claims to protect Tutsis in DRC, while Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) fights for Hutus.**
- Hutu-Tutsi conflicts have existed since Belgian and German colonial rule, with Tutsis favored in governance.
- Rwandan Genocide (1994) was a mass killing of the Tutsi ethnic group by Hutu extremists in Rwanda.**
- The DRC supplies 40% of the world's Coltan, used to make Tantalum capacitors for electronics due to its high charge retention.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NORTH INDIA'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT IN HARYANA -

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the establishment of North India's first nuclear power plant in Gorakhpur, Haryana.
- The announcement also addressed concerns regarding safety and environmental impact of nuclear power projects, including Jaitapur in Maharashtra.



#### About the Haryana Nuclear Project

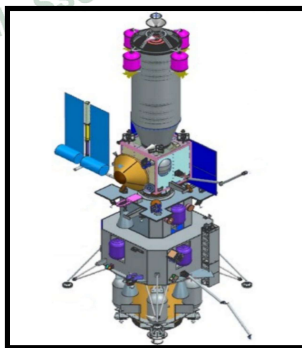
- The project is named Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP).
- It is being constructed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- Objective: Strengthening India's nuclear energy capacity and moving towards clean energy.

#### Reactor Comprises four units, divided into two phases:

- GHAVP-1 and GHAVP-2 :  $2 \times 700$  MW.
- GHAVP-3 and GHAVP-4 :  $2 \times 700$  MW.
- Total capacity: 2,800 MW.

### CHANDRAYAAN-4 -

- Chandrayaan-4 is India's fourth lunar mission, set to launch in October 2027. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aims to achieve a remarkable feat by not only soft landing on the Moon but also collecting lunar samples and returning them to Earth.
- This mission represents advancement in India's space exploration capabilities.



#### Mission Details

- Chandrayaan-4 will consist of two crafts, each weighing approximately 4,750 kg. Instead of a single massive craft, ISRO will use two LVM3 rockets for launch.
- The mission will involve intricate docking and undocking procedures in space, enhancing India's technological expertise.

### CHANDRAYAAN-5 MISSION APPROVED BY THE CENTRE: A MAJOR LEAP IN LUNAR EXPLORATION -

- India's space ambitions have reached new heights with the approval of the Chandrayaan-5 mission, announced by ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on March 16, 2025.
- This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan and aims to conduct an advanced study of the Moon's surface.
- Unlike Chandrayaan-3, which carried the 25 kg rover 'Pragyan', Chandrayaan-5 will deploy a heavier 250 kg rover, enhancing India's lunar exploration capabilities.



### INDIA GENERATED \$143 MILLION BY LAUNCHING FOREIGN SATELLITES SINCE 2015 -

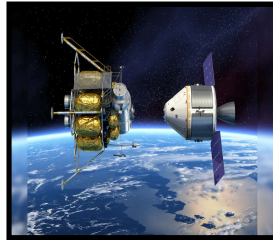
- India has emerged as a global space leader, generating USD 143 million in foreign exchange revenue by launching 393 foreign satellites from 34 countries between 2015 and 2024.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched these satellites on board PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles.
- This achievement has strengthened India's position in the global space economy and paved the way for future



ambitious missions like Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035.

### INDIA HAS BECOME THE 4TH COUNTRY—AFTER THE US, RUSSIA, AND CHINA—TO DEMONSTRATE SPACE DOCKING AND UNDOCKING CAPABILITIES -

- ISRO autonomously undocked two satellites i.e., SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target) in space, reinforcing India's ability to conduct complex orbital maneuvers essential for future space missions.
- **Space Docking is a process where two spacecraft in orbit are progressively brought closer and joined together.**
- It allows for assembling heavy spacecraft in space, which cannot be launched in a single mission due to weight limitations.
- Space undocking refers to the process of separating a spacecraft from a space station or another spacecraft.
- **It is crucial for India's planned Bhartiya Antriksh Station (by 2035) and human mission to the Moon (by 2040).**
- Chandrayaan-4, which will bring back lunar soil and rock samples, will rely on this technology.



### STARLINK'S ENTRY INTO INDIA: A GAME-CHANGER FOR INTERNET CONNECTIVITY -

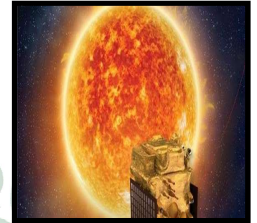
- India is on the brink of a major transformation in internet connectivity as SpaceX's Starlink prepares to launch its satellite-based broadband services in the country.
- **With major telecom players like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel already signing agreements with SpaceX to offer high-speed internet, Starlink's arrival could revolutionize the digital landscape, particularly in rural and remote areas.**



- However, before Starlink can roll out its services, it must obtain regulatory approvals from the Indian government. The question remains—how will Starlink impact India's broadband market, and what can consumers expect in terms of speed, pricing, and availability.

### ADITYA-L1 MISSION CAPTURES SOLAR FLARE -

- The Aditya-L1 mission has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel' in the lower solar atmosphere using the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload.
- **Solar Observation:** SUIT detected an X6.3-class solar flare, one of the most intense solar eruptions, in the Near Ultraviolet (NUV) wavelength (200-400 nm).
- **Solar Flares:** Solar flares are massive explosions on the Sun's atmosphere that release energy, light, and high-speed particles into space, often linked to coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- Solar flares are classified into A, B, C, M, and X categories, with each class increasing 10-fold in energy. X-class flares are the most powerful.
- **Aditya-L1:** It is India's first space-based solar observatory, designed to study the Sun from the Lagrange Point 1 (L1) in a halo orbit. This is ISRO's second astronomy observatory-class mission after AstroSat (2015).



### SUNITA WILLIAMS 'RETURN: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER NASA ASTRONAUTS' LANDING ON EARTH -

- NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams safely returned to Earth on March 18, 2025 (March 19 in India) after spending over nine months in space due to delays in the Boeing Starliner Crew Flight Test (CFT) mission. Their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, Freedom, splashed down in the Gulf of





Mexico near Tallahassee, Florida, concluding a mission that garnered global attention.

### NASA Astronauts' Return: A Detailed Overview

#### 1. Background of the Mission

- NASA's Crew Flight Test (CFT) aimed to assess Boeing's Starliner spacecraft for future routine astronaut transport.
- The Starliner was launched aboard a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The original mission plan was for a 10-day stay on the International Space Station (ISS).
- However, technical malfunctions extended their mission to over nine months.

#### 2. Starliner's Malfunctions and Delays

- The mission was plagued by technical issues, leading to multiple delays:
- June 6, 2024: Starliner faced thruster malfunctions that delayed docking with the ISS. Four out of five failed thrusters were later restored, allowing a successful second attempt at docking.
- June 18, 2024: NASA postponed Starliner's return to investigate helium leaks and other technical concerns.
- July 2, 2024: NASA extended the mission beyond the original 45-day limit to further evaluate Starliner's performance.
- August 24, 2024: NASA announced that Starliner would return to Earth without astronauts due to safety concerns.

### PARIS AI SUMMIT 2025 -

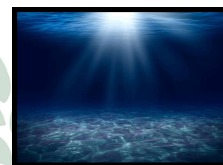
- The Prime Minister (PM) of India visited France to co-chair the Paris Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit 2025. Also, the 2nd India-France AI Policy Roundtable was held on the sidelines of the summit.
- The AI Action Summit is a global forum that brings together world leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and industry representatives to discuss AI governance, ethics, and its role in society.



- **The AI Action Summit in Paris is the 3rd summit, following the Bletchley Park Summit (UK 2023) and the Seoul Summit (South Korea 2024).**
- **Bletchley Park Declaration (28 countries):** Advocated safe, human-centric, and responsible AI.
- **Seoul Summit (27 nations):** Reaffirmed international cooperation and proposed a network of AI Safety Institutes.

### CHINA TO BUILD FIRST DEEPWATER 'SPACE STATION' IN SOUTH CHINA SEA -

- After years of deliberation and technical evaluations, China has officially approved the construction of a deep-sea research facility in the strategically significant South China Sea.
- **The facility, referred to as a "deep-sea space station," will be anchored 2,000 meters (6,560 feet) below the ocean surface. It aims to advance marine exploration and strengthen China's geopolitical presence in the resource-rich region.**
- Expected to be operational by 2030, the station will accommodate six scientists for month-long missions, enabling real-time experiments in extreme underwater conditions.



### WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX (WPI) FOR JANUARY 2025: INFLATION RATE AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS -

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for January 2025, reporting an annual inflation rate of 2.31% (provisional) compared to January 2024.
- **The increase in inflation is primarily due to the rising prices in the categories of manufactured food products, food articles, non-food articles, and textiles. The month-over-month (MoM) WPI change for January 2025 stood at (-) 0.45% compared to December 2024, indicating a marginal decline in wholesale prices.**

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

### **JAN VISHWAS BILL 2.0 -**

- The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0, introduced by the Union government, aims to reform India's complex legal framework. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance the ease of living for citizens.



- The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy has brought into light the extensive nature of India's laws. With 370 laws containing criminal provisions, many punishments seem disproportionate to the offences. The focus is now shifting towards decriminalisation and creating laws that are humane and enforceable.

### **12% DUTY ON STEEL IMPORTS CITING 'TRADE DIVERSION' -**

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended a 12% safeguard duty on selected steel products for 200 days to prevent "serious injury" to the domestic steel industry caused by rising imports.
- This recommendation has been submitted for approval to the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.
- The move comes in response to a surge in steel imports into India, driven by trade diversion resulting from US tariffs on steel and protectionist measures by the European Union.
- The DGTR cited that countries like the EU, Canada, and the UK have already implemented 129 trade remedy measures against steel imports, increasing the risk for India.
- Steel manufacturers support the duty as a means of protecting domestic production, while MSME



manufacturers argue it could raise steel prices and create a monopoly in the sector.

### **UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS IN INDIA: OVER ₹45,000 CRORE TRANSFERRED TO RBI'S DEA FUND -**

- The Finance Ministry informed the Lok Sabha that public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred more than ₹45,000 crore worth of unclaimed deposits to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund between 2019-20 and 2024-25 (till December 31, 2024).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) manages this fund under the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.



#### Definition and Classification

- Unclaimed deposits refer to balances in savings and current accounts that remain inactive for 10 years, or term deposits that have not been claimed within 10 years from their date of maturity. When these accounts remain unclaimed for this period, banks transfer the funds to the RBI's DEA Fund.

### **INDIA IMPOSES ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON FIVE CHINESE PRODUCTS -**

- To protect domestic industries from cheap imports, India has imposed anti-dumping duties on five Chinese goods.
- The government took this step after investigations revealed that these products were being exported from China at prices lower than their normal value.



#### The products under the anti dumping duties include:

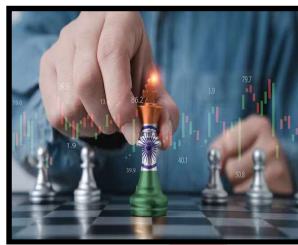
- Soft Ferrite Cores,



- vacuum insulated flasks,
- aluminium foil,
- Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and
- Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Paste Resin.
- **Duration of the Duties:** The anti-dumping duty on Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flasks, and Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid will be applicable for five years.
- The duty on aluminium foil is provisional for six months.

### INDIA'S GDP DOUBLES IN A DECADE: A REMARKABLE ECONOMIC MILESTONE -

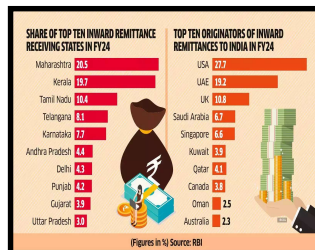
- India has achieved a historic economic milestone by doubling its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from \$2.1 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025, marking a 105% increase. This extraordinary growth rate is the fastest among major global economies.



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported that India's inflation-adjusted GDP growth over the decade stands at 77%, making it one of the world's most rapidly expanding economies.
- With this achievement, India is set to surpass Japan in 2025 and may overtake Germany by 2027, further strengthening its global economic standing.

### U.S., U.K. REPLACE GULF NATIONS AS TOP SOURCE OF REMITTANCES INTO INDIA: RBI BULLETIN -

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has highlighted a significant shift in the source of inward remittances to India, with developed nations like the United States and the United Kingdom surpassing Gulf countries as the top contributors.
- According to the RBI's paper, "Changing Dynamics of India's Remittances – Insights from the Sixth Round

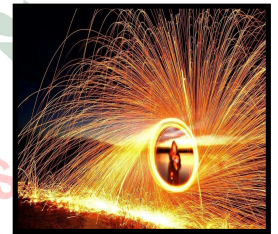


of India's Remittances Survey," published in its March bulletin, remittances from the U.S. and U.K. nearly doubled, accounting for 40% of total inflows in FY24, compared to 26% in FY17.

- This increase is attributed to the growing presence of Indian professionals and students in these countries, while contributions from traditional sources like the UAE and Saudi Arabia have declined.

### INDIA'S GDP TO REACH \$5.7 TRILLION, BECOMING THIRD LARGEST BY 2028: MORGAN STANLEY -

- According to Morgan Stanley, India's GDP is projected to expand to \$5.7 trillion by fiscal 2028, making it the third-largest economy in the world, surpassing Germany and Japan.
- Currently the fifth-largest economy, India is expected to overtake Japan by 2026 to become the fourth-largest. The country's share in global GDP is set to rise from 3.5% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2029, driven by strong macroeconomic policies, improved infrastructure, and a growing consumer market.
- The report also outlines different growth scenarios, with GDP potentially reaching \$10.3 trillion by 2035 in a bullish case.



### INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SEE SHARPEST JUMP IN TWO YEARS: RBI DATA -

- In a significant development, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$15.267 billion to reach \$653.966 billion during the week ending March 7, 2025, marking the sharpest rise in over two years.
- This sudden spike is primarily attributed to the \$10 billion forex swap conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 28, 2025, where the central bank purchased dollars against the rupee to inject liquidity into the system.



**A NEW REPORT BY THE WORLD BANK STATES THAT INDIA NEEDS TO SIGNIFICANTLY SPEED UP ITS REFORMS TO ACHIEVE HIGH-INCOME STATUS BY 2047 -**

**What is High-Income Status-**

- High-income status is a classification used by the World Bank to categorize countries based on their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
- It is a key indicator of a country's economic development and standard of living.

**World Bank Income Classifications**

- For the 2025 fiscal year, the World Bank classifies economies based on their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita using the Atlas method.
- Low-income economies: GNI per capita of \$1,145 or less.
- Lower middle-income economies: GNI per capita between \$1,146 and \$4,515.
- Upper middle-income economies: GNI per capita between \$4,516 and \$14,005.
- High-income economies: GNI per capita of \$14,005 or more.
- India's Current Economic Status
- In 2007-08, India was classified as a lower middle-income country, with a per capita income of \$1,022 (IMF).

**By 2024, this figure has increased to \$2,697.**

- As per IMF projections, India's per capita income may reach \$4,195 by 2029, meaning it is likely to become an upper middle-income country by 2032.
- However, achieving high-income status by 2047 will require sustained high growth.

**U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL IMPOSE RECIPROCAL TARIFFS ON INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2025 -**

**What Are Reciprocal Tariffs-**

- Reciprocal tariffs are a trade policy tool where a country imposes tariffs on imports from another country that are equal to the tariffs that country imposes on its exports.

- The goal is to create a level playing field by ensuring that both countries face the same trade barriers.
- Implementation: If a country sees that another country has high tariffs on its exports, it might choose to impose reciprocal tariffs as a way to respond or negotiate.
- For example, if Country A charges a 10% tariff on imports from Country B, then Country B might also charge a 10% tariff on imports from Country A.



**Purpose of Reciprocal Tariffs**

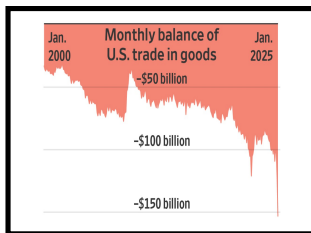
- **Balancing Trade Relationships:** The primary aim is to ensure fair trade by eliminating disparities in tariff rates between trading partners.
- **Retaliation:** Reciprocal tariffs can also be used as a retaliatory measure against countries that impose high tariffs on a country's exports.
- **Negotiation Tool:** They can serve as a bargaining chip in trade negotiations to encourage other countries to lower their tariffs.
- **Impacts on Domestic Industries:** Reciprocal tariffs can provide protection to domestic industries by making imported goods less competitive in the local market.

**SEBI'S TOTAL INCOME RISES 48% TO ₹2,075 CRORE IN 2023-24 -**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recorded a 48% year-on-year growth in its total income, reaching ₹2,075 crore in FY 2023-24.
- The increase was primarily driven by higher earnings from fees and subscriptions. SEBI's fee income surged significantly compared to the previous fiscal year, reflecting increased contributions from stock exchanges, market participants, and companies.
- Additionally, the regulator's investment income and other income also witnessed an uptick. Despite the rise in revenue, SEBI's total expenditure increased as well, reaching ₹1,006 crore.
- SEBI also reported substantial funds in its general fund, Investor Protection & Education Fund (IPEF), and Disgorgement Fund.

**US TRADE DEFICIT -**

- Recently, the United States continues to grapple with trade deficit. In 2024, the trade deficit exceeded \$1 trillion for the fourth consecutive year. The persistent imbalance indicates a reliance on imported goods over domestic manufacturing.
- This situation has sparked debates regarding strategies to boost US manufacturing and address trade deficits.

**What is Trade Deficit-**

- A trade deficit occurs when a country imports more goods than it exports. The US has faced trade deficits for decades, which raises concerns about manufacturing capabilities and job creation. Despite low unemployment rates, the focus remains on increasing domestic production and reducing reliance on foreign imports.

**REPO RATE CUT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS -**

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India cut the repo rate to 6.25% from 6.5% (25 basis points (bps)) for the first time in 5 years (since 2020).
- After the Union Budget 2025-26 reduced personal income tax to spur consumption, this step aims to revive economic growth amid a slowdown.
- **Growth-Stimulating Budget:** The Union Budget 2025-26 introduced a personal income tax cut and revised TDS limits, increasing disposable income.
- The RBI's repo rate cut supports the government's tax reductions by lowering borrowing costs and sustaining demand.
- **Declining Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased to 5.22% in December 2024, a four-month low, down from 5.48% in November that provides room for monetary easing.
- **Market Liquidity Enhancement:** The RBI recently introduced measures to improve liquidity in the banking

system by injecting Rs 1.5 trillion.

- Liquidity injection eased tight credit markets, while the repo rate cut ensured liquidity and lower rates to boost growth.
- **Global Economic Uncertainty:** The recent US tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China sparked trade war fears, weakening the rupee to 87.29 per dollar and raising inflation risks.
- A repo rate cut could help cushion the impact of external shocks and support domestic growth.

**UNION BUDGET 2025-26 MEASURES TO BOOST MSMEs -**

- The Union Budget for 2025-26 has introduced a series of significant measures to enhance the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, recognising its vital role in driving India's economic growth.
- **Increased Investment and Turnover Limits:** Investment limits raised by 2.5 times and turnover limits by 2 times to allow MSMEs to scale operations and adopt better technology.
- This will enable more businesses to qualify as MSMEs and avail government incentives.
- **Enhanced Credit Availability:** Credit guarantee cover increased from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore for micro and small enterprises, unlocking Rs 1.5 lakh crore in additional credit over five years.
- Startups' guarantee cover doubled from Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore, with a reduced fee of 1% for loans in 27 priority sectors.
- Exporter MSMEs eligible for Rs 20 crore term loans with enhanced guarantee cover, encouraging international trade.
- **MSME Credit Cards:** The 2025 budget introduces MSME credit cards to boost growth and streamline loan access, with experts urging reduced bureaucratic hurdles.
- Rs 5 lakh credit facility will be provided for micro-enterprises registered on the Udyam portal, with 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.



## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

EVERY YEAR, MARCH 7TH IS CELEBRATED AS JAN AUSHADHI DIWAS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AFFORDABLE GENERIC MEDICINES UNDER THE PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI PARIYOJANA (PMBJP) -

- **Jan Aushadhi Diwas-** Initiated on 7th March 2019, under the PMBJP. The initiative includes a week-long celebration, 'Janaushadhi Week,' from 1st-7th March across the nation.
- **2025 Theme-** “Daam Kam - Dawai Uttam,” emphasizing affordable and high-quality medicines for all.
- **PMBJP-** The PMBJP was originally launched in 2008 as the Jan Aushadhi Scheme under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to provide affordable medicines through outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs).
- In 2015, the scheme was revamped as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, and in 2016, it was renamed as the PMBJP.

THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) MARKS 55 YEARS ON 5TH MARCH, 2025 -

- It was approved by the UN General Assembly on 12th June, 1968 and came into force on 5th March, 1970.
- **About NPT:** It is the only multilateral binding treaty for Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to disarmament while promoting peaceful nuclear energy use.
- **Key Provisions:** It defines NWS as countries possessing nuclear weapons before 1st January, 1967 (USA, UK, France, China, and USSR/Russia).
- Non-nuclear states agree not to develop nuclear weapons, while nuclear states pledge not to transfer them.
- It allows peaceful use of nuclear energy and provides a withdrawal option if national security is threatened.
- **Membership:** 191 members with 5 NWS (US, Russia, UK, France & China). India is not a member.

PI DAY 2025: CELEBRATING THE INFINITE BEAUTY OF MATHEMATICS -

- Pi Day, celebrated annually on March 14, is dedicated to the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (Pi), which is approximately 3.14159.
- The date, when written in the month/day format as 3/14, mirrors the first three digits of Pi, making it a significant occasion for mathematicians, scientists, and number enthusiasts worldwide.
- Pi, pronounced “pie”, is one of the most famous irrational numbers and plays a crucial role in various fields, including geometry, physics, and engineering. While many mathematical constants exist, such as Euler’s number (e) and the golden ratio ( $\phi$ ), Pi holds a special place in both academia and popular culture.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS CELEBRATED GLOBALLY ON 8TH MARCH TO RECOGNIZE WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL SPHERES -

- Additionally, the year 2025 is significant as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), a landmark commitment to women's rights.

### International Women's Day-

- It is a special day dedicated to honoring women's achievements and highlights gender disparities and advocates for women's rights in politics, society, and the economy.
- **The theme for 2025 is “For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment”.**
- History: German activist Clara Zetkin proposed the idea, leading to the first celebrations in 1911 in the USA and Europe.
- In 1975, the United Nations officially recognized 8th March as International Women's Day.

- **Purpose:** It serves as a platform to discuss crucial issues such as workplace equality, reproductive rights, and leadership representation.
- Governments and organizations use the day to promote policies for women's empowerment and ending discrimination.

**ON SHAHEED DIWAS (23RD MARCH) PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ICONIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS BHAGAT SINGH RAJGURU, AND SUKHDEV, HONORING THEIR SUPREME SACRIFICE, AS THIS DAY MARKS THEIR EXECUTION BY BRITISH COLONIAL AUTHORITIES IN LAHORE JAIL IN 1931 -**

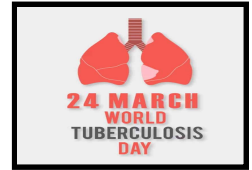
- Three were convicted for their roles in the 1928 Lahore Conspiracy Case involving the killing of British officer J.P. Saunders, mistakenly identifying him as Superintendent James Scott, who was blamed for Lala Lajpat Rai's death during a protest against the Simon Commission.
- Three were members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), an organisation known for their revolutionary struggle against British rule.
- **Shivaram Rajguru born on 24th August 1908, Maharashtra, was celebrated for his unwavering resolve against colonial oppression.** A staunch advocate of armed resistance.
- Sukhdev Thapar born 15th May 1907, Punjab, was a driving force behind mobilizing youth for the freedom struggle.



**WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY (24TH - MARCH) RAISES AWARENESS OF TUBERCULOSIS'S (TB'S) HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT -**

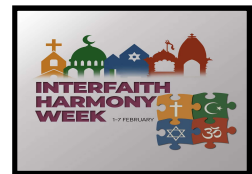
- **History:** Dr. Robert Koch discovered Mycobacterium tuberculosis on 24th March 1882, leading to the establishment of World TB Day.

- **Theme 2025:** "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver."
- **TB in India:** India has the largest TB burden (26% of global cases and 29% of global TB-related deaths). In 2023, 25.5 lakh TB cases were notified.
- TB incidence declined 17.7% (237 per 1 lakh in 2015 to 195 in 2023), while TB deaths dropped 21.4% (28 per lakh in 2015 to 22 in 2023).
- **India's Efforts:** National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims for TB-free India by 2025, ahead of the global 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The PM TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (2022), a mission mode of NTEP, drives community participation, advanced diagnostics, better treatments, and innovation to accelerate TB elimination.
- **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana provides Rs 1,000/month for nutrition.** Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra screened 3.8 crore people for TB.
- **The Ni-kshay Mitra initiative supports TB patients with nutrition, diagnostics, and vocational aid.** There are 1.55 lakh Ni-kshay Mitras registered, supporting 8.66 lakh TB patients.



**WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2025: 1-7 FEBRUARY -**

- **World Interfaith Harmony Week** has been observed on 1-7 February by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), serves as a global initiative to promote mutual understanding, interfaith dialogue, and cooperation among different religious communities.
- Each year, World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed with a specific theme that resonates with contemporary global issues related to religious harmony and peace.
- **2025 Theme:** 'Uniting for Peace'





## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

**THE 97TH OSCARS AWARDS (ACADEMY AWARDS) WERE HELD IN LOS ANGELES. FILM 'ANORA' BY SEAN BAKER SECURED THE MOST 5 OSCARS INCLUDING BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST ACTRESS, BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY, AND BEST FILM EDITING -**



**RBI TO ISSUE ₹50 BANKNOTES WITH GOVERNOR SANJAY MALHOTRA'S SIGNATURE -**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the issuance of new ₹50 denomination banknotes featuring the signature of its newly appointed Governor, Sanjay Malhotra.
- Malhotra took charge as the 26th RBI Governor in December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das.
- These new banknotes will maintain the existing design under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, ensuring continuity in India's currency framework. Importantly, all previously issued ₹50 notes will



remain valid and continue to be legal tender, as confirmed by the RBI.

**AJAY SETH APPOINTED AS INDIA'S NEW FINANCE SECRETARY -**

- The Indian government has appointed Ajay Seth, the current Economic Affairs Secretary, as the new Finance Secretary on March 24, 2025.
- His appointment comes at a critical time as the government aims to balance fiscal discipline with economic growth.
- With over three decades of experience, Seth has played a pivotal role in shaping India's economic policies and spearheading financial reforms.



**BANGALORE CITY UNIVERSITY TO BE RENAMED AFTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH**

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that Bangalore City University will be renamed as Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru University in honor of the late former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.



- The government aims to make it a model university, incorporating Government Arts College and Government RC College as constituent colleges.
- Additionally, the Karnataka government has pledged significant investments in higher education, including filling 2,000 vacant teaching posts, enhancing infrastructure, and improving government engineering colleges and polytechnics.

**MARK CARNEY APPOINTED AS CANADA'S NEW LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AND PRIME MINISTER -**

- Mark Carney has been appointed as the new leader of Canada's Liberal Party and the country's

**next Prime Minister, replacing Justin Trudeau amid rising public dissatisfaction.**

- The former central banker will now lead the party into the upcoming general elections and handle Ottawa's response to increasing challenges posed by US President Donald Trump.



#### **AJAY SETH TAKES ADDITIONAL CHARGE AS REVENUE SECRETARY -**

- In a significant administrative development, Ajay Seth, the Economic Affairs Secretary, has been assigned the additional charge of Secretary, Department of Revenue.
- **This decision was announced by the Personnel Ministry on March 1, 2025. The appointment was necessitated following the transition of Tuhin Kanta Pandey, the former Revenue Secretary, to his new role as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**

#### **USHA VANCE, THE FIRST INDIAN-AMERICAN AND HINDU SECOND LADY OF THE UNITED STATES -**

- On January 20, 2025, Usha Vance made history by becoming the first Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady of the United States.
- **Her husband, J.D. Vance, was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the United States, marking a significant milestone in American politics. Usha's journey, deeply rooted in her Indian heritage and her remarkable accomplishments, has garnered widespread attention and admiration.**



#### **PRESIDENT MURMU HONORS NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2025 WINNERS -**

- On January 17, 2025, the prestigious National Sports Awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu in a glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- The awards, including the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and the Arjuna Awards, recognized the remarkable achievements of India's sporting champions.



- **Among the honored were double Olympic-medalist shooter Manu Bhaker, chess prodigy and youngest world champion D. Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, and Paralympic gold-medalist high jumper Praveen Kumar.**
- The event also highlighted the significant contribution of India's para-athletes, who had a spectacular performance at the Paris Paralympics, bringing home 29 medals, including 7 golds and 9 silvers.
- The ceremony not only celebrated the athletes' achievements but also recognized the coaches and institutions that have contributed to their success.

#### **V. NARAYANAN TAKES OVER AS ISRO CHIEF AND SPACE SECRETARY -**

- Dr. V. Narayanan, a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion, has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **He will succeed S. Somanath, effective from January 14, 2025, as per the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Currently serving as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Dr. Narayanan brings a wealth of expertise in liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems.**
- His leadership has been instrumental in several landmark ISRO missions, including the development of the GSLV Mk III and Chandrayaan-3 propulsion systems.



# PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

## SAGARMALA 2.0 -

- The 4th National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) reviewed the Sagarmala Programme and discussed the roadmap for Sagarmala 2.0.



### Key Highlights 4th NSAC Meeting

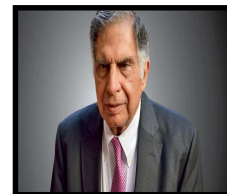
- It will be an upgraded version of the Sagarmala Programme with a new focus on shipbuilding, repair, breaking, and recycling.
- Announcement of ₹40,000 crore budgetary support to drive investments.
- Aligned with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV 2047) to position India among the top five shipbuilding nations globally.

## PUNJAB LAUNCHES 'PROJECT HIFAZAT' TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN AND CHILD SAFETY -

- In a significant move to enhance the safety and protection of women and children affected by violence, Punjab's Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister, Dr. Baljit Kaur, officially launched 'Project Hifazat' on Thursday, March 7, 2025.
- This initiative aims to provide immediate assistance to victims through an integrated 24x7 helpline, coordinated support from various departments, and on-ground response mechanisms.
- Addressing the launch event, Dr. Baljit Kaur emphasized the importance of empowering women to report crimes without fear. She urged the women of Punjab to save the emergency helpline number '181' on their mobile phones to seek help during distress situations.
- The project is a major step towards ensuring swift action against gender-based violence by integrating government agencies and providing seamless support.

## ASSAM NAMES ELECTRONICS CITY AFTER RATAN TATA -

- In a major decision recognizing Ratan Tata's contributions to Assam's development, the state cabinet has announced that the upcoming Electronics City in Jagoirad will be named Ratan Tata Electronic City.



- This move highlights the Tata Group's deep-rooted engagement in Assam's industrial and economic landscape. The announcement follows Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran's remarks at the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit (February 2025), where he emphasized Ratan Tata's strong connection with the state.
- The Tata Group has been instrumental in Assam's economic and technological progress, particularly in the semiconductor and electronics manufacturing sectors.

## PM SURYA GHAR SCHEME HITS 10 LAKH INSTALLATIONS -

- In a remarkable stride toward achieving energy self-reliance and environmental sustainability, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) has crossed a historic milestone of 10 lakh rooftop solar installations as of 10th March 2025.
- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th February 2024, this ambitious initiative aims to solarize 1 crore households by 2026-27, significantly reducing electricity costs and promoting clean energy adoption.
- With ₹4,770 crore in subsidies already disbursed to 6.13 lakh beneficiaries and 3 GW solar capacity installed, the scheme is accelerating India's transition to renewable energy while supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.





**GLOBAL GLACIER LOSS ACCELERATES: HINDU KUSH HIMALAYAS HIT HARDEST -**

- Glaciers across the world are retreating at an alarming rate, with the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region experiencing the most significant losses. A recent United Nations report, released on the World Day for Glaciers, highlights that glacier loss in the HKH region accelerated by 65% in 2011-2020 compared to the previous decade.
- This rapid melting poses severe risks to water resources, ecosystems, and communities dependent on glacier-fed rivers.

**INDIA'S FIRST FROZEN ZOO -**

- Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has launched India's first frozen zoo. This innovative facility aims to preserve the genetic material of endangered Himalayan species.
- In collaboration with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, the zoo will store DNA samples in liquid nitrogen at minus 196 degrees Celsius. This initiative seeks to protect species like red pandas and snow leopards from extinction.

**About Frozen Zoo**

- A frozen zoo is a type of genetic cryobank that safely stores DNA, sperm, eggs, and embryos from endangered animals.
- The main purpose is to protect their genetic variety.
- This helps species that are at risk of disappearing.
- The materials are kept at very low temperatures to keep them usable.

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT AIMS TO PROMOTE BANGUS VALLEY AS AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION. -**

- Bangus Valley is located near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

- It consists of two bowl-shaped valleys, known as Bodh Bangus (Big Bangus) and Lokut Bangus (Small Bangus).
- It is surrounded by Rajwar and Mawar Mountains in the east, Shamasbury and Dajlungun in the west, and Chowkibal and Karnah Guli in the north.
- The landscape includes grasslands at lower altitudes and dense coniferous forests (Taiga biome).
- It offers lush green meadows, low-lying mountains covered with dense forests, and a serene environment.

**WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG A23A RUNS AGROUND NEAR SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND -**

- The world's largest iceberg, A23a, has run aground near South Georgia, a remote British overseas territory known for its diverse wildlife. Scientists are closely monitoring the situation to understand its impact on local ecosystems.
- While the iceberg may disrupt wildlife feeding routes, it could also enhance ocean productivity by releasing nutrients as it melts. A23a, which broke off from Antarctica in 1986, has been drifting for decades and finally became lodged on the continental shelf near South Georgia.
- Scientists remain uncertain whether it will remain in place or move again due to oceanic conditions.

**INDIA'S FIRST RIVER DOLPHIN POPULATION SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS -**

- The first-ever comprehensive river dolphin population survey in India, conducted between 2021 and 2023, has revealed a total of 6,327 river dolphins in the country.
- The survey, covering the Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins and the Beas river, was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) along with state forest departments and several non-profit organizations.
- The findings were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife at Gir National Park.



- Total Dolphin Population: 6,327 (6,324 Gangetic dolphins + 3 Indus river dolphins).
- **Survey Conducted by:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII), state forest departments of Punjab, UP, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and organizations like Aaranyak, WWF, Turtle Survival Alliance, and Wildlife Trust of India.
- **Survey Duration:** 2021-2023
- **Total Distance Surveyed:** 8,406 km (Ganga & Brahmaputra basins) + 101 km (Beas river).
- **Project Dolphin:** Launched by PM Modi on August 15, 2020, to enhance conservation efforts.

#### **PM MODI INAUGURATES VANTARA, AN ANIMAL RESCUE AND CONSERVATION CENTRE IN GUJARAT -**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently inaugurated Vantara, an advanced animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation center in Gujarat's Jamnagar district. The event was attended by Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani**, his wife **Nita Ambani**, their son **Anant Ambani**, and daughter-in-law **Radhika Merchant**.
- During his visit, PM Modi explored the state-of-the-art facilities, interacted with rehabilitated animals, and observed medical procedures at the center's wildlife hospital. His visit emphasized the importance of wildlife conservation and India's efforts to protect endangered species.



#### **PM MODI ANNOUNCES ASIATIC LION POPULATION ESTIMATION -**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan, Junagadh, Gujarat.
- **The meeting, attended by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**



**Bhupender Yadav and other NBWL members, focused on critical wildlife conservation efforts, including the upcoming Asiatic lion population estimation and the launch of various conservation initiatives.**

#### **SONPRAYAG TO KEDARNATH ROPEWAY PROJECT: TRANSFORMING PILGRIMAGE CONNECTIVITY -**

- **The Government of India has approved the construction of a 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath under the National Ropeways Development Programme – Parvatmala Pariyojana.**



- This initiative aims to provide all-weather, last-mile connectivity to the revered Kedarnath Temple, significantly reducing travel time while boosting tourism and employment in the region.

#### **MADHAV NATIONAL PARK DECLARED AS INDIA'S 58TH TIGER RESERVE -**

- **In a significant step towards wildlife conservation, the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh has been officially declared as India's 58th Tiger Reserve on March 9, 2025.**
- The announcement was made by Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, marking another milestone in the country's ongoing efforts to protect and conserve its rich biodiversity.
- With this recognition, Madhya Pradesh now boasts nine tiger reserves, further solidifying its reputation as the 'Tiger State' of India.

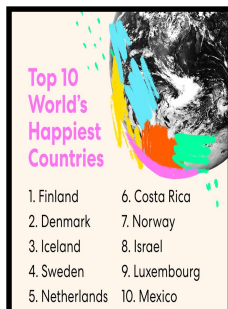




## REPORTS & INDICES

### WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2025 -

- The Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in partnership with Gallup, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) has published the World Happiness Report (WHR) 2025 on World Happiness Day (20th March).



#### Key Highlights of WHR 2025

- Happiest Countries:** Finland (8th consecutive year), followed by Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden.
- India's Ranking:** 118th (2025), 126th in 2024.
- South Asian Nations Ranking:** Nepal (92nd), Pakistan (109th), Myanmar (126th), Sri Lanka (133th), Bangladesh (134th).
- Bottom Countries:** Afghanistan (147th) (4th consecutive year). Others include Sierra Leone (146th), Lebanon (145th), Malawi (144th), and Zimbabwe (143rd).

### LIC RANKED WORLD'S 3RD STRONGEST INSURANCE BRAND -

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been ranked the third strongest insurance brand globally, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report.
- Poland-based PZU topped the rankings with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance in second place with 93.5. LIC also holds the 12th position in brand value among global insurers, while SBI Life ranks 76th, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.



### INDIAN DIGITAL ECONOMY RANKED 28TH ON USER SPENDING: REPORT -

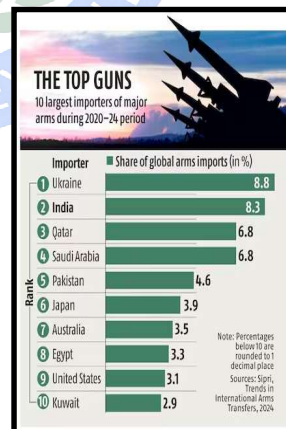
- The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)'s Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (CIDE) recently released the third edition of the 'State of India's Digital Economy 2025 report.
- The Digital Economy refers to economic activities driven by digital technologies, internet connectivity, and data-based services.
- Key Components of the Digital Economy:** Digital Infrastructure, E-Commerce & Online Services, Fintech & Digital Payments, Software & IT Services, etc.

### INDIA 2ND LARGEST ARMS IMPORTER: SIPRI -

- India's share of global arms imports fell to 8.3% in 2020-24, making it the 2nd-largest arms importer, after Ukraine, as per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report.

#### Key Findings of the Report on Arms Trade-

- India:** India's arms imports declined by 9.3% compared to 2015-19. Russia remained India's top supplier, but its share dropped from 72% (2010-14) to 36% (2020-24).
- France emerged as India's second-largest supplier (28% of its total exports went to India).
- India's Neighbors:** Pakistan's Arms Imports Grew by 61%. China supplied 81% of Pakistan's total arms imports.
- For the first time since 1990-94, China dropped out of the top 10 arms importers as its arms imports declined by 64%, reflecting a stronger domestic defense industry.



## TOP 10 LARGEST ARMS IMPORTING COUNTRIES (2020–2024): SIPRI REPORT -

- The latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has unveiled the top 10 largest arms-importing countries from 2020 to 2024.
- A key highlight of this report is the emergence of Ukraine as the world's largest arms importer, surpassing all other nations due to its ongoing war with Russia.
- Additionally, India continues to be a dominant player, ranking as the second-largest arms importer globally.



## CISF RAISING DAY 2025: HISTORY, SIGNIFICANCE, AND CELEBRATIONS -

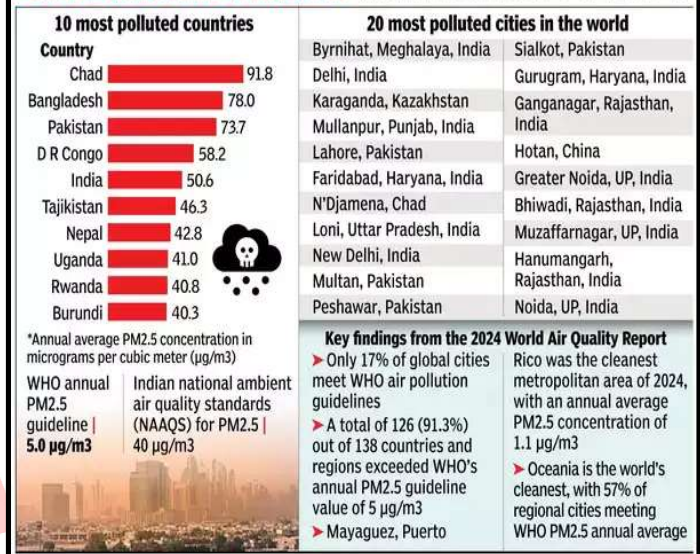
- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is observed annually on March 10 to honor the contributions of the CISF in safeguarding critical government and private sector infrastructure in India.
- In 2025, India celebrates the 56th CISF Raising Day, with a grand event held in Thakkolam, Tamil Nadu, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan, and CISF Director General Shri Rajvinder Singh Bhatti.

## THE WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT 2024, RELEASED BY SWISS COMPANY IQAIR, RANKED INDIA AS THE 5TH MOST POLLUTED COUNTRY GLOBALLY -

- India is the 5th most polluted country in 2024, improving slightly from 3rd place in 2023.
- Polluted Cities:** Delhi remains the most polluted capital globally with a Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 concentration of  $91.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (micrograms per cubic metre).
- 6 of the world's 10 most polluted cities and 13 of the top 20 are in India, with Byrnihat (Assam-Meghalaya border) topping the list at a PM2.5 concentration of  $128.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

- Other polluted cities include Mullanpur (Punjab), Gurugram, Faridabad, Bhiwadi, and Noida.

## LITTLE KNOWN BYRNIHAT WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED



- PM2.5 Reduction:** India saw a 7% decrease in PM2.5 levels, averaging  $50.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2024, down from  $54.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2023.
- However, this is still 10 times higher than the World Health Organization (WHO's) recommended safe limit of  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . 35% of Indian cities reported PM2.5 levels exceeding this limit.
- Pollution Sources:** Major contributors include vehicle emissions, industrial pollution, and the burning of biomass.
- Northern India faced extreme pollution levels with crop stubble-burning contributing to 60% of PM2.5 levels.

## A WORLD BANK REPORT TITLED "BECOMING A HIGH-INCOME ECONOMY IN A GENERATION" HIGHLIGHTS THAT INDIA MUST ACHIEVE AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 7.8% OVER THE NEXT 22 YEARS TO REACH HIGH-INCOME COUNTRY (HIC) STATUS BY 2047 -

- The report stresses that ambitious reforms and their effective implementation will be necessary to meet this goal.

**Key Highlights of the Report on Becoming a High-Income Economy-**

- India's Economic Journey: India's share in the global economy has doubled from 1.6% in 2000 to 3.4% in 2023, making it the 5th largest economy in the world.
- For two decades before the pandemic, India's economy grew at an average annual rate of 6.7%, second only to China among major economies.
- **2047 High-Income Economy Goal:** India aspires to become a HIC by 2047.
- To achieve this, its gross national income (GNI) per capita would have to increase by nearly 8 times from USD 2,540 in 2023 (currently India is in lower-middle-income category).
- In 2023, the World Bank classified countries with GNI per capita above USD 14,005 as high income and those between USD 4,516– USD 14,005 as upper middle income.

**AMUL RANKED AS THE 3RD MOST VALUED BRAND IN INDIA – YOGOV INDIA VALUE RANKINGS 2025 -**

- Amul, India's leading dairy cooperative, has secured the third position in the prestigious YouGov India Value Rankings 2025, making it the only FMCG brand in the top three.
- **It stands alongside Amazon and Flipkart, reflecting its widespread consumer trust and value-for-money proposition.**
- This achievement highlights the strength of Amul's cooperative model, ensuring fair pricing for farmers and delivering high-quality, affordable dairy products to Indian households.

**INDIA THE SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY IN FISH PRODUCTION -**

- India became the second largest fish producer due to strong financial and technical support provided to farmers by the current government.

- The fisheries sector is an important part of India's economy. It plays a key role in food security, providing employment, and earning export revenue.
- India has a long coastline, large inland water resources, and diverse aquatic ecosystems.
- **These resources make India one of the top fish producers in the world. Fisheries in India have grown from traditional practices to a more organized and modern industry.**
- It includes marine fishing, inland fishing, and aquaculture.

**INDIA AIMS FOR TOP 25 IN GLOBAL LOGISTICS BY 2030 -**

- India is set to strengthen its logistics sector through initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy, aiming to enter the top 25 of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2030.
- Currently ranked 38th out of 139 nations, India is witnessing rapid infrastructure development, multi-modal transformation, and policy-driven logistics advancements.
- **With an expected market size of \$484.43 billion by 2029, the government aims to reduce logistics costs from 13-14% of GDP to single digits. The study, released ahead of LogiMAT India 2025, emphasizes the role of advanced technologies and public-private partnerships in positioning India as a global logistics hub.**





## DEFENCE

### INDIA'S INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS -

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has informed a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence that several critical issues must be addressed before implementing integrated theatre commands (ITCs).
- **This comes as part of the MoD's declaration of 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'.**

#### What is Integrated Theatre Command-

- An ITC is a unified structure where assets from the Army, Navy, and Air Force operate under a single commander for a specific geographical area.
- This ensures better coordination, faster decision-making, and improved combat effectiveness.
- ITCs will mitigate the shortcomings of single-service operations and integrate emerging war-fighting capabilities, such as cyber and space warfare.
- **Key Committee Recommendations:** The Kargil Review Committee, 1999 recommended creation of integrated theatre commands and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to improve joint operations and address coordination failures during the Kargil War.
- **The Shekatkar Committee, 2016 proposed three integrated theatre commands (Western, Northern, and Southern) to enhance tri-service synergy and resource efficiency.**

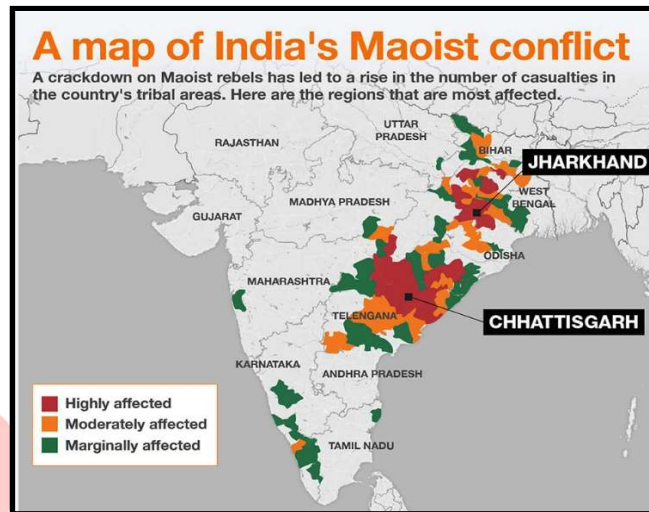
### INDIA'S STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE NAXALISM -

- The Union Home Minister announced that the central government is aggressively working towards a Naxal-free India, setting a target to eliminate Naxalism by 31st March 2026, ensuring that no citizen has to lose their life because of it.

#### What is India's Strategy to Eliminate Naxalism-

- **Development Programs:** Under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Police and Public Order fall under the jurisdiction of state governments.

- However, to combat Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), the National Policy and Action Plan to Address LWE, 2015 was adopted, implementing a multi-pronged approach that combines security measures, development initiatives, and community rights protection.



- Road Connectivity Project for LWE-Affected Areas under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana II enhances road connectivity to improve access to remote areas and facilitate security operations.
- **ROSHNI Scheme** focuses on training and employment opportunities for rural youth in LWE-affected districts.

### INS TAMAL -

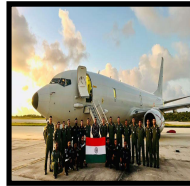
- INS Tamal commissioning in June 2025 will be a significant milestone in India's naval self-reliance.
- **INS Tamal**
- INS tamal is a state-of-the-art stealth guided missile frigate equipped with stealth technology to minimize radar detection.
- **Krivak-III Class Upgrade :** It is an enhanced version of the Russian-designed Krivak-class frigates.



- **India-Russia Defense Collaboration:** It is part of a \$2.5 billion agreement for four stealth frigates; two constructed in Russia, two at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- **Final Imported Warship :** After INS Tamal, all future Indian warships will be designed and built domestically.
- **INS Tushil Precedent :** The first of this class, INS Tushil, was commissioned in December 2024.
- **Built at Yantar Shipyard :** Constructed in Russia, following the previous Krivak-class models.

#### SEA DRAGON 2025 -

- The Sea Dragon 2025 naval exercise is multilateral drill focusing on anti-submarine warfare. It commenced on March 4, 2025, off the coast of Guam, hosted by the United States Navy's 7th Fleet.
- This exercise involves key naval forces from the United States, Japan, Australia, and South Korea. It aims to enhance coordination in maritime security operations in the Indo-Pacific region.



#### INDIA'S SECOND STEALTH FRIGATE TAVASYA -

- India celebrated advancement in its naval capabilities with the launch of the stealth frigate 'Tavasya' on March 22, 2025. This event, held at Goa Shipyard Limited, marks a very important moment in India's indigenous shipbuilding journey.
- The launch was officiated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, denoting India's commitment to self-reliance in defence.



#### Project 1135.6 series

- 'Tavasya' is the second vessel in the Project 1135.6 series, also known as the Talwar-class frigates. This project stems from a collaboration between India and Russia, originally based on the Krivak III-class design.

- The first ships were built in Russia, but the follow-on vessels are now constructed in India, showcasing the country's growing self-sufficiency in defence production.

#### SAAB & HAL JOIN FORCES FOR ADVANCED LASER WARNING SYSTEM IN INDIA -

- Swedish defence firm Saab has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collaborate on the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310).



- The agreement, signed on February 13, 2025, focuses on strengthening India's defence sector by allowing HAL to manufacture the advanced laser warning system domestically.
- This move aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative and aims to enhance self-reliance in critical defence technology.

#### TROPEX-25: SHOWCASING INDIA'S MARITIME POWER AND JOINT MILITARY READINESS -

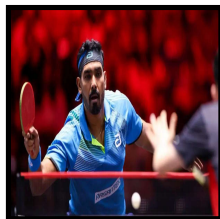
- TROPEX-25, or the Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise 2025, is one of the most significant military exercises conducted by India, with the Indian Navy at its core.
- This biennial exercise is designed to showcase jointness among the armed forces, demonstrate India's ability to address challenges, and project power in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Held in January 2025, TROPEX-25 underscores India's evolving military doctrine, emphasizing integrated operations, fleet coordination, and rapid response capabilities.



## SPORTS

### SHARATH KAMAL TO RETIRE FROM TABLE TENNIS -

- India's legendary table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal has announced his retirement from professional table tennis. His farewell tournament will be the WTT Star Contender event, scheduled to take place at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai from March 25 to 30, 2025.



- The 42-year-old, 10-time National Champion and five-time Olympian has had a remarkable career, earning widespread recognition for his achievements at the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and Olympics.

### GULMARG GEARS UP FOR KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES 2025 AFTER HEAVY SNOWFALL -

- The famous ski resort of Gulmarg, located in Jammu and Kashmir, is all set to host the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 from March 9 to 12.
- The much-awaited event was earlier scheduled from February 22 to 25, but due to a lack of snow, it had to be postponed.
- With fresh moderate to heavy snowfall in the region, the sports council has confirmed that Gulmarg is now ready to host the competition.

### KABADDI WORLD CUP 2025 BEGINS IN ENGLAND -

- The much-anticipated Kabaddi World Cup 2025 is set to commence in England this evening, marking a historic milestone as the tournament is being hosted outside Asia for the first time.
- The Indian men's team will begin their journey against Italy at Wolverhampton in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom.

- The tournament will span seven days, featuring over 60 matches across multiple venues, including Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Wolverhampton.

### AYUSHMANN KHURRANA NAMED 'FIT INDIA ICON' BY UNION SPORTS MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA -

- Renowned Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been officially named as the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- The announcement was made during the inaugural ceremony of the Fit India Movement in New Delhi.
- With this, the 40-year-old actor has joined hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement, which aims to inspire citizens to prioritize their health and well-being.



### 38TH NATIONAL GAMES 2025 CONCLUDES WITH GRAND CEREMONY -

- The 38th National Games 2025 came to a grand conclusion in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, marking the end of an event that showcased India's growing sports culture.
- Hosted from January 28 to February 14, 2025, the Games emphasized sustainability under the theme 'Green Games', with initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact. The event saw participation from over 10,000 athletes across 35 sports disciplines, making it one of the biggest sporting events in India.

### SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST INAUGURAL OLYMPIC ESPORTS GAMES 2027 -

- In July 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made a groundbreaking decision to introduce the Olympic Esports Games, marking a significant step in bridging the gap between esports and traditional sports. In this historic



move, Saudi Arabia has been selected to host the first-ever Olympic Esports Games in 2027.

- The IOC has partnered with the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee (SOPC) to bring this vision to life, and the Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF) has been named as the Founding Partner of the event. This collaboration aims to innovate esports, expand opportunities for global players, and create a lasting impact on the gaming industry.

### INDIA TO HOST FIDE CHESS WORLD CUP 2025 -

- The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 27, 2025. This tournament is of paramount importance as it features a knockout format with over 200 players from around the world. It also serves as a vital gateway to the Candidates Tournament, offering three qualification spots.
- These spots are highly coveted as the Candidates Tournament determines who will challenge the reigning World Chess Champion.
- Originally, FIDE, the international chess governing body, had listed India as the host nation in its 2025 calendar. However, the announcement was retracted on Monday, with a "to be announced" status replacing it.



### DJOKOVIC BREAKS FEDERER'S RECORD FOR GRAND SLAM MATCH COUNT -

- Novak Djokovic, one of tennis' greatest players, added another milestone to his illustrious career on January 17, 2025, by breaking a tie with Roger Federer for the most Grand Slam matches played in tennis history.
- The Serbian tennis star achieved his 430th Grand Slam match during the second round of the Australian Open, where he won a challenging match against Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria. This victory added to Djokovic's growing list of records, highlighting his unparalleled success in tennis.

### INDIA WINS INAUGURAL KHO KHO WORLD CUP 2025 -

- India emerged as the champions of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025, clinching both the men's and women's Kho Kho World champions titles by defeating Nepal in the finals.
- **Kho Kho World Cup 2025:** The tournament was backed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), it included group stages and knockouts for both divisions (men's and women's).
- **Kho Kho's Historical Significance:** It is one of India's oldest traditional tag games, believed to have evolved from the Chakravyuha, a war formation in the Mahabharata, resembling a defensive tactic similar to Kho Kho's ring play.
- Experts believe that Kho Kho originated in Maharashtra, and was initially played on chariots. The modern foot version emerged in 1914 during World War I, with Pune's Deccan Gymkhana Club formalizing its rules and structure.
- A Kho Kho team consists of 9 active players, with 3 substitutes available. Players alternate between chasing, defending, and tagging opponents.

### KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES 2025 LEH AND GULMARG ANNOUNCED AS HOSTS

- The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) have emerged as a premier event in India's sporting calendar, promoting winter sports and identifying talent for international competitions.
- The 2025 edition promises to continue this tradition with thrilling ice and snow events hosted in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. With a strong emphasis on fostering young talent and promoting winter sports culture, the KIWG serves as a vital platform for aspiring athletes, especially from remote Himalayan regions.
- **Ladakh (Ice Events):** January 23 to 27, 2025.
- **Jammu & Kashmir (Snow Events):** February 22 to 25, 2025.

## IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. What is the primary function of sonic weapons, that were recently mentioned in news ?  
a) To deliver loud, painful sounds over long distances  
b) To enhance communication between soldiers  
c) To generate electromagnetic pulses  
d) To detect enemy submarines
- Q2. Which city has become home to India's first PPP-model based green waste processing plant ?  
a) Varanasi  
b) New Delhi  
c) Indore  
d) Chennai
- Q3. Where is the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) located ?  
a) Geneva, Switzerland  
b) New York, USA  
c) Vienna, Austria  
d) Paris, France
- Q4. Assertion (A): The Supreme Court of India ruled that both the right to development and the right to a clean environment are fundamental rights.  
Reason (R): The Indian Constitution explicitly mentions the right to development as a fundamental right under Part III.  
Which one of the following is correct?  
a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.  
d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
- Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Five Eyes alliance:  
1. This alliance started as an agreement between America and Britain during the Second World War.  
2. It included Canada in 1948 and Australia and New Zealand in 1956.  
3. Its main objective was to promote trade and economic cooperation.
4. After 9/11, its scope expanded to counter-terrorism and cyber security.  
Choose the correct answer:  
a) Only 1 and 2 are correct.  
b) Only 1, 2 and 4 are correct.  
c) Only 3 and 4 are correct.  
d) All are correct.
- Q6. Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme has been introduced by which state government ?  
a) Maharashtra  
b) Telangana  
c) Gujarat  
d) Rajasthan
- Q7. Which organization has developed high-speed microprocessors Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201 for space missions ?  
a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)  
b) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)  
c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
d) BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)
- Q8. The Maharashtra government inaugurated the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's first temple in which district ?  
a) Wardha  
b) Thane  
c) Satara  
d) Latur
- Q9. Which countries are included in the member countries of Five Eyes alliance ?  
1. US  
2. UK  
3. Russia  
4. Canada  
5. Australia  
6. New Zealand  
Choose the correct answer:  
a) Only 1, 2 and 4  
b) Only 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6  
c) Only 1, 3, 4 and 5  
d) All countries are included

- Q10. What is the main objective of PM Yuva 3.0 (PM-YUVA 3.0) initiative ?  
a) To promote research in the field of science and technology only  
b) To empower young writers under the age of 30 and present Indian literature globally  
c) To encourage translation of ancient Indian texts only  
d) To conduct programs to promote sports and fitness
- Q11. Who is the current Prime Minister of New Zealand who visited India in March 2025 ?  
a) Jacinda Ardern  
b) Bill English  
c) John Key  
d) Christopher Luxon
- Q12. How many days did Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams actually spend on the ISS ?  
a) 150 days  
b) 286 days  
c) 200 days  
d) 365 days
- Q13. What key features does the UIDAI-Sarvam AI partnership introduce to Aadhaar services ?  
a) Blockchain-based security and free Aadhaar updates  
b) AI-powered voice interactions, real-time fraud detection, and multilingual support  
c) Free Aadhaar-linked credit scores and insurance  
d) Augmented reality-based Aadhaar verification
- Q14. Consider the following statements regarding tiger conservation in India:  
1. Madhav National Park has been designated as India's 58th tiger reserve, strengthening the Ranthambore-Kuno-Madhav tiger corridor.  
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in 1973 as part of Project Tiger.  
3. The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) was launched by the United Nations to support tiger conservation efforts globally.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q15. Consider the following statements regarding free speech in India:  
1. India ranked 24th out of 33 countries in the Free Speech Index by The Future of Free Speech think tank.  
2. A majority of Indians support unrestricted free speech without government interference.  
3. Compared to other democracies like the U.K. and Denmark, India has a lower percentage of citizens who support government restrictions on criticism.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q16. Which state has become the first state in India to broadcast legislative assembly proceedings in sign language ?  
a) Punjab  
b) Uttar Pradesh  
c) Maharashtra  
d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q17. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) operates under which ministry ?  
a) Ministry of Labour and Employment  
b) Ministry of Finance  
c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Q18. The government has announced the establishment of North India's first nuclear power project in which state ?  
a) Haryana  
b) Gujarat  
c) Maharashtra  
d) Rajasthan
- Q19. Consider the following statements regarding the World Happiness Report 2025:  
1. The report is published only by the United Nations, without any partnership with other organizations.  
2. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country for the seventh consecutive year.  
3. The rankings in the report are based on six key factors, including GDP per capita and perception of corruption.  
How many of the above statements are correct ?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None



Q20. Match the following indigenous defence equipment with their respective functions:

Defence Equipment	Function
1. ATAGS	Heavy artillery gun system
2. Varunastra	Anti-submarine torpedo
3. AEW & C Aircraft	Early warning and surveillance

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

- a) Only 1                      b) Only 2  
c) All three                 d) None

Q21. How many ponds per district are targeted for construction and rejuvenation under Mission Amrit Sarovar ?

- a) 75                              b) 50  
c) 25                             d) 100

Q22. What is the primary reason cited for replacing the Indian Rupee symbol in the Tamil Nadu budget logo?

- a) To align with digital currency adoption  
b) As a form of cultural assertion  
c) To comply with RBI regulations  
d) To promote tourism in Tamil Nadu

Q23. Which edition of the Khelo India Winter Games was held in 2025 ?

- a) 3rd  
b) 5th  
c) 4th  
d) 6th

Q24. Consider the following statements regarding Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and its functions:

- SIPRI is an intergovernmental organization under the United Nations that tracks global arms transfers and military expenditure.
- SIPRI publishes the “Trends in International Arms Transfers” report, which provides an analysis of major arms exporters and importers.
- SIPRI’s research focuses solely on arms trade and does not include nuclear disarmament or geopolitical conflicts.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None

Q25. Which of the following statements best explains why INS Imphal is considered a significant advancement in India’s naval capabilities ?

- a) It is the first Indian warship to be powered entirely by nuclear propulsion.  
b) It is India’s first warship to be capable of deploying supersonic cruise missiles.  
c) It has been designed with stealth features to reduce radar cross-section.  
d) It is India’s first aircraft carrier capable of operating fifth-generation fighter jets.

Q26. Which ministry has launched the IndiaAI compute portal and dataset platform AIKosha ?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
c) Ministry of Communications  
d) Ministry of Science and Technology

Q27. The term “Doubtful voter” or “D-voter” has been primarily used in which northeastern state ?

- a) Assam  
b) Manipur  
c) Nagaland  
d) Tripura

Q28. Where was the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 organized ?

- a) Mumbai  
b) New Delhi  
c) Chennai  
d) Hyderabad

Q29. Consider the following statements about AI Kosha:

1. AI Kosha is a platform launched by the Indian government to provide access to crucial datasets, computing resources, and tools for AI application development.
2. AI Kosha offers access to over 14,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) for shared use.
3. The cost of using GPUs on AI Kosha is set at Rs 100 per hour.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only 1 and 2  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1  
d) All of the above

- Q30. Consider the following statements with reference to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):
1. It has been launched to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
  2. It is the world's largest health assurance scheme fully financed by the government, and the cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments.
  3. It is only applicable to the people aged 60 and above.
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only
  - d) 1, 2 and 3
- Q31. Which of the following countries are a member of the Five Eyes Alliance ?
- a) Russia, Ukraine, Australia, India and Myanmar
  - b) United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
  - c) China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar
  - d) Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, Russia and China
- Q32. National Vaccination Day is observed on which day?
- a) March 15
  - b) March 16
  - c) March 17
  - d) March 18
- Q33. Low-level Transportable Radar, LLTR (Ashwini) is jointly developed by which organizations ?
- a) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
  - b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
  - c) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Ministry of Defence
  - d) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- Q34. What is the primary purpose of the recall guidelines announced by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) ?
- a) To regulate the pricing of pharmaceutical drugs
  - b) To promote international trade of Indian drugs
  - c) To improve the manufacturing process of drugs
  - d) To ensure quick removal of drugs that fail testing from the
- Q35. Which of the following best explains why Starlink's satellite broadband is considered superior to traditional internet services ?
- a) Starlink's satellites orbit in geostationary orbit (GEO), allowing seamless global coverage.
  - b) It eliminates the need for ground stations, making it completely independent of terrestrial infrastructure.
  - c) Starlink uses a low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, reducing latency compared to traditional satellite internet.
  - d) It operates using fiber-optic communication in space, ensuring higher speeds than terrestrial broadband.
- Q36. Which key economic indicator is adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to provide a more accurate comparison of living standards ?
- a) Inflation Rate
  - b) Unemployment Rate
  - c) GDP Growth Rate
  - d) GDP per Capita
- Q37. Who has been appointed as the 11th President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) ?
- a) Haruhiko Kuroda
  - b) Masatsugu Asakawa
  - c) Masato Kanda
  - d) Taro Aso
- Q38. What is the tenure period for which Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as SEBI Chairman ?
- a) Two years
  - b) Three years
  - c) Four years
  - d) Five years
- Q39. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the President of India in appointing the Chief Justice of India (CJI):
- The President can appoint the Chief Justice of India on the advice of the Prime Minister.
  - The President can reject the recommendation of the outgoing CJI for any reason.
  - The President appoints the CJI based on the Memorandum of Procedure, which is a guideline document.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) 3 only
  - b) 1 and 3 only
  - c) 2 and 3 only
  - d) 1, 2 and 3

- Q40. Consider the following statements about the Mekong River:
- The Mekong River is the longest river in Asia.
  - The Mekong River originates from the Tibetan Plateau and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
  - The entire length of the Mekong River is navigable year-round for large vessels.
- How many of the above statements is/are incorrect ?
- a) Only one                      b) Only two  
c) All three                      d) None
- Q41. The Mahila Samridhi Yojana has been launched by which state/UT government ?
- a) Delhi  
b) Uttarakhand  
c) Jammu and Kashmir  
d) Bihar
- Q42. Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2025 report has been published by which institution ?
- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)  
b) Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)  
c) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Q43. Which ministry has launched the IndiaAI compute portal and dataset platform AIKosha ?
- a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
c) Ministry of Communications  
d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- Q44. Consider the following statements with reference to tiger conservation efforts in India:
1. Project Tiger was launched in 1973 by the Government of India to protect the endangered Bengal tigers.
  2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that provides financial assistance to state governments.
  3. India currently has 58 tiger reserves, covering about 2.3% of the country's total land area.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) 1 and 3 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 2  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q45. Consider the following statements about the Ganges Water Treaty:
1. The Ganges Water Treaty, signed in 1996, ensures equitable water distribution from the Ganges River between India and Bangladesh.
  2. The treaty will expire in 2026, and discussions are already underway to address its renewal.
  3. The Joint River Commission (JRC), established in 1972, only manages the Ganges River between India and Bangladesh.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1                              d) 1 and 3
- Q46. Which ministry has launched Swavalambini initiative to promote women entrepreneurship in India ?
- a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
b) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
c) Ministry of Finance  
d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Q47. Manikaran pilgrimage site, which was seen in news, lies in which state ?
- a) Punjab                              b) Uttarakhand  
c) Haryana                              d) Himachal Pradesh
- Q48. Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
- a) Maharashtra  
b) Uttar Pradesh  
c) Madhya Pradesh  
d) Gujarat
- Q49. Consider the following statements:
1. Recently, 30th International mother language day was observed at UNESCO head quarter in Paris.
  2. International mother language day observed each years on 21 February.
  3. The first international mother language day was celebrated February 21, 2000.
- How many statements are correct ?
- a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None



- Q50. What is India's ranking in the global digital economy?  
a) 1st                                      b) 3rd  
c) 10th                                     d) 28th
- Q51. Recently, the United States President Trump announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2, 2025. Which of the following countries did Trump criticize for imposing high tariffs on US goods ?  
a) China and India  
b) Brazil and South Korea  
c) European Union  
d) All of the above
- Q52. What is the total budget allocated for the Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib ropeway projects in Uttarakhand?  
a) ₹5,000 crore                              b) ₹6,811 crore  
c) ₹7,500 crore                              d) ₹4,200 crore
- Q53. What is the name of the world's largest iceberg ?  
a) B15                                      b) A68a  
c) A23a                                     d) D28
- Q54. Consider the following statements about the United Nations (UN) and its structure:  
• The UN was established after World War I, with collective security and peacekeeping as some of its founding principles.  
• The General Assembly is the primary policymaking body of the UN, while the UNSC is responsible for peace and security.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only                                      b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2                              d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Q55. Consider the following statements.  
• The Dharma Guardian exercise is a joint military exercise between the armies of India and Japan.  
• The Malabar exercise, which involves the navies of India and Japan, also includes other Quad nations.  
• Veer Guardian is a military exercise conducted between the naval forces of India and Japan.  
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) Only one                                      b) Only two  
c) All three                                     d) None
- Q56. Which of the following is a wildlife sanctuary located in Delhi?  
a) Ranthambore National Park  
b) Kaziranga National Park  
c) Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary  
d) Jim Corbett National Park
- Q57. Where was the ICC Champions Trophy final between India and New Zealand played ?  
a) Melbourne Cricket Ground  
b) Lord's Cricket Ground  
c) Eden Gardens, Kolkata  
d) Dubai International Cricket Stadium
- Q58. What is the name of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise in 2025 ?  
a) Garuda Shakti  
b) Khanjar-XII  
c) Vajra Prahar  
d) Nomadic Elephant
- Q59. Which of the following best describes the concept of Reciprocal Tariffs in international trade ?  
a) A trade policy where a country imposes tariffs equal to the tariff rates imposed by other nations on its exports.  
b) A World Trade Organization (WTO) principle mandating member countries to charge the same tariffs on all trading partners.  
c) A protectionist policy that only applies to agricultural products, preventing excessive subsidies in global markets.  
d) A system where countries agree to reduce tariff rates in a mutual exchange, known as Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs).
- Q60. Consider the following statements regarding D Voters and their legal challenges:  
• Once a person is declared a D Voter, they permanently lose their right to apply for Indian citizenship.  
• D Voters are allowed to contest elections but cannot cast votes until their status is resolved.  
• The Election Commission of India (ECI) is the final authority in deciding the citizenship status of a D Voter.  
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None

- Q61. Which ministry has launched the third edition of the PM-YUVA scheme ?  
a) Ministry of Culture  
b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
c) Ministry of Education  
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q62. According to the 2024 World Air Quality Report, what is the rank of India for air pollution ?  
a) First  
b) Second  
c) Third  
d) Fifth
- Q63. The Kuki tribe is primary found in which region of India ?  
a) Northeastern India  
b) South India  
c) Western Ghats  
d) Ladakh
- Q64. Which of the following best explains the primary objective of Mission Amrit Sarovar ?  
a) To develop large-scale reservoirs for hydroelectric projects in Himalayan states.  
b) To construct and rejuvenate ponds across India for water conservation and groundwater recharge.  
c) To create artificial lakes in urban areas to promote tourism and biodiversity conservation.  
d) To expand irrigation networks by linking major rivers through inter-basin water transfer.
- Q65. Which of the following best explains why Starlink's satellite broadband is considered superior to traditional internet services ?  
a) Starlink's satellites orbit in geostationary orbit (GEO), allowing seamless global coverage.  
b) It eliminates the need for ground stations, making it completely independent of terrestrial infrastructure.  
c) Starlink uses a low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, reducing latency compared to traditional satellite internet.  
d) It operates using fiber-optic communication in space, ensuring higher speeds than terrestrial broadband.
- Q66. Which ministry has announced the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3) initiative ?  
a) Ministry of Science and Technology  
b) Ministry of Environment  
c) Ministry of Finance  
d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Q67. When did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announce the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes ?  
a) January 1, 2023  
b) May 19, 2023  
c) October 7, 2023  
d) December 31, 2023
- Q68. What is the name of the initiative launched to standardize and streamline port operations across India ?  
a) Smart Port India Mission  
b) National Maritime Vision 2047  
c) One Nation: One Port Process  
d) Sagarmala 2.0
- Q69. Consider the following statements with reference to Delimitation:  
1. Delimitation is the process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies in India.  
2. Delimitation is done after each Census to adjust the number of seats in Parliament and state Assemblies based on changes in population.  
3. The goal of delimitation is to ensure equal representation, so each constituency has roughly the same population size.  
How many statements are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q70. Under Section 8(1) of the Representation of the People Act of 1951, which of the following offences can lead to disqualification of an MP.  
• Promoting enmity between two groups  
• Bribery  
• Undue influence or personation at an election  
• Defamation  
How many of the above options is/are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- Q71. Which of the following national parks is located in Assam?  
a) Jim Corbett National Park  
b) Kaziranga National Park  
c) Valley of Flowers National Park  
d) Gir National Park

- Q72. How many total river dolphins were recorded in India's first-ever comprehensive dolphin survey (2021–2023) ?  
a) 5,214  
b) 6,327  
c) 7,109  
d) 4,982
- Q73. Where was the Vantara Animal Rescue, Conservation, and Rehabilitation Center inaugurated ?  
a) Pune, Maharashtra  
b) Jamnagar, Gujarat  
c) Jaipur, Rajasthan  
d) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Q74. How does Article 22(3) of the Indian Constitution affect the rights of individuals under preventive detention ?  
a) It limits preventive detention to a maximum of 24 hours  
b) It mandates immediate judicial review of preventive detention cases  
c) It exempts preventive detention from the protections of Article 22(1) and 22(2)  
d) It grants additional rights to those under preventive detention
- Q75. Which of the following is a feature of the loans provided under the PM Mudra Yojana ?  
a) Loans are collateral-free  
b) Loans require government guarantees  
c) Loans are only available to established businesses  
d) Loans are interest-free
- Q76. How much has the DAC approved for military modernization proposals ?  
a) ₹30,000 crore  
b) ₹45,000 crore  
c) ₹54,000 crore  
d) ₹60,000 crore
- Q77. When is World Water Day observed annually ?  
a) March 20  
b) March 21  
c) March 22  
d) April 7
- Q78. Which two nuclear power projects are being developed under India's nuclear energy initiatives ?  
a) Kudankulam and Tarapur  
b) Jaitapur and Gorakhpur  
c) Kaiga and Kalpakkam  
d) Narora and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station
- Q79. Consider the following statements regarding the Geography of Mongolia:  
1. Mongolia is a landlocked country situated between China and Kazakhstan.  
2. The Altai Mountains stretch across western Mongolia, forming a natural border with Russia.  
3. The Gobi Desert, one of the world's largest deserts, covers a significant part of southern Mongolia.  
How many of the above statements are correct ?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q80. Consider the following statements regarding the APAAR ID:  
1. It provides a unique digital identity for students to store their academic records.  
2. It is linked to Aadhaar and stored in DigiLocker for easy access.  
3. The registration for APAAR ID is completely mandatory for all students across India.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 3  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q81. According to the 2024 World Air Quality Report, what is the rank of India for air pollution ?  
a) First  
b) Second  
c) Third  
d) Fifth
- Q82. What is the main objective of the "RBI Kehta Hai" campaign ?  
a) Promoting cashless transactions  
b) Educating people about cryptocurrency investments  
c) Encouraging citizens to open bank accounts  
d) Promoting safe banking practices through multi-media channels



- Q83. Recently, Bharti Airtel Partners with SpaceX to Bring Starlink Internet to India. Which ministry in India is reviewing SpaceX's application for Starlink authorization ?
- Ministry of Communications
  - Ministry of Science and Technology
  - Ministry of Electronics and IT
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q84. Consider the following statements regarding the differences between cheetahs, leopards, and jaguars:
- Cheetahs have solid black spots, while leopards and jaguars have rosettes.
  - Jaguars have a stronger bite force compared to cheetahs and leopards, enabling them to crush the skulls of their prey.
  - Leopards have a relatively larger head compared to cheetahs and jaguars.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct ?
- 1 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
- Q85. Consider the following statements regarding Project Tiger and Tiger Reserves in India:
- All Tiger Reserves in India are legally designated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
  - The buffer zone of a Tiger Reserve allows regulated human activities for livelihood and conservation purposes.
  - The NTCA is empowered to disband a Tiger Reserve if it fails to maintain minimum tiger population thresholds.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- Only one
  - Only two
  - All three
  - None
- Q86. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) functions under which ministry ?
- Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
  - Ministry of Defence
  - Ministry of Tourism
- Q87. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in February 2025 ?
- Tuhin Kanta Pandey
  - Mani Shankar
  - Jitendra Kumar
  - Balbeer Singh
- Q88. What is the name of India's first indigenously developed air-launched anti-ship missile system recently tested by DRDO ?
- BrahMos-NG
  - Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR)
  - Nirbhay
  - Varunastra
- Q89. Consider the following statements regarding India's Aditya-L1 mission:
- Aditya-L1 is India's first solar mission, launched by ISRO on September 2, 2023.
  - Recently, The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) on Aditya-L1 captured the solar flare, known as a 'kernel', in the photosphere and chromosphere of the Sun.
  - Aditya-L1 is positioned at Lagrange Point 2 (L2), which offers a stable position for uninterrupted solar observation.
- How many statements are correct ?
- Only 1
  - Only 2
  - All three
  - None
- Q90. Consider the following statements regarding the National Education Policy 2020:
- NEP 2020 retains the three-language formula, with greater flexibility.
  - The policy mandates that the three languages must include English, Hindi, and the local regional language.
- Which of the above statements are correct ?
- Only 1
  - Only 2
  - Both
  - None
- Q91. Which organization has developed high-speed microprocessors Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201 for space missions ?
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
  - DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)
  - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
  - BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)

- Q92. The Maharashtra government inaugurated the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's first temple in which district ?  
a) Wardha  
b) Thane  
c) Satara  
d) Latur
- Q93. Kanger Valley National Park is located in which state?  
a) Tamil Nadu  
b) Rajasthan  
c) Kerala  
d) Chhattisgarh
- Q94. The Nagorno-Karabakh region is internationally recognized as a part of which country ?  
a) Armenia  
b) Azerbaijan  
c) Russia  
d) An independent entity recognized by the United Nations
- Q95. Consider the following statements regarding the importance of Aditya-L1's position at Lagrange Point 1 (L1):  
Statement-I: L1 allows Aditya-L1 to continuously observe the Sun without any interruptions from Earth's shadow.  
Statement-II: L1 is located within Earth's magnetosphere, which protects the spacecraft from solar radiation.  
Which one of the following is correct ?  
a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.  
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.  
c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.  
d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.
- Q96. Which institution administers the Abel Prize ?  
a) Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences  
b) Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters  
c) International Mathematical Union (IMU)  
d) Fields Institute
- Q97. What is the name of the Indian Army's Tri-Service integrated multi-domain warfare exercise conducted in March 2025 ?  
a) Vayu Shakti  
b) Prachand Prahaar  
c) Yudh Abhyas  
d) Mitra Shakti
- Q98. What was India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) in Q3 FY25 (Oct-Dec 2024) ?  
a) \$8.2 billion  
b) \$9.6 billion  
c) \$11.5 billion  
d) \$14.3 billion
- Q99. Which of the following best explains why Myanmar is prone to frequent and intense earthquakes ?  
a) It lies entirely on a stable continental shield.  
b) It is located near the triple junction of the African, Eurasian, and Pacific plates.  
c) It is traversed by an active strike-slip fault resulting from Indian-Eurasian plate interaction.  
d) It experiences earthquakes due to extensive volcanic activity across its terrain.
- Q100. Which of the following best explains why photonic chips are considered superior for future technologies like 6G and quantum computing ?  
a) They require no electricity for operation  
b) They rely solely on quantum bits (qubits) instead of classical bits  
c) They offer ultra-high data transfer speeds and minimal heat generation  
d) They can only be used in space applications
- Q101. The Sarhul Festival is mainly celebrated in which state?  
a) Gujarat  
b) Jharkhand  
c) Karnataka  
d) Mizoram
- Q102. What is the name of operation recently launched by India in response to the 2025 Myanmar earthquake ?  
a) Operation Sadbhav  
b) Operation Brahma  
c) Operation Karuna  
d) Operation Setu

- Q103. Which country is the host of 6th BIMSTEC Summit ?  
a) Bangladesh  
b) India  
c) Thailand  
d) Myanmar
- Q104. Consider the following statements regarding the regulation of betting and gambling in India:  
1. The regulation of betting and gambling is exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Central Government.  
2. The Public Gambling Act, 1867, governs all forms of gambling, including online gaming, across India.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Both  
c) None  
d) Cannot be determined
- Q105. Consider the following statements about heatwaves in India:  
1. IMD defines a heatwave only when the maximum temperature exceeds 45°C, regardless of baseline averages.  
2. The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is unrelated to humidity and focuses only on solar radiation.  
3. Heatwave-related mortality often disproportionately affects urban informal workers and elderly populations.  
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q106. Which Indian state is the host of Asia Cup Hockey 2025 ?  
a) Karnataka  
b) Bihar  
c) Haryana  
d) Uttar Pradesh
- Q107. What kind of satellite is “CARTOSAT-3” that was recently seen in news ?  
a) Earth Observation Satellite  
b) Communications Satellite  
c) Navigation Satellite  
d) Astronomical Satellite
- Q108. Which organization has released a report titled “Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well” ?  
a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
d) World Bank
- Q109. Which of the following statements correctly differentiate between earthquake magnitude and intensity ?  
1. Magnitude measures the energy released by an earthquake, whereas intensity measures the damage and effects felt on the surface.  
2. Magnitude is measured using the Richter Scale or Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw), while intensity is assessed using the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale.  
3. The same earthquake can have only one magnitude, but its intensity varies across different locations.  
4. The depth of the earthquake affects magnitude, but not intensity.  
Select the correct answer using the codes below:  
a) Only 1 and 2  
b) Only 1, 2, and 3  
c) Only 2, 3, and 4  
d) All of the above
- Q110. Under MGNREGS, which of the following conditions can lead to an extension beyond 100 days of guaranteed work ?  
1. Scheduled Tribe (ST) households in forest areas.  
2. Households affected by natural calamities.  
3. Households with women as sole earners.  
4. Households living below the poverty line (BPL).  
Select the correct answer using the codes below:  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1, 2, and 3 only  
c) 1, 3, and 4 only  
d) All four



- Q111. Who has been appointed as India's new Finance Secretary in 2025 ?  
a) T.V. Somanathan  
b) Ajay Seth  
c) Tuhin Kanta Pandey  
d) Subhash Chandra Garg
- Q112. What is the primary objective of the 'Sarathi 'AI chatbot ?  
a) To assist students with online education  
b) To facilitate citizens 'access to government documents and policies  
c) To provide AI-generated news updates  
d) To track Haryana's economic growth
- Q113. In which year was the Indo-French maritime exercise renamed Varuna ?  
a) 1995  
b) 1998  
c) 2002  
d) 2001
- Q114. Which country is co-hosting the maritime exercise named AIKEYME with India in April 2025 ?  
a) Mauritius  
b) Mozambique  
c) Kenya  
d) Tanzania
- Q115. The sixth edition of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025 initiative was launched in which state ?  
a) Haryana  
b) Gujarat  
c) Rajasthan  
d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q116. Exercise Sea Dragon 2025 was hosted by which country ?  
a) United States  
b) Japan  
c) Australia  
d) India
- Q117. The Strait of Hormuz connects which two water bodies ?  
a) Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea  
b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman  
c) Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal  
d) Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- Q118. Challenger 150 is a global deep-sea research initiative endorsed by which organization ?  
a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
c) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
d) European Space Agency (ESA)
- Q119. Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by which ministry ?  
a) Ministry of Culture  
b) Ministry of Tourism  
c) Ministry of Home Affairs  
d) Ministry of Urban Development
- Q120. Which Indian government body is responsible for investigating dumping cases and recommending anti-dumping duties?  
a) Competition Commission of India (CCI)  
b) Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)  
c) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)  
d) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- Q121. Consider the following statements regarding permafrost in the Kashmir Himalayas:  
1. Permafrost is ground that has remained frozen for at least two years.  
2. In Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, permafrost covers approximately 64.8% of the total geographic area.  
3. Permafrost degradation has no significant impact on water availability in the region.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q122. Consider the following statements regarding India's defence sector growth under the Make in India initiative:  
1. Indigenous defence production in India reached ₹1.27 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, marking its highest-ever growth.  
2. Defence exports have increased from ₹686 crore in FY 2013-14 to ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a nearly 30-fold rise.

3. The Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) are located in Maharashtra and Karnataka to boost defence manufacturing.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None

Q123. RS-24 Yars is an intercontinental ballistic missile of which country ?

- a) Russia
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) Australia

Q124. Consider the following statements regarding the National Education Policy 2020:

1. NEP 2020 retains the three-language formula, with greater flexibility.
2. The policy mandates that the three languages must include English, Hindi, and the local regional language.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Q125. Consider the following statements regarding the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and is responsible for overseeing the financial system of the country at both the Centre and State levels.
2. The CAG's primary duty is to ensure the financial accountability of the executive through audits.
3. The CAG's reports related to government accounts are submitted directly to the Parliament.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None



## ANSWERS

1- a	2- c	3- c	4- c	5- b	6- b	7- c	8- b	9- b	10- b
11- d	12- b	13- b	14- a	15- b	16- a	17- b	18- a	19- b	20- c
21- a	22- b	23- b	24- a	25- c	26- b	27- a	28- b	29- a	30- a
31- b	32- b	33- b	34- d	35- c	36- d	37- c	38- b	39- a	40- c
41- a	42- b	43- b	44- a	45- a	46- a	47- d	48- b	49- b	50- b
51- d	52- b	53- c	54- b	55- b	56- c	57- d	58- b	59- a	60- d
61- c	62- d	63- a	64- b	65- c	66- d	67- b	68- c	69- c	70- c
71- b	72- b	73- b	74- c	75- a	76- c	77- c	78- b	79- b	80- a
81- d	82- d	83- d	84- c	85- a	86- c	87- a	88- b	89- b	90- a
91- c	92- b	93- d	94- b	95- c	96- b	97- b	98- c	99- c	100- c
101- b	102- b	103- c	104- c	105- a	106- b	107- a	108- b	109- b	110- a
111- b	112- b	113- d	114- d	115- a	116- a	117- b	118- b	119- b	120- b
121- b	122- b	123- a	124- a	125- b					