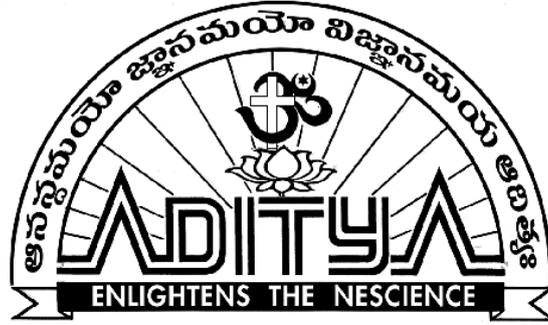


CURRENT AFFAIRS

2026

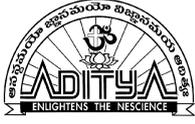
JANUARY



ADITYA

COLLEGE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

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CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2026

January

- Which company's board has approved the merger with its holding company Go Digit Infoworks Services?
(a) ICICI Lombard General Insurance (b) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
(c) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance (d) Go Digit General Insurance
(e) Tata AIG General Insurance Ans. d
- LIC has partnered with which company to expand insurance access in rural and semi-urban India?
(a) CSC e-Governance Services (b) India Post Payments Bank (c) Bajaj Finserv
(d) Sahaj Insurance Services Pvt. Ltd. (e) None of above Ans. d
- Who has been appointed as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from January 2026?
(a) António Guterres (b) Filippo Grandi (c) Volker Türk
(d) Barham Salih (e) Michelle Bachelet Ans. d
- What is the name of the digital communication platform launched by the Rajasthan government for medical education?
(a) e-Rajasthan Health (b) e-Swasthya Samvad (c) MedEdu Connect
(d) Health Samvad Portal (e) DigiMedical Rajasthan Ans. b
- What is the name of the new digital payments platform being launched by Rediff.com India Ltd., which has received TPAP license approval from NPCI and aims to provide secure, interoperable UPI services while promoting financial inclusion across India?
(a) RediffPayGo (b) RedPay (c) DigiRediff (d) RediffPay (e) PayRediff Ans. d
- According to the WADA 2024 report, India recorded 260 positive doping cases from 7,113 samples (3.6% positivity rate), marking the highest number of doping offenders globally for the third consecutive year. Which country recorded the second-highest proportion of positive doping cases after India in 2024?
(a) United States (b) France (c) Germany (d) Norway (e) Pakistan Ans. d
- What is the full form of ECTA, the trade agreement between India and Australia that provides duty-free access to all Indian exports from January 1, 2026, and has contributed to sustained export growth, deeper market access, and stronger supply-chain resilience for Indian exporters, MSMEs, farmers, and workers?
(a) Economic and Trade Alliance (b) Export and Trade Agreement
(c) Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (d) Export Cooperation Treaty Agreement
(e) Economic Commercial Trade Accord Ans. c
- What is the name of the Chinese military drills conducted around Taiwan in December 2025?
(a) Dragon Strike 2025 (b) Eastern Shield 2025 (c) Sea-Patrol 2025
(d) Justice Mission 2025 (e) Sovereign Guard 2025 Ans. d
- Iran recently placed three indigenously developed satellites—Paya, Zafar-2 and Kowsar—into low-Earth orbit as part of its expanding space programme. Which launch vehicle was used for this satellite launch carried out in cooperation with another country?
(a) Falcon-9 (USA) (b) Long March (China) (c) PSLV (India)
(d) Ariane-5 (Europe) (e) Soyuz Rocket (Russia) Ans. e
- The Indian Air Force's Software Development Institute (SDI) recently signed an MoU with which institution for the development of an indigenous digital communication system for airborne applications?
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Kanpur (c) DRDO (d) IIT Madras (e) IISc Bengaluru Ans. d
- Former New Zealand cricketer Doug Bracewell has announced his retirement from which level of cricket?
(a) Only Test cricket (b) Only limited-overs cricket (c) Domestic cricket only
(d) Franchise T20 cricket (e) All forms of international cricket Ans. e
- Veteran Malayalam cinema art director K Shekhar, who recently passed away, was best known for which technical innovation in Indian cinema?
(a) Use of green screen technology (b) Motion capture animation
(c) Digital de-aging effects (d) Anti-gravity room created using practical effects
(e) First use of CGI in Malayalam cinema Ans. d

13. Global Family Day is observed annually on which date?
 (a) 1 January (b) 5 January (c) 6 January (d) 7 January (e) 8 January Ans. a
14. DRDO Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to mark the achievements of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In which year was DRDO established?
 (a) 1947 (b) 1950 (c) 1962 (d) 1975 (e) 1958 Ans. e
15. How many transactions did UPI record in December 2025, marking its highest monthly volume ever?
 (a) 20.47 billion (b) 21.63 billion (c) 22.10 billion (d) 19.85 billion (e) 21.00 billion Ans. b
16. In a landmark achievement for Indian ophthalmology, India's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography integrated with iStent technology was successfully performed by which medical institution?
 (a) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
 (b) Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
 (c) Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi (d) Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt
 (e) Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad Ans. d
17. In a major milestone in global precision medicine, which hospital became the first in the world to successfully administer ITVISMA, a one-time gene therapy developed for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare and progressive neuromuscular disorder?
 (a) Cleveland Clinic, United States (b) Mayo Clinic, United States
 (c) King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Saudi Arabia (d) Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi
 (e) Johns Hopkins Hospital, United States Ans. d
18. The National Test House (NTH) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to strengthen quality assurance in national highway projects?
 (a) Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) (b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
 (c) Indian Roads Congress (d) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
 (e) Border Roads Organisation Ans. d
19. As part of a Rs.4,666 crore defence procurement programme aimed at enhancing India's underwater combat capabilities, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract for the procurement and integration of 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes. These torpedoes are specifically intended to strengthen the operational and strike capability of which class of submarines of the Indian Navy?
 (a) Arihant Class Submarines (b) Shishumar Class Submarines
 (c) Sindhughosh Class Submarines (d) Kalvari Class (P-75) Submarines
 (e) Chakra Class Submarines Ans. d
20. The Delhi government has partnered with which institute to launch the AI-based Unified Grievance Redressal System?
 (a) IIT Delhi (b) IISc Bangalore (c) NIT Kurukshetra (d) IIT Kanpur (e) AIIMS Delhi Ans. d
21. Who has been assigned the additional charge of Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)?
 (a) Sadanand Vasant Date (b) Rajesh Kumar Singh (c) Rakesh Aggarwal
 (d) Alok Verma (e) Dineshwar Sharma Ans. c
22. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)?
 (a) Rabindra Kumar Agarwal (b) Srikant Nagulapalli (c) Nidhi Pandey
 (d) Ashutosh Agnihotri (e) Lav Aggarwal Ans. e
23. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel recently granted in-principle approval for the establishment of a new research organisation aimed at accelerating artificial intelligence research and development in the state. What is the name of this organisation?
 (a) National AI Research Council (b) Gujarat AI Innovation Hub
 (c) AI Research & Development Institute (d) Indian AI Research Organisation
 (e) AI Science and Technology Centre Ans. d
24. Who inaugurated the Rs.227 crore redeveloped Batadrava Than, the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva, in Assam's Nagaon district?
 (a) Himanta Biswa Sarma (b) Sarbananda Sonowal (c) Amit Shah
 (d) Bimal Bora (e) Pabitra Margherita Ans. c

25. Despite a cumulative reduction of 125 basis points in the RBI's repo rate during the ongoing easing cycle, the Central Government has continued to keep interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes such as PPF and Sukanya Samridhi. For how many consecutive quarters have these interest rates been retained without any revision?
 (a) Six quarters (b) Seven quarters (c) Eight quarters (d) Nine quarters (e) Ten quarters Ans. c
26. With the objective of strengthening service delivery, transparency, and community ownership in rural drinking water systems, Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil virtually launched Jal Seva Aankalan. This initiative functions as a Gram Panchayat-led digital self-assessment tool hosted on the Jal Jeevan Mission portal. Jal Seva Aankalan has been launched under which of the following flagship government missions?
 (a) Swachh Bharat Mission (b) Atal Bhujal Yojana (c) Jal Shakti Abhiyan
 (d) Jal Jeevan Mission (e) AMRUT Mission Ans. d
27. According to the RBI's Trend and Progress of Banking in India for FY25 report, what was the total number of ATMs in the country as of March 31, 2025?
 (a) 2,45,000 (b) 2,48,600 (c) 2,51,057 (d) 2,53,417 (e) 2,56,800 Ans. c
28. Which two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Contact Point Verification of informal micro enterprises registered on the Udyam Assist Platform?
 (a) Ministry of MSME and NABARD (b) Department of Financial Services and RBI
 (c) Ministry of Communications and NABARD (d) Department of Posts and SIDBI
 (e) India Post Payments Bank and SBI Ans. d
29. IDFC FIRST Bank has launched "Gaj: Credit Card", a premium, invitation-only metal credit card exclusively designed for the Bank's high-net-worth individual (HNI) private banking customers. The design of the Gaj: Credit Card draws inspiration from which cultural symbol in Sanskrit philosophy?
 (a) Ashva (Horse) (b) Mayura (Peacock) (c) Gaj (Elephant)
 (d) Kamal (Lotus) (e) Nandi (Bull) Ans. c
30. Recently, India successfully conducted a salvo launch of two 'Pralay' missiles off the Odisha coast during user evaluation trials. The missile is an indigenously developed, solid-propellant, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 150 km to 500 km. Which organisation is responsible for the development and successful testing of the 'Pralay' missile system?
 (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
 (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
 (d) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) (e) Indian Ordnance Factories Ans. c
31. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired an important review meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), the ICT-enabled multi-modal platform aimed at accelerating infrastructure projects and governance reforms, in New Delhi. This meeting marked which numbered edition of PRAGATI?
 (a) 45th (b) 48th (c) 50th (d) 52nd (e) 55th Ans. c
32. President of India Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Skill The Nation' AI Challenge under which initiative?
 (a) Digital India Mission (b) Skill India Programme (c) AI for All Initiative
 (d) Skilling for AI Readiness (Soar) initiative (e) National AI Policy Ans. d
33. Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) unveiled a new logo as part of its initiative to modernise institutional identity and promote data-driven governance. The logo contains multiple symbolic elements representing transparency, growth and statistical science. Which symbol in the new MoSPI logo specifically highlights the role of statistical data in economic planning, policymaking and financial decision-making in India?
 (a) Ashoka Chakra (b) Upward Growth Bar (c) Numerical Elements
 (d) National Tricolour (e) Rupee Symbol Ans. e
34. Recently, Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's first maritime-focused Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), formally commenced its lending operations as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the maritime finance ecosystem and support port-led and blue economy development. At the start of its lending operations, approximately how much loan amount was sanctioned by SMFCL?
 (a) Rs.2,500 crore (b) Rs.3,200 crore (c) Rs.3,800 crore (d) Rs.4,300 crore (e) Rs.5,500 crore Ans. d
35. Ashika Group has recently received in-principle approval from SEBI to enter the mutual fund industry, enabling it to set up a dedicated entity that will manage, operate, and launch various mutual fund schemes for retail and institutional investors. Which entity is Ashika Group allowed to establish under this SEBI approval?
 (a) Investment Bank (b) Hedge Fund (c) Asset Management Company
 (d) Private Equity Fund (e) Mutual Fund Advisory Board Ans. c

36. Which country became the first in the world to grant legal rights to stingless bees?
 (a) Brazil (b) Colombia (c) Peru (d) Ecuador (e) Bolivia Ans. c
37. Eighteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan made history by becoming the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole. She completed an arduous expedition across Antarctica, covering extreme conditions such as temperatures dropping to -30°C , gale-force winds, and whiteout scenarios. What was the total distance Kaamya skied to reach the South Pole?
 (a) 95 km (b) 100 km (c) 115 km (d) 120 km (e) 130 km Ans. c
38. India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will run between Guwahati (Assam) and Howrah (West Bengal), connecting the Northeast with eastern India. The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train has been designed by which organisation?
 (a) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (b) BEML Ltd (c) Integral Coach Factory
 (d) Indian Railways Board (e) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Ans. c
39. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently announced the creation of a new third district in the coastal state. The district has been named after a river that flows through the region and is proposed to be developed as an aspirational district with additional central funding support. What will be the name of Goa's proposed third district?
 (a) Mandovi (b) Zuari (c) Kushavati (d) Sal (e) Chapora Ans. c
40. Who won the recent presidential election in Guinea as per the latest news?
 (a) Alpha Condé (b) Mamady Doumbouya (c) Umaro Sissoco Embaló
 (d) Paul-Henri Damiba (e) Alassane Ouattara Ans. b
41. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) in January 2026?
 (a) Sanjay Gupta (b) Tarun Garg (c) Rohit Sabharwal
 (d) Ashish Chauhan (e) Rajesh Gopinathan Ans. b
42. What was the total gross GST collection in December 2025?
 (a) Rs.1.64 lakh crore (b) Rs.1.70 lakh crore (c) Rs.1.75 lakh crore
 (d) Rs.1.80 lakh crore (e) Rs.1.85 lakh crore Ans. c
43. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship maternity benefit scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers, has completed nine years since its launch on 1 January 2017. Under PMMVY, financial assistance is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers to support nutrition, medical checkups, and overall maternal health. For the first child, the total cash benefit is given in two instalments — the first instalment at the time of pregnancy registration and the second instalment after childbirth. What is the total cash benefit provided for the first child under PMMVY?
 (a) Rs.3,000 (b) Rs.4,000 (c) Rs.5,000 (d) Rs.6,000 (e) Rs.7,000 Ans. c
44. What was the total number of UPI transactions recorded in December 2025?
 (a) 19.85 billion (b) 20.47 billion (c) 21.10 billion (d) 21.63 billion (e) 22.25 billion Ans. d
45. Deepti Sharma became the leading wicket-taker in women's T20Is by surpassing which Australian bowler?
 (a) Ellyse Perry (b) Jess Jonassen (c) Megan Schutt
 (d) Ashleigh Gardner (e) Beth Mooney Ans. c
46. India has the world's 3rd-largest rare earth reserves at about 6.9 million tonnes of rare earth oxide (REO). Which country currently dominates the global rare earth value chain by controlling nearly 90% of the world's rare earth refining capacity, including almost the entire processing of heavy rare earth elements, thereby gaining a strategic advantage over other nations?
 (a) United States (b) Australia (c) Russia (d) Brazil (e) China Ans. e
47. Usman Khawaja has announced his retirement from international cricket after the fifth and final Ashes Test against England. Which of the following distinctions is associated with Usman Khawaja?
 (a) First left-handed captain of Australia (b) First Australian to score a triple century
 (c) First Muslim cricketer to play for England (d) First Pakistan-born player to captain Australia
 (e) First Pakistan-born and first Muslim cricketer to play for Australia Ans. e
48. Who assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff on January 1, 2026?
 (a) Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar (b) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
 (c) Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari (d) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor
 (e) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh Ans. d
49. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank?
 (a) Rajnish Kumar (b) Rakesh Sharma (c) Parul Tyagi
 (d) Karthikeyan Manickam (e) Ashok Chawla Ans. d

50. India has decided to extend the deadline for submission of fresh applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles, following a significant response from companies across priority segments such as MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Technical Textiles. Until which date has the government now extended this application deadline?
 (a) December 31, 2026 (b) March 31, 2026 (c) June 30, 2026
 (d) September 30, 2026 (e) January 31, 2026 Ans. b
51. Punjab to launch 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15, 2026, offering free cashless medical treatment up to _____ per family for all 65 lakh families in the State.
 (a) Rs.5 lakh (b) Rs.7 lakh (c) Rs.10 lakh (d) Rs.12 lakh (e) Rs.15 lakh Ans. c
52. Which state has become the first in India to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission?
 (a) Kerala (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Assam (e) Karnataka Ans. d
53. Which agency has assigned a AAA (Stable) rating to Raajmarg Infra InvIT?
 (a) ICRA (b) CARE Ratings (c) CRISIL (d) Moody's (e) Fitch Ans. b
54. Union Government has launched an integrated e-bill platform to digitally process fertiliser subsidies of nearly Rs.2 lakh crore annually, replacing manual and paper-based systems. The e-bill system is developed through integration of IFMS with which platform?
 (a) GeM (b) GSTN (c) PFMS
 (d) DBT Portal (e) RBI Core Banking Ans. c
55. Which multilateral financial institution has agreed to provide a Rs.4,100 crore (\$500 million) loan to the Telangana Government for parts of Phase I of the Musi River Development Project
 (a) World Bank (b) Asian Development Bank
 (c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (d) New Development Bank
 (e) International Monetary Fund Ans. b
56. The United Nations General Assembly has approved a regular budget of how much for the year 2026?
 (a) \$3.10 billion (b) \$3.25 billion (c) \$3.45 billion (d) \$3.75 billion (e) \$4.00 billion Ans. c
57. Bulgaria officially joined the Eurozone on 1 January 2026, adopting the euro as its official currency, replacing the Bulgarian lev after a long transition process. With Bulgaria's entry, the total number of countries in the Eurozone has become:
 (a) 19 (b) 20 (c) 21 (d) 22 (e) 23 Ans. c
58. Which country has recently legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchanges?
 (a) Kazakhstan (b) Uzbekistan (c) Turkmenistan (d) Kyrgyzstan (e) Tajikistan Ans. c
59. _____, Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), retired on 3 January 2026 after 37.5 years of service in the Indian Police Service (IPS).
 (a) Kiran Bedi (b) Rashmi Shukla (c) Anjali Sharma (d) Parul Tyagi (e) Suman Rao Ans. b
60. How many tigers did India lose in 2025 according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)?
 (a) 126 (b) 140 (c) 150 (d) 166 (e) 182 Ans. d
61. The government removed which eligibility condition for startups to avail the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund?
 (a) Minimum turnover requirement (b) Three-year existence condition (c) Mandatory foreign funding
 (d) Profit-making condition (e) Export performance criteria Ans. b
62. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the exposition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" at which venue?
 (a) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (b) National Museum, New Delhi
 (c) Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi (d) India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
 (e) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi Ans. c
63. World Introvert Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 1 January (b) 2 January (c) 3 January (d) 5 January (e) 10 January Ans. b
64. Who has been appointed as the Interim Managing Director & CEO of Canara Bank from January 1, 2026?
 (a) K. Satyanarayana Raju (b) Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia (c) Rajnish Kumar
 (d) Atanu Kumar Das (e) Sanjiv Chadha Ans. b
65. Who was elected as the President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society in December 2025?
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Bahadur Rai (c) M. Venkaiah Naidu
 (d) Vijay Kumar Malhotra (e) Amit Shah Ans. c

66. Who has been named the International Event Ambassador for the 21st edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon?
 (a) Usain Bolt (b) Wayde van Niekerk (c) Andre De Grasse
 (d) Yohan Blake (e) Kirani James Ans. c
67. Who has been reappointed as the Chief Coach of the Indian women's hockey team?
 (a) Harendra Singh (b) Graham Reid (c) Sjoerd Marijne
 (d) Roelant Oltmans (e) Ric Charlesworth Ans. c
68. The Indian Ministry of Transport has proposed a Battery Pack Aadhaar System to ensure end-to-end traceability, transparency, and efficient recycling of electric vehicle (EV) batteries. Under this system, each battery will be assigned a unique identification number, called the Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN). According to the draft guidelines, how many characters will this BPAN consist of?
 (a) 12 (b) 16 (c) 18 (d) 21 (e) 24 Ans. d
69. The 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' scheme, under which free laptops are distributed to students, is implemented by which state government?
 (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana (e) Tamil Nadu Ans. e
70. Tamil Nadu's first Jallikattu event of 2026 was inaugurated at which place?
 (a) Alanganallur (b) Palamedu (c) Avaniapuram
 (d) Thatchankurichi (e) Madurai Ans. d
71. The foundation stone of the Boramdev Corridor Development Project was laid at Boramdev Dham, which is located in which district of Chhattisgarh?
 (a) Raipur (b) Durg (c) Kabirdham (d) Bilaspur (e) Rajnandgaon Ans. c
72. World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 4 January (b) 5 January (c) 6 January (d) 7 January (e) 8 January Ans. c
73. National Birds Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 3 January (b) 4 January (c) 5 January (d) 6 January (e) 10 January Ans. c
74. World Braille Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 2 January (b) 3 January (c) 4 January (d) 5 January (e) 6 January Ans. c
75. International Mind-Body Wellness Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 1 January (b) 2 January (c) 3 January (d) 4 January (e) 5 January Ans. c
76. Who was presented the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the 19th Dance Festival held at the Music Academy, Chennai?
 (a) Alarmel Valli (b) Shobana (c) Urmila Satyanarayanan
 (d) Yamini Krishnamurthy (e) Rukmini Devi Ans. c
77. The 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project, recently launched by the Adani Group, is being developed in which country known for its rich hydropower potential and as a close energy partner of India?
 (a) Nepal (b) Malaysia (c) Bhutan (d) Bangladesh (e) Sri Lanka Ans. c
78. _____-based start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs completed testing and integration of a 14-kg Earth observation satellite along with a miniature space telescope.
 (a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad (c) Ahmedabad (d) Mumbai (e) Chennai Ans. b
79. Who has inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi?
 (a) Yogi Adityanath (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Narendra Modi (d) Amit Shah (e) Piyush Goyal Ans. c
80. Jaipur will host the 78th Army Day Parade for the first time on January 15. On which road in Jaipur will the Army Day parade be held?
 (a) MI Road (b) Jaipur-Agra Highway (c) Mahal Road
 (d) Tonk Road (e) Jaipur-Jaipur Bypass Ans. c
81. Which city will host the Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026?
 (a) Jodhpur (b) Udaipur (c) Kota (d) Jaipur (e) Ajmer Ans. d
82. India has become the world's largest rice producer, surpassing China, marking a major milestone in food security and exports. India has become the world's largest rice producer with a total output of how much?
 (a) 140.25 million tonnes (b) 145.28 million tonnes (c) 150.18 million tonnes
 (d) 155.60 million tonnes (e) 160.00 million tonnes Ans. c
83. India's traditional medicine system AYUSH has received formal recognition in trade agreements with which countries?
 (a) UAE and Australia (b) Japan and South Korea (c) Oman and New Zealand
 (d) UK and Canada (e) Germany and France Ans. c

84. The Gaan Ngai festival, which marks the beginning of the New Year and is celebrated after the harvest season, is associated with which community of Manipur?
 (a) Meitei (b) Tangkhul (c) Kabui (d) Kuki (e) Paite Ans. c
85. The Government of India has recently launched the Market Access Support (MAS) scheme with an aim to improve the global reach, visibility, and competitiveness of Indian exporters through structured and outcome-oriented interventions. For which financial period has this MAS scheme been officially launched?
 (a) FY 2024–27 (b) FY 2025–28 (c) FY 2026–31 (d) FY 2027–32 (e) FY 2025–30 Ans. c
86. The Indian Army has declared 2026 as which special year to enhance connectivity, decision-making, and combat effectiveness?
 (a) Year of Modernization (b) Year of Indigenous Weapons (c) Year of Cyber Security
 (d) Year of Networking & Data Centricity (e) Year of Strategic Mobility Ans. d
87. Where has the Indian Army launched the community radio station 'Radio Sangam'?
 (a) Srinagar, J&K (b) Poonch, J&K (c) Rajouri, J&K (d) Leh, Ladakh (e) Jammu city, J&K Ans. c
88. Under ICICI Bank's newly launched Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), which allows taxpayers to park unutilised long-term capital gains or sale proceeds, earn interest, and claim tax exemptions, who are initially eligible to open an account starting from January 1, 2026?
 (a) Only Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) (b) Only corporate and non-individual entities
 (c) Resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (d) Foreign institutional investors
 (e) Trusts, charitable organizations, and NGOs Ans. c
89. Which company successfully launched Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation satellite?
 (a) Blue Origin (b) United Launch Alliance (ULA) (c) Arianespace
 (d) SpaceX (e) Roscosmos Ans. d
90. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court?
 (a) Justice Ramesh Chander Dimri (b) Justice Neerja Kulwant Kalson
 (c) Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak (d) Justice Dipak Misra
 (e) Justice N. V. Ramana Ans. c
91. Who will be the chief guests at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2026?
 (a) Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz (b) Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa
 (c) Charles Michel and Josep Borrell (d) Angela Merkel and Jean-Claude Juncker
 (e) Pedro Sánchez and Mark Rutte Ans. b
92. Which Indian state documented its first-ever sighting of the ultra-rare "Sandalwood Leopard"?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Andhra Pradesh Ans. c
93. Which private sector bank has received approval from the Government of India to enter the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) market, allowing taxpayers to park uninvested long-term capital gains from January 1, 2026?
 (a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank (c) ICICI Bank
 (d) Bank of Baroda (e) Canara Bank Ans. c
94. The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games will be held at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, from 5 to 10 January, organised by the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Which of the following is not a medal event at the Khelo India Beach Games?
 (a) Beach Kabaddi (b) Beach Sepak Takraw (c) Open Water Swimming
 (d) Mallakhamb (e) Beach Volleyball Ans. d
95. Which country became the first to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state?
 (a) United States (b) United Kingdom (c) Israel
 (d) Turkey (e) United Arab Emirates Ans. c
96. A total of 63 wrestlers were bought in the Pro Wrestling League Season 5 auction, with six franchises spending over Rs.11 crore to build their squads. Who received the highest bid of Rs.60 lakh in the auction?
 (a) Robert Baran (b) Aman Sehrawat (c) Sujeet Kalkal (d) Yui Susaki (e) Antim Panghal Ans. d
97. Which company signed an MoU with NSTFDC for CSR-funded development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools?
 (a) Indian Oil Corporation (b) ONGC Ltd. (c) Bharat Petroleum
 (d) Reliance Industries (e) GAIL India Ans. b
98. Who released the book "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se"?
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Dharmendra Pradhan
 (d) Rajnath Singh (e) Nirmala Sitharaman Ans. c

99. The two-day Human Capital Working Group Meeting focusing on education reform, workforce transition and inclusive AI adoption is being jointly hosted by which of the following organisations at IIT Guwahati?
 (a) MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, Government of Assam and IIT Guwahati
 (b) Ministry of Education, NITI Aayog and IIT Guwahati
 (c) MeitY, NASSCOM, Government of Assam and IIT Delhi
 (d) IndiaAI Mission, AICTE and IIT Madras (e) MeitY, DRDO and IISc Bengaluru Ans. a
100. SAMPANN is an integrated online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners, enabling end-to-end processing, sanctioning and direct bank transfer of pensions. What is the full form of SAMPANN in the context of pension management?
 (a) System for Accounting and Monitoring of Pension Network
 (b) Scheme for Automated Management of Pension and Nominations
 (c) System for Accounting and Management of Pension
 (d) Software for Allocation and Management of Pension Network
 (e) System for Administration and Monitoring of Pension Norms Ans. c
101. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Reliance's packaged water brand Campa Sure?
 (a) Ram Charan (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Deepika Padukone
 (d) Ajith Kumar (e) Salman Khan Ans. b
102. Which state government has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India to enable the central bank to act as its banker, debt manager, and financial agent, thereby improving management of borrowings and cash flows?
 (a) Maharashtra Government (b) Delhi Government (c) Karnataka Government
 (d) Tamil Nadu Government (e) Gujarat Government Ans. b
103. In January 2026, which company entered the private credit market by launching Structured Credit Fund-I targeting mid-market companies?
 (a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC AMC (c) SBI Mutual Fund
 (d) Kotak Mahindra AMC (e) Axis Bank Ans. b
104. Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune at the age of 81. During which years did Suresh Kalmadi serve as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?
 (a) 1990–2000 (b) 1992–2008 (c) 1996–2012 (d) 1998–2014 (e) 2000–2016 Ans. c
105. Recently, the website of the Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP) was launched at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) campus. Who among the following launched this website while presiding over the event as the Chief Guest?
 (a) Ajay Tyagi (b) Tuhin Kanta Pandey (c) Ravi Mittal
 (d) Rajesh Verma (e) Injeti Srinivas Ans. c
106. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently approved the acquisition of which company by Nippon Steel Corporation?
 (a) JFE Steel Corporation (b) Krosaki Harima Corporation (c) Sumitomo Metals
 (d) Kobe Steel (e) Tata Steel Ans. b
107. ITI Aayog released the fifth edition of its flagship publication Trade Watch Quarterly, presenting a data-driven assessment of India's trade performance in Q1 FY 2025–26 (April–June 2025), with a special focus on automotive exports. Who unveiled the fifth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly in New Delhi?
 (a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) Dr. Arvind Virmani (c) Rajiv Kumar
 (d) Amitabh Kant (e) Ramesh Abhishek Ans. b
108. The Third Technical Hindi Symposium titled "Abhyuday-3", aimed at promoting the use of Technical Hindi in scientific and technological domains, was organised at which of the following institutions?
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (b) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology Indore (d) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
 (e) National Institute of Technology Bhopal Ans. c
109. Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently released 55 literary works in classical Indian languages at which place?
 (a) Chennai (b) Bengaluru (c) Hyderabad
 (d) New Delhi (e) Thiruvananthapuram Ans. d

110. WaveX, which recently signed an MoU with FITT-IIT Delhi, is an initiative under which ministry?
 (a) Ministry of Electronics and IT (b) Ministry of Education
 (c) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 (e) Ministry of Science & Technology Ans. c
111. The State Bank of India (SBI), the only Indian bank with a presence in Israel, is facilitating bilateral trade between India and Israel in Indian rupees (INR). This initiative comes amid growing economic engagement between the two countries, as discussions on which agreement gain momentum?
 (a) Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) (b) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
 (c) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)
 (d) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) (e) Strategic Defence Pact Ans. b
112. Australian batter Steve Smith became the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history on January 6, 2026. Whose record did Steve Smith surpass to become the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history?
 (a) Don Bradman (b) Joe Root (c) Jack Hobbs (d) Alastair Cook (e) Ricky Ponting Ans. b
113. India has recently introduced the e-Production Investment Business Visa, also known as the e-B-4 Visa, for Chinese business professionals. What is the primary purpose of this visa?
 (a) To allow Chinese nationals to travel to India for tourism, sightseeing, and leisure activities.
 (b) To provide employment opportunities exclusively in India's IT sector.
 (c) To facilitate specified industrial, manufacturing, and investment-related commercial activities.
 (d) To enable Chinese students to participate in academic research and exchange programs in Indian universities.
 (e) To allow diplomats and government officials to carry out bilateral discussions and official visits. Ans. c
114. According to Indian Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra), India's GDP is projected to grow by what percentage in FY 2026-27?
 (a) 6.5% (b) 6.7% (c) 6.9% (d) 7.1% (e) 7.4% Ans. c
115. In January 2026, how much total funding did EXIM Bank raise through its dual-tranche U.S. dollar-denominated bonds?
 (a) \$500 million (b) \$750 million (c) \$1 billion (d) \$1.5 billion (e) \$2 billion Ans. c
116. The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai. Who chaired the first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)?
 (a) Union Finance Minister (b) RBI Deputy Governor
 (c) RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra (d) SEBI Chairperson
 (e) Secretary, Ministry of Finance Ans. c
117. Manoj Kothari, who passed away at the age of 67, was associated with which sport?
 (a) Snooker (b) Carrom (c) Billiards (d) Table Tennis (e) Chess Ans. c
118. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah created history by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state, surpassing the long-standing tenure record of which former Chief Minister?
 (a) S. Nijalingappa (b) Ramakrishna Hegde (c) S. M. Krishna
 (d) Devaraj Urs (e) Dharam Singh Ans. d
119. In January 2026, Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque was sworn in as the Chief Justice of which High Court?
 (a) Kerala High Court (b) Calcutta High Court (c) Sikkim High Court
 (d) Gauhati High Court (e) Patna High Court Ans. c
120. The Election Commission of India held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) in New Delhi to prepare for the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM 2026). What is the theme of IICDEM 2026?
 (a) Strengthening Electoral Reforms in Developing Nations
 (b) Democracy and Technology for Transparent Elections
 (c) Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world
 (d) Global Cooperation for Free and Fair Elections
 (e) Inclusive Governance through Digital Democracy Ans. c
121. The National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026, aimed at strengthening Centre-State coordination and promoting growth, innovation and heritage in the textile sector, was held in which city?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Ahmedabad (c) Jaipur (d) Guwahati (e) Kolkata Ans. d
122. According to Goldman Sachs, India's GDP growth rate in FY 2026-27 is expected to be:
 (a) 7.5% (b) 7.3% (c) 7.0% (d) 6.8% (e) 6.5% Ans. d

123. According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as of March 2025, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) had insured a portion of total bank deposits held in commercial and cooperative banks in India. Considering both public and private sector banks, foreign banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks and small finance banks, what was the percentage of total bank deposits by value that were insured under DICGC?
 (a) 39.8% (b) 41.5% (c) 43.1% (d) 45.0% (e) 47.2% Ans. b
124. Who inaugurated the State Bank of India's first-ever Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru, highlighting SBI's commitment to supporting the rapidly growing GCC ecosystem in India?
 (a) Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager of Bengaluru Circle
 (b) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, SBI Chairperson (c) S. Ramesh, SBI General Manager
 (d) Rajnish Kumar, Former SBI Chairperson
 (e) Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister Ans. b
125. Which two departments signed an MoU to create a pan-India logistics framework for transporting agricultural samples?
 (a) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Department of Posts
 (b) Ministry of Commerce and Department of Posts (c) DA&FW and Ministry of Railways
 (d) Department of Biotechnology and DA&FW
 (e) Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Environment Ans. a
126. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned ICGS Samudra Pratap, India's first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel (PCV). Which shipyard built ICGS Samudra Pratap?
 (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (c) Goa Shipyard Limited
 (d) Cochin Shipyard Limited (e) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ans. c
127. Amazon Pay has launched fixed deposits (FDs) through its fintech app in partnership with which type of financial institutions?
 (a) Only private banks (b) Only government banks (c) NBFCs and banks
 (d) Insurance companies (e) Mutual fund houses Ans. c
128. Which bank has partnered with FinTech provider TechFini to enhance its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities?
 (a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
 (d) Axis Bank (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank Ans. c
129. Which bank has launched the 'Safety Centre' on its mobile banking app 'open', allowing customers to control key digital banking functions and safeguard accounts against unauthorised or suspicious activities without visiting a branch?
 (a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Axis Bank
 (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank (e) State Bank of India Ans. c
130. Which bank has launched the "Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card" for affluent global travellers?
 (a) HDFC Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) IDFC FIRST Bank (d) ICICI Bank (e) Yes Bank Ans. c
131. Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference as a precursor to which upcoming national event?
 (a) Digital India Summit 2026 (b) National Technology Conference 2026
 (c) India AI Impact Summit 2026 (d) Startup India Innovation Summit
 (e) Global Artificial Intelligence Forum Ans. c
132. The Supreme Court of India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country's apex court to facilitate the exchange of young legal professionals?
 (a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh (c) Bhutan (d) Sri Lanka (e) Myanmar Ans. c
133. Recently, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to deepen collaboration for inclusive and sustainable rural development. Which two entities were signatories to this MoU aimed at strengthening rural financial inclusion across India?
 (a) Department of Posts and Ministry of Finance
 (b) Department of Posts and Ministry of Rural Development (c) India Post Payments Bank and NABARD
 (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Reserve Bank of India
 (e) Ministry of MSME and Department of Posts Ans. b
134. Kabindra Purkayastha, who recently passed away, was a senior leader of which political party?
 (a) Indian National Congress (b) All India Trinamool Congress (c) Bharatiya Janata Party
 (d) Janata Dal (United) (e) Communist Party of India Ans. c

135. Jinson Johnson, who recently announced his retirement, is a national record-holder in which sport?
 (a) Swimming (b) Middle-distance running (c) Long jump
 (d) Shooting (e) Weightlifting Ans. b
136. Federal Bank unveiled The Fortuna Wave, its updated brand identity, symbolising the Bank's evolution toward being contemporary and future-ready. Who was present as the Brand Ambassador during the launch of Federal Bank's new identity?
 (a) Deepika Padukone (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Vidya Balan
 (d) Kareena Kapoor (e) Alia Bhatt Ans. c
137. HDFC Bank has recently integrated the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) into one of its payment platforms, enabling businesses and merchants to accept digital rupee payments in addition to other existing digital payment methods. Which platform has received this upgrade?
 (a) HDFC NetBanking Portal (b) PayZapp (c) HDFC UPI App
 (d) SmartGateway (e) HDFC Mobile Banking App Ans. d
138. According to the First Advance Estimates (FAE) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, what is the estimated real GDP growth rate for India in FY 2025–26?
 (a) 6.5% (b) 6.8% (c) 7.0% (d) 7.4% (e) 8.0% Ans. d
139. Simplilearn has collaborated with which government initiative to roll out the 'YUVA AI for ALL' course?
 (a) Digital India Mission (b) Skill India Mission (c) Startup India Mission
 (d) IndiaAI Mission (e) National Knowledge Mission Ans. d
140. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has been rated "Excellent" by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for FY 2024–25. How many consecutive times has Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) received the "Excellent" rating from the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) since its listing?
 (a) Three times (b) Four times (c) Five times (d) Six times (e) Seven times Ans. c
141. Nagauri Ashwagandha recently received which special recognition from the Government of India?
 (a) Organic Certification (b) Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
 (c) Agricultural Excellence Award (d) Export Quality Mark
 (e) National Plant Heritage Status Ans. b
142. India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce which eco-friendly material for road construction?
 (a) Plastic Bitumen (b) Bio-Bitumen (c) Rubber Bitumen
 (d) Asphalt Concrete (e) Petroleum Bitumen Ans. b
143. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the official Aadhaar mascot to make Aadhaar-related information more relatable and people-friendly. What is the name of the official Aadhaar mascot launched by UIDAI?
 (a) Aadi (b) Udai (c) Bhavya (d) Mitra (e) Suraksha Ans. b
144. Who has been appointed as CEO of HSBC Private Bank?
 (a) Georges Elhedery (b) Ida Liu (c) Barry O'Byrne
 (d) Anshu Jain (e) Peter Wong Ans. b
145. Who has been appointed as CEO, Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships by the General Insurance Council?
 (a) S. Prakash (b) R. K. Sharma (c) Anil Kumar (d) P. S. Reddy (e) V. K. Singh Ans. a
146. The Indian Air Force (IAF) commemorated 25 years since the first flight of the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), marking a milestone in India's fighter aircraft development. Which organisation developed the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft?
 (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
 (c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) (d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 (e) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) Ans. b
147. Which medal did Indian squash player Anahat Singh win at the British Junior Open 2026 in the women's under-19 category?
 (a) Gold (b) Silver (c) Bronze
 (d) No medal (e) Honorable mention Ans. b
148. What is the total prize money announced for the 2026 Australian Open, marking a record in the tournament's history?
 (a) \$96.5 million (b) \$100 million (c) \$111.5 million (d) \$120 million (e) \$105 million Ans. c

149. New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 begins at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and for the first time offers free entry to promote a stronger reading culture across India. What is the central theme of New Delhi World Book Fair 2026?
 (a) Digital India and Knowledge Economy (b) Literature for Sustainable Development
 (c) India @ 100 (d) Global Languages and Culture
 (e) Indian Military History: Valour & Wisdom @ 75 Ans. e
150. India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 will be held in Goa from January 27 to 30, bringing together global ministers, CEOs, policymakers, academia and technology leaders to discuss energy security, investment and decarbonisation. India Energy Week 2026 is organised under the patronage of which Union Ministry?
 (a) Ministry of Power (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ans. d
151. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 will be held from January 19 to 23, 2026, at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, marking the 56th edition of the global forum. What is the official theme of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026?
 (a) Global Cooperation for the Future (b) Resilient World Order
 (c) Sustainable Growth Pathways (d) Shaping the Global Economy
 (e) A Spirit of Dialogue Ans. e
152. India achieved a historic milestone in judicial reforms with the inauguration of the country's first fully paperless district judiciary, where the entire court system shifted to end-to-end digital functioning. This landmark initiative was launched in which place?
 (a) Kochi, Kerala (b) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (c) Kozhikode, Kerala
 (d) Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala (e) Bengaluru, Karnataka Ans. d
153. World Hindi Day is observed every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language globally. What is the theme of World Hindi Day 2026?
 (a) Hindi in Education (b) Promoting Hindi on Global Platforms
 (c) Hindi Literature Celebration (d) Hindi for Digital India (e) Hindi in Media Ans. b
154. When is Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day) celebrated every year?
 (a) 5 January (b) 8 January (c) 12 January (d) 15 January (e) 9 January Ans. e
155. On which date is Earth's Rotations Day observed annually?
 (a) 5 January (b) 8 January (c) 12 January (d) 15 January (e) 20 January Ans. b
156. On which date is the African National Congress (ANC) Foundation Day celebrated annually?
 (a) 11 January (b) 8 January (c) 10 January (d) 12 January (e) 13 January Ans. b
157. Who has taken charge as the Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE)?
 (a) Sanjay Jain (b) Rajiv Sharma (c) Anil Kumar
 (d) Ramesh Kumar Juneja (e) Ashok Mehta Ans. d
158. Financial Software and Systems (FSS) has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, APAC, and South Africa to achieve which of the following certifications, reinforcing its leadership in ethical AI use?
 (a) ISO 9001 (b) ISO/IEC 42001 (c) ISO/IEC 27001 (d) ISO 14001 (e) ISO 45001 Ans. b
159. A new species of reed snake has recently been discovered in Mizoram by researchers led by Prof. H. T. Lalremsanga. This species, named after the state of its discovery, belongs to the genus Calamaria, which includes 69 recognised species globally. What is the name of this newly identified species?
 (a) Calamaria mizoramensis (b) Calamaria indiana (c) Mizoramophis nocturnus
 (d) Calamaria nagaensis (e) Mizoramia serpentina Ans. a
160. Renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in January 2026, was best known for his work related to which ecological region?
 (a) Eastern Himalayas (b) Thar Desert (c) Western Ghats
 (d) Sundarbans (e) Deccan Plateau Ans. c
161. The 2026 IEEE Medal of Honour, regarded as the most prestigious recognition in the field of technology, has been awarded for lifetime contributions to accelerated computing. Who is the recipient of this honour?
 (a) Elon Musk (b) Jensen Huang (c) Satya Nadella (d) Sundar Pichai (e) Tim Cook Ans. b
162. Who has assumed charge as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)?
 (a) Dr. D. K. Shukla (b) Shri A. K. Balasubrahmanian (c) Dr. R. Chidambaram
 (d) Shri Anil Kakodkar (e) Dr. S. Banerjee Ans. b

163. Uttarakhand Police secured first position nationally in the ICJS 2.0 rankings with a score of 93.46. The ICJS 2.0 rankings are released through which dashboard/agency?
 (a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Election Commission of India
 (c) National Crime Records Bureau (d) NITI Aayog (e) Central Vigilance Commission Ans. c
164. National Youth Day is observed on 12 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. What is the theme of National Youth Day 2026?
 (a) Youth for Nation (b) Empowering Young India (c) Youth and Innovation
 (d) Ignite the Self, Impact the World (e) Building Future Leaders Ans. d
165. In January 2026, a "Niveshak Shivir" was organised in Bengaluru to provide a single-window platform for resolving issues related to unclaimed dividends, shares, and pending claims, with participation from SEBI, MIIs, and RTAs. Which organisation was the main organiser of this investor facilitation camp?
 (a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
 (c) Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
 (d) Ministry of Finance (e) National Stock Exchange Ans. c
166. After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included the Government of NCT of Delhi under its standard cash management framework, the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for all States and Union Territories was revised. What is the new aggregate WMA limit after this revision?
 (a) Rs.60,118 crore (b) Rs.60,500 crore (c) Rs.60,890 crore
 (d) Rs.61,008 crore (e) Rs.62,000 crore Ans. d
167. The RBI has proposed amendments to its Governance Directions, 2025 for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks, introducing a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for directors completing the maximum tenure. What is the maximum continuous tenure allowed for directors of co-operative banks under existing rules?
 (a) 6 years (b) 8 years (c) 10 years (d) 12 years (e) 15 years Ans. c
168. In January 2026, the United States, under President Donald Trump, signed a memorandum titled "Withdrawing the United States from International Organisations, Conventions, and Treaties that are Contrary to the Interests of the United States." The move involved the US withdrawing from a number of international organisations, including both UN bodies and non-UN entities such as the International Solar Alliance and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). How many organisations in total did the US withdraw from?
 (a) 35 (b) 50 (c) 60 (d) 66 (e) 75 Ans. d
169. In January 2026, which company recently received final authorisation from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)?
 (a) Paytm (b) Razorpay (c) Skydo (d) PhonePe (e) BharatPe Ans. c
170. Bajaj Finserv, along with Bajaj Holdings & Investment and Jamnalal Sons, acquired Allianz SE's 23% stake in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance, marking the largest transaction in the Indian insurance sector. What was the total value of Allianz SE's stakes acquired by Bajaj Finserv in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance?
 (a) Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 8,000 crore (b) Rs 11,500 crore and Rs 9,000 crore
 (c) Rs 12,190 crore and Rs 9,200 crore (d) Rs 13,010 crore and Rs 10,000 crore
 (e) Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore Ans. c
171. The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) will conduct a Long Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia as part of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC), visiting Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. Which Indian naval and coast guard ships are part of this deployment?
 (a) INS Vikramaditya, INS Shardul and INS Kolkata (b) INS Chakra, INS Shardul and INS Kamorta
 (c) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi
 (d) INS Arihant, Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi and INS Shivalik
 (e) INS Jalashwa and INS Sahyadri Ans. c
172. Who won the Open Rapid section at Tata Steel Chess India 2026?
 (a) Viswanathan Anand (b) D Gukesh (c) Wesley So
 (d) Nihal Sarin (e) Magnus Carlsen Ans. d
173. Retail inflation in India rose to a three-month high of how much in December 2025?
 (a) 2.00% (b) 1.75% (c) 1.33% (d) 2.50% (e) 3.00% Ans. c

174. Which organisation created four Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor?
 (a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (b) Indian Railways
 (c) National Highways Authority of India (d) Border Roads Organisation
 (e) National Infrastructure Pipeline Ans. c
175. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on which date?
 (a) 10 January (b) 11 January (c) 12 January (d) 15 January (e) 18 January Ans. b
176. What is the name of the Military Civil Fusion exercise conducted at Khadki Military Station?
 (a) Prahar (b) Abhyas (c) Sanjha Shakti (d) Suraksha Setu (e) Samanvay Ans. c
177. According to the UN DESA report, India's GDP is expected to grow by what percentage in the current financial year (2025-26)?
 (a) 6.5% (b) 7.0% (c) 7.4% (d) 7.8% (e) 8.0% Ans. c
178. Which city has been ranked as the best city for women in India in 2025, topping a nationwide study for urban inclusion due to its combination of strong social infrastructure and wide industrial and employment opportunities?
 (a) Chennai (b) Pune (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai (e) Bengaluru Ans. e
179. The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the statewide rollout of the 'Akka Pade' scheme across all 31 districts and five police commissionerates in collaboration with the Home Department. The primary objective of the 'Akka Pade' scheme is to:
 (a) Promote girls' education (b) Provide employment to women (c) Control population growth
 (d) Prevent child marriages and atrocities against women and minor girls
 (e) Improve health services for minor girls Ans. d
180. To promote multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the entire dairy sector, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation?
 (a) ICAR and NABARD (b) NDDDB and NITI Aayog (c) ICAR and FCI
 (d) ICAR and NDDDB (e) NDDDB and APEDA Ans. d
181. The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) is being held in which city?
 (a) London (b) Canberra (c) Ottawa (d) New Delhi (e) Kolkata Ans. d
182. In a move aimed at facilitating smoother international travel and improving transit convenience for Indian travellers, which European country has allowed visa-free airport transit for Indian passport holders travelling to third countries?
 (a) France (b) Italy (c) Spain (d) Germany (e) Netherlands Ans. d
183. Who has been named New South Wales' Scientist of the Year, becoming the first mathematician to receive the state's highest science honour?
 (a) Maryam Mirzakhani (b) Karen Uhlenbeck (c) Cédric Villani
 (d) Nalini Joshi (e) Terence Tao Ans. d
184. Which Italian civilian honour was conferred on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo?
 (a) Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (b) Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia
 (c) Order of the Italian Star (d) Knight of Italy (e) Italian Excellence Award Ans. b
185. Major Swathi Shantha Kumar of the Indian Army won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her initiative "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace." Major Swathi is currently serving under which UN mission?
 (a) UNIFIL (b) MONUSCO (c) UNAMID (d) UNMISS (e) UNSMIL Ans. d
186. Justice Revati Mohite Dere recently created history by being sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of which High Court, marking a milestone for a matrilineal northeastern state?
 (a) Bombay High Court (b) Gauhati High Court (c) Manipur High Court
 (d) Meghalaya High Court (e) Tripura High Court Ans. d
187. Singer and actor Prashant Tamang (43) passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence in New Delhi. Prashant Tamang rose to national fame after winning which reality show?
 (a) Sa Re Ga Ma Pa (b) Indian Idol Season 2 (c) Indian Idol Season 3
 (d) The Voice India (e) Fame Gurukul Ans. c

188. Justice Soumen Sen was recently sworn in as the Chief Justice of which High Court?
 (a) Meghalaya High Court (b) Calcutta High Court (c) Kerala High Court
 (d) Karnataka High Court (e) Madras High Court Ans. c
189. Who inaugurated the 9th edition of Indusfood 2026 at Greater Noida?
 (a) Piyush Goyal (b) Nitin Gadkari (c) Chirag Paswan
 (d) Narendra Singh Tomar (e) Smriti Irani Ans. c
190. Who has been appointed as the President and Vice Chairman of Meta recently?
 (a) Sheryl Sandberg (b) Susan Wojcicki (c) Dina Powell McCormick
 (d) Amy Hood (e) Marissa Mayer Ans. c
191. Which Indian stock exchange, known for being Asia's oldest stock exchange and a pioneer in electronic trading, was recently conferred the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 in recognition of its strong workplace culture, employee empowerment initiatives, and efforts to foster an inclusive, high-performance environment?
 (a) National Stock Exchange (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
 (c) Bombay Stock Exchange (d) Multi Commodity Exchange of India
 (e) Kolkata Stock Exchange Ans. c
192. What is the new name of the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala?
 (a) Aralam Bird Sanctuary (b) Aralam Nature Park (c) Aralam Insect Sanctuary
 (d) Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary (e) Aralam Eco Park Ans. d
193. Which government organisation in Kerala announced the Science Literature Awards 2024, recognising outstanding contributions in Malayalam science writing across categories such as Popular Science, In-depth Science, Children's Literature, and Science Journalism?
 (a) Indian National Science Academy (b) Kerala Academy of Sciences
 (c) Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment
 (d) National Council for Science & Technology (e) Kerala Science Foundation Ans. c
194. Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak outside Asia at 6,967.15 meters above sea level. Which organization fully sponsored Aritra Roy's solo expedition to Mount Aconcagua?
 (a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) ONGC (d) HAL (e) Indian Army Ans. d
195. Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026. In which years did Alyssa Healy win the ODI World Cup?
 (a) 2011 and 2019 (b) 2012 and 2018 (c) 2013 and 2022
 (d) 2010 and 2016 (e) 2014 and 2020 Ans. c
196. India ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026, with visa-free, visa-on-arrival or eTA access to 55 destinations, sharing the rank with Algeria and Niger. Which country holds the world's most powerful passport in the Henley Passport Index 2026?
 (a) Japan (b) Germany (c) South Korea (d) France (e) Singapore Ans. e
197. PFRDA has constituted a high-level expert committee to develop an assured pension income product under the National Pension System (NPS), aimed at attracting risk-averse subscribers. The expert committee formed for assured pension payouts under NPS is chaired by whom?
 (a) Urjit Patel (b) Rajeev Kumar (c) Ajay Tyagi
 (d) M. S. Sahoo (e) N. S. Vishwanathan Ans. d
198. Who has been appointed as a whole-time director of Kotak Mahindra Bank?
 (a) Rajeev Jain (b) Ashok Vaswani (c) Jaideep Hansraj
 (d) Parul Tyagi (e) Anup Kumar Saha Ans. e
199. Essar Future Energy Limited signed an MoU with which state government for a bio-fuel project?
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra (c) Gujarat
 (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Andhra Pradesh Ans. c
200. Who chaired the meeting of the NIRANTAR platform to strengthen coordination among MoEFCC institutions?
 (a) Prime Minister (b) Union Environment Minister (c) Union Agriculture Minister
 (d) Union Science & Technology Minister (e) Union Forest Secretary Ans. b
201. GAIL (India) Limited has joined which nationwide campaign under the National PNG Drive 2.0 initiative?
 (a) #CleanEnergyIndia (b) #GasForAll (c) #EnergyForFuture
 (d) #GreenIndiaMission (e) #NonStopZindagi Ans. e

202. When is National Road Safety Week 2026 being observed in India?
 (a) January 10–20 (b) January 11–17 (c) January 15–21 (d) January 20–26 (e) January 25–31 Ans. b
203. Indian Army signs .168 crore contract for MAPSS, a solar-powered surveillance drone system, marking the first induction of a solar-powered unmanned aerial platform for long-endurance border monitoring. What does MAPSS stand for in the context of the Indian Army's drone induction?
 (a) Medium Altitude Precision Strike System (b) Multi-Aircraft Persistent Surveillance System
 (c) Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (d) Modular Aerial Patrol Surveillance System
 (e) Mobile Airborne Protection and Surveillance System Ans. c
204. The PSLV-C62 mission, launched by ISRO as its first mission of the year from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, was carrying multiple satellites, including the Earth observation satellite EOS-N1, several international payloads from Brazil, Nepal, and the UK, as well as a surveillance satellite named Anvesha developed by DRDO. How many total payloads were on board the PSLV-C62 mission?
 (a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16 (e) 18 Ans. d
205. Bamanwas Kankar gram panchayat, recently in news for sustainable agriculture, is located in which district of Rajasthan?
 (a) Alwar (b) Jaipur (c) Sikar (d) Kotputli–Behror (e) Bharatpur Ans. d
206. The Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project, recently approved by the state cabinet, is located in which district of Andhra Pradesh?
 (a) Prakasam (b) Chittoor (c) Nellore (d) Anantapur (e) Visakhapatnam Ans. c
207. The Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after which prominent leader associated with farmers' and local rights movements?
 (a) Bal Thackeray (b) Sharad Pawar (c) D B Patil
 (d) Gopinath Munde (e) Vilasrao Deshmukh Ans. c
208. India assumed the BRICS Presidency for 2026 on 1 January 2026, taking over from Brazil and marking its fourth term as the BRICS chair. On this occasion, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the official BRICS 2026 website, theme and logo in New Delhi. Which of the following symbols are reflected in the BRICS 2026 logo to convey unity, prosperity and mutual respect among the BRICS member nations?
 (a) Ashoka Chakra and Tricolour (b) Peacock and Banyan Tree (c) Lion and Lotus
 (d) Handshake and Globe (e) Lotus and Namaste Ans. e
209. Who has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF)?
 (a) Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor (b) Rakesh Aggarwal (c) Praveen Kumar
 (d) Y.S. Puram Kumar (e) Anil Kumar Ans. c
210. NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, the fourth edition of the index, which evaluates export readiness across India's States and Union Territories. Under the index, States and UTs are categorised into Large States, Small States, North Eastern States, and Union Territories, and further classified as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers to promote comparative assessment and peer learning. In EPI 2024, the top-performing Large States are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, while leading performers among Small States, North Eastern States, and UTs include Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Goa. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 is structured around which of the following pillars?
 1. Export Infrastructure 2. Business Ecosystem 3. Policy & Governance
 4. Export Performance 5. Agricultural Sustainability
 (a) 1, 2, and 3 only (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only (e) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Ans. b
211. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in India stood at what level in December 2025?
 (a) 1.33% (b) 0.71% (c) 0.83% (d) 2.57% (e) -0.32% Ans. c
212. The Department of Financial Services launched Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries, offering cashless treatment, modern medical procedures, and access to a wide hospital network. Beneficiaries can choose a sum insured of Rs.10 lakh or Rs.20 lakh, with an optional co-payment structure of 70:30 or 50:50 between the insurer and the subscriber. This insurance can be purchased through which company?
 (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (b) The New India Assurance Company Limited
 (c) State Bank of India Life Insurance (d) Lombard General Insurance Company Limited
 (e) Housing Development Finance Corporation Life Insurance Ans. b

213. The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, launched a composite 'Salary Account Package' for Central Government employees to provide integrated banking and insurance benefits, supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Insurance for All by 2047. Banking features include zero-balance salary account, free RTGS/NEFT/UPI, concessional loans for housing, education, vehicles, personal needs, locker fee waivers, and family banking benefits. What is the maximum Personal Accident Insurance coverage under the package?
 (a) Rs.50 lakh (b) Rs.1 crore (c) Rs.1.5 crore (d) Rs.2 crore (e) Rs.25 lakh Ans. c
214. Which Japanese bank has recently received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in India, allowing it to expand its operations and provide full-fledged banking services in the country?
 (a) Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (b) Nomura Bank (c) Mizuho Bank
 (d) Bank of Tokyo (e) Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Ans. e
215. Ueli Kestenholz, who recently passed away, was famous in which sport?
 (a) Skiing (b) Ice Hockey (c) Snowboarding (d) Figure Skating (e) Alpine Skiing Ans. c
216. Thomas Kuthiravattam, who recently passed away, was a senior leader of which political party?
 (a) Indian National Congress (b) Communist Party of India (Marxist) (c) Bharatiya Janata Party
 (d) Kerala Congress (e) Nationalist Congress Party Ans. d
217. In January 2026, which company has recently received RBI authorisation to operate as a Payment Aggregator?
 (a) Paytm (b) Innoviti Technologies Private Limited (c) Razorpay
 (d) PhonePe (e) CCAvenue Ans. b
218. Which Regional Rural Bank became the first in India to introduce a fully solar-powered mobile ATM van, named "TGB on Wheels"?
 (a) Kerala Gramin Bank (b) Tripura Gramin Bank (c) Telangana Gramin Bank
 (d) UP Gramin Bank (e) Karnataka Gramin Bank Ans. b
219. What is the World Bank's revised GDP growth forecast for India in FY 2025–26?
 (a) 6.0% (b) 6.3% (c) 6.8% (d) 7.2% (e) 7.5% Ans. d
220. Kochi, Kerala, will host the 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) from February 23 to 26, bringing global focus to India's role in the international spice economy. What is the theme of the International Spice Conference (ISC 2026)?
 (a) Global Spice Trade 2030 (b) Sustainable Spices for the World (c) Innovation in Agro-Exports
 (d) Climate-Resilient Agriculture (e) Spice 360 – Getting Future Ready Ans. e
221. The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) has launched the Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) to address the gap between academic output and industry-ready skills in India's pharmaceutical sector. The Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) has been established in which city?
 (a) Ahmedabad (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur (e) Bengaluru Ans. a
222. The 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' initiative was developed in collaboration with which organisation?
 (a) UNESCO (b) Amazon Prime Video India (c) Google Arts & Culture
 (d) Netflix Fund for Creative Equity (e) Meta (Facebook) India Ans. d
223. The Makaravilakku festival is celebrated in which Indian state?
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Kerala (e) Telangana Ans. d
224. Piramal Finance Limited has secured \$350 million in multilateral financing from which institutions?
 (a) World Bank and IMF (b) IFC and Asian Development Bank
 (c) New Development Bank and AIIB (d) EXIM Bank and ADB (e) EBRD and IFC Ans. b
225. Who has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026?
 (a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Virat Kohli (c) MS Dhoni
 (d) Anil Kumble (e) Rohit Sharma Ans. c
226. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has extended its citizen-centric 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' initiative till _____, to improve cleanliness and user experience at toilet facilities along National Highways.
 (a) 30 June (b) 31 July (c) 30 August (d) 30 September (e) 31 December Ans. a
227. Which Union Minister of India will participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC?
 (a) Piyush Goyal (b) Ashwini Vaishnav (c) S. Jaishankar
 (d) Nitin Gadkari (e) Rajeev Chandrasekhar Ans. b

228. India will host the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector, from March 19 to 22, 2026, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. What is the theme of the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026?
- (a) Powering Digital India (b) Clean Energy for All
(c) Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally
(d) Global Energy for Future (e) Sustainable Power India Ans. c
229. Where will the University of New South Wales (UNSW) open its new campus in India?
- (a) Mumbai (b) Bengaluru (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai (e) Pune Ans. b
230. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Yemen?
- (a) Salem bin Breik (b) Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar (c) Shaya Mohsen Zindani
(d) Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr (e) Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi Ans. c
231. PM Narendra Modi and European Commission President H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen jointly announced the conclusion of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement at the 16th India–EU Summit, held during the visit of the European leaders to India. Under the India–EU FTA, what percentage of items India exports to the EU will have tariffs dropped?
- (a) 95% (b) 50% (c) 92.5% (d) 99.5% (e) 80% Ans. d
232. According to the three reports launched by NITI Aayog during the International Material Recycling Conference (IMRC) at Jaipur, which analysed challenges and opportunities in India's circular economy for End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), waste tyres, e-waste, and lithium-ion batteries, the demand for Lithium-ion batteries in India is projected to increase significantly from 29 GWh in 2025 to what level by 2035, reflecting the rapid rise of electric vehicles and digitalisation in the country?
- (a) 100 GWh (b) 158 GWh (c) 210 GWh (d) 248 GWh (e) 300 GWh Ans. d
233. Which ministry of the Government of India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zepto Limited through its Export Promotion Council to facilitate online access to AYUSH medicines and wellness products across the country, aiming to strengthen digital discovery while ensuring quality compliance and consumer trust?
- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (b) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
(c) Ministry of Science & Technology (d) Ministry of Ayush
(e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries Ans. d
234. International Data Privacy Day is observed every year on 28 January to raise awareness about the importance of protecting personal and sensitive data online. What is the official theme for International Data Privacy Day 2026?
- (a) Take Control of Your Data (b) Cybersecurity for All (c) Protect Your Passwords
(d) Safe Social Media (e) Data Safety in Cloud Ans. a
235. International Day of Peaceful Coexistence is observed every year on which date?
- (a) 24 January (b) 26 January (c) 28 January (d) 30 January (e) 31 January Ans. c
236. Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day is observed every year on 25 January. In which year did Himachal Pradesh become a full-fledged state of India?
- (a) 1966 (b) 1968 (c) 1971 (d) 1975 (e) 1980 Ans. c
237. President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards–2025 on 30 persons, which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. How many persons received the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak in 2025?
- (a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 12 (e) 18 Ans. b
238. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed on which date?
- (a) 24 January (b) 25 January (c) 26 January (d) 27 January (e) 30 January Ans. d
239. Veteran journalist Sir William Mark Tully has passed away at the age of 90 in New Delhi. Tully was associated with which international media organisation?
- (a) CNN (b) Reuters (c) BBC (d) Al Jazeera (e) The Guardian Ans. c
240. Which bank has won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' award at the IBA Banking Technology Awards?
- (a) State Bank of India (b) HDFC Bank (c) Karnataka Bank
(d) ICICI Bank (e) Axis Bank Ans. c
241. Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi recently won the world's largest AI Film Award. For which film did he receive this prestigious \$1 million award at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai?
- (a) Lily (b) Sunflower (c) Aurora (d) Mirage (e) Eclipse Ans. a

242. Who was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2025?
 (a) Shafali Verma (b) Laura Wolvaardt (c) Ellyse Perry
 (d) Smriti Mandhana (e) Meg Lanning Ans. b
243. The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be hosted jointly for the first time by multiple countries in North America. Which combination of countries has been announced as the official hosts of the tournament?
 (a) United States, Brazil, Mexico (b) United States, Canada, Mexico (c) Canada, Germany, Mexico
 (d) United States, Argentina, Canada (e) United States, England, Mexico Ans. b
244. Indian Army celebrated its 78th Army Day on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, marking the fourth time the Army Day parade was held outside Delhi. Which army command hosted the 78th Army Day parade in Jaipur for the first time?
 (a) Northern Command (b) Eastern Command (c) South Western Command
 (d) Western Command (e) Central Command Ans. c
245. President Droupadi Murmu appointed _____ as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, as informed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
 (a) Praveen Vashista (b) T. M. Bhasin (c) K. P. Singh
 (d) Rakesh Asthana (e) Alok Verma Ans. a
246. National Startup Day is observed in India on which date?
 (a) 12 January (b) 15 January (c) 16 January (d) 18 January (e) 26 January Ans. c
247. Which scientist has won the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for her work on fungal networks?
 (a) Jane Goodall (b) Sylvia Earle (c) Toby Kiers (d) Rachel Carson (e) Vandana Shiva Ans. c
248. Under the Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026, what is the maximum limit on the amount of dispute that a complainant can bring before the RBI Ombudsman?
 (a) Rs.10 lakh (b) Rs.20 lakh (c) Rs.50 lakh (d) Rs.1 crore (e) No limit Ans. e
249. IT services firm LTIMindtree has secured a Rs.3,000 crore contract from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to develop an AI-based programme for modernising India's national tax analytics platform. The Rs.3,000 crore contract awarded to LTIMindtree by CBDT is related to which project?
 (a) Project Faceless (b) Project TaxNet (c) Insight 2.0
 (d) Digital India Tax (e) Smart Tax Mission Ans. c
250. Where has India's first Green Ammonia project been launched?
 (a) Visakhapatnam (b) Hyderabad (c) Kakinada (d) Bengaluru (e) Kochi Ans. c
251. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Howrah (Kolkata) to Kamakhya (Guwahati) during his two-day visit to West Bengal, with the inauguration held in Malda. How many sleeper coaches does the Howrah–Kamakhya Vande Bharat train have?
 (a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16 (e) 18 Ans. d
252. Who has won a seventh term as the President of Uganda?
 (a) Paul Kagame (b) Uhuru Kenyatta (c) Yoweri Museveni
 (d) Cyril Ramaphosa (e) Julius Malema Ans. c
253. Who has been re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank for another two-year term?
 (a) Chanda Kochhar (b) Uday Kotak (c) Sashidhar Jagdishan
 (d) Sandeep Bakhshi (e) Aditya Puri Ans. d
254. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of _____ on IndiGo for major flight disruptions witnessed in December 2025.
 (a) Rs.21.2 Crore (b) Rs.22.2 Crore (c) Rs.23.2 Crore (d) Rs.24.2 Crore (e) Rs.25.2 Crore Ans. b
255. Recently, which hand-woven fabric from Andhra Pradesh has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?
 (a) Gadwal Saree (b) Ponduru Khadi (c) Mangalagiri Cotton
 (d) Venkatagiri Saree (e) Pochampally Ikat Ans. b
256. In which country is the Finke River, believed to be the world's oldest continuously flowing river, located?
 (a) India (b) Egypt (c) Brazil (d) Australia (e) China Ans. d
257. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project, which is part of the 4-laning of the Kaliabor–Numaligarh section of NH-715, in which Indian state?
 (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Meghalaya (c) Assam
 (d) Nagaland (e) Manipur Ans. c

258. As announced by the Tamil Nadu government, the newly instituted national-level literary honour "Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)" aims to recognise outstanding literary works in major Indian languages. What is the amount of cash prize awarded to each recipient under this award?
 (a) Rs.2 lakh (b) Rs.3 lakh (c) Rs.4 lakh (d) Rs.5 lakh (e) Rs.10 lakh Ans. d
259. According to the Department of Commerce, India's electronics exports crossed which milestone for the first time in 2025?
 (a) \$40 billion (b) \$42 billion (c) \$45 billion (d) \$47 billion (e) \$50 billion Ans. d
260. Penguin Awareness Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 10 January (b) 15 January (c) 18 January (d) 20 January (e) 25 January Ans. d
261. According to CareEdge Ratings, India's economy is expected to grow at what rate in FY 2026-27?
 (a) 6.5% (b) 6.8% (c) 7.0% (d) 7.3% (e) 7.5% Ans. c
262. Which ships are part of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron that visited Singapore?
 (a) INS Vikrant, INS Shivalik, INS Sujata (b) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi
 (c) INS Vikramaditya, INS Shivalik, INS Talwar (d) INS Tir, INS Talwar, INS Sahyadri
 (e) INS Shardul, INS Kolkata, INS Sarathi Ans. b
263. Which of the following states does NOT celebrate 21 January as its Foundation Day?
 (a) Tripura (b) Manipur (c) Meghalaya
 (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) All of the above Ans. d
264. Which state government recently announced the Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award), a national-level annual literary honour aimed at recognising outstanding works in major Indian languages other than Hindi, with a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh, and unveiled at the Chennai International Book Fair?
 (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu
 (d) Andhra Pradesh (e) Maharashtra Ans. c
265. Who addressed the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 festival in Assam?
 (a) Amit Shah (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Narendra Modi
 (d) Himanta Biswa Sarma (e) Pranab Mukherjee Ans. c
266. The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting was held virtually by Vietnam to discuss strengthening regional digital cooperation, inclusion, and integration. Under which theme, highlighting the transition from basic connectivity to advanced, connected intelligence, was this meeting conducted?
 (a) Digital ASEAN: Innovation for Growth (b) Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence
 (c) ASEAN-India: Digital Transformation for All (d) Connected ASEAN: Technology for Prosperity
 (e) Digital Future: ASEAN-India Collaboration Ans. b
267. Which non-profit organisation, serving as the parent body of Wikipedia, recently signed strategic partnerships with major technology companies like Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Mistral AI, and Perplexity to provide paid access to its content for Artificial Intelligence training?
 (a) Google Foundation (b) Wikimedia Foundation (c) Internet Archive
 (d) Wikicedia Foundation (e) Linux Foundation Ans. b
268. India recently flagged off the first batch of guided Pinaka rocket systems for export. Which country is the recipient of these rockets?
 (a) Oman (b) Armenia (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar (e) Vietnam Ans. b
269. During the 10-month Lokayan 26 expedition, INS Sudarshini will cover over 22,000 nautical miles and is scheduled to visit multiple international destinations. How many ports and countries is the ship expected to call at during this transoceanic voyage?
 (a) 15 ports across 10 countries, (b) 18 ports across 13 countries
 (c) 20 ports across 12 countries (d) 22 ports across 14 countries
 (e) 25 ports across 15 countries Ans. b
270. Which team created history by winning its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title in the 33rd edition of the tournament?
 (a) Saurashtra (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Vidarbha (e) Maharashtra Ans. d
271. Which city will host the Laureus World Sports Awards for the third consecutive year?
 (a) Paris (b) Rome (c) Madrid (d) London (e) Barcelona Ans. c
272. The IMF has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to:
 (a) 6.4% (b) 6.6% (c) 6.9% (d) 7.1% (e) 7.3% Ans. e
273. What is the target set by India and the UAE to double their bilateral trade by?
 (a) \$150 billion by 2030 (b) \$180 billion by 2031 (c) \$200 billion by 2032
 (d) \$220 billion by 2035 (e) \$250 billion by 2040 Ans. c

274. Who has been elected unopposed as the BJP National President?
 (a) Parul Tyagi (b) Nitin Nabin (c) Smiriti Irani (d) Rekha Gupta (e) Pappu Yadav Ans. b
275. Which organisation received the SKOCH Award 2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS)?
 (a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) C-DOT (d) BHEL (e) TCS Ans. c
276. Who chaired the 88th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in New Delhi?
 (a) Prime Minister of India (b) Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
 (c) Chief Wildlife Warden of India (d) Minister of Defence
 (e) Union Minister of Home Affairs Ans. b
277. Who inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector at IIT Delhi?
 (a) Prime Minister of India (b) Union Minister of Power (c) Chief Minister of Delhi
 (d) Chairman of CERC (e) Director of IIT Delhi Ans. b
278. Parakram Diwas is observed on 23 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of _____.
 (a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (c) Bhagat Singh
 (d) Subhas Chandra Bose (e) Jawaharlal Nehru Ans. d
279. SBI Life Insurance recently launched which guaranteed savings life insurance plan?
 (a) SBI Life – Smart Wealth Plus (b) SBI Life – Platinum Secure
 (c) SBI Life – Smart Platina Advantage (d) SBI Life – Elite Income Shield
 (e) SBI Life – Guaranteed Future Plan Ans. c
280. The BCCI signed a Rs.270 crore sponsorship deal with which AI platform ahead of IPL 2026?
 (a) ChatGPT (b) Bard (c) Gemini (d) Copilot (e) Watson Ans. c
281. What is the name of the operation launched by the Punjab Police to tackle organised gangster networks?
 (a) Operation Shield (b) Operation Vijay (c) Operation Raksha
 (d) Operation Suraksha (e) Operation Parhar Ans. e
282. Which global bank is setting up a branch in India's GIFT City to trade equities and other financial instruments?
 (a) HSBC Holdings Plc (b) Standard Chartered Plc (c) JPMorgan Chase & Co.
 (d) Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (e) Citibank Ans. c
283. Payoneer India has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB). Payoneer India is a subsidiary of which global company?
 (a) Paytm Global (b) Payoneer Global (c) Visa Inc.
 (d) Mastercard Inc. (e) Stripe Inc Ans. b
284. Canara Bank has partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the NPCI that manages India's digital payment infrastructure, to integrate its plugin-based UPI solution. Into which of its own digital payment applications will Canara Bank implement these UPI services to enhance convenience and seamless transactions for its customers?
 (a) BHIM UPI (b) Canara aiPe (c) CanaraIndi (d) PhonePe (e) Google Pay Ans. b
285. The Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of Rs.5,000 crore into SIDBI to expand credit availability for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Over how many tranches will the Rs.5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI be made?
 (a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four (e) Five Ans. c
286. Until which financial year has the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?
 (a) 2025-26 (b) 2027-28 (c) 2030-31 (d) 2032-33 (e) 2035-36 Ans. c
287. The Office of the Principal Controller of Communication Accounts (Pr CCA) Delhi has integrated the SAMPANN pension platform with DigiLocker, enabling digital access to pension documents for retirees under the Department of Telecommunications. What does the SAMPANN platform stand for?
 (a) System for Automated Management of Accounts and National Pensions
 (b) System for Accounting and Management of Pension
 (c) Secure Access for Monetary Pension and Accounts Network
 (d) Standardized Administration of Monthly Pension and Notifications
 (e) System for Administrative Monitoring of Pension Payments Ans. b

288. Bharat Steel 2026, a two-day international conference-cum-exhibition focusing on sustainability, supply chain resilience, and technological transformation in the steel sector, will be held on 16–17 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Which ministry is organising this summit?
 (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries (c) Ministry of Steel
 (d) Ministry of Science & Technology (e) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Ans. c
289. Who is set to take over as the Group Chief Executive Officer of Eternal after Deepinder Goyal steps down?
 (a) Deepinder Goyal (b) Albinder Dhindsa (c) Nandan Nilekani
 (d) Rohit Kapoor (e) Kalyan Krishnamurthy Ans. b
290. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Whole-time Director and Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank for a fresh three-year term. The fresh three-year term of Kaizad Bharucha will begin from which date?
 (a) January 20, 2026 (b) April 1, 2026 (c) April 19, 2026
 (d) March 31, 2026 (e) May 1, 2026 Ans. c
291. India launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) was launched under the aegis of which organisation?
 (a) NITI Aayog (b) United Nations Development Programme
 (c) World Intellectual Foundation (d) World Economic Forum (e) UNESCO Ans. c
292. Who released the Hindi edition of Dr C. Palanivelu's autobiography "Palanivelu GUTS"?
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar (c) C. P. Radhakrishnan
 (d) M. K. Stalin (e) Amit Shah Ans. c
293. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) has completed 11 years since its launch on 22 January 2015 under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, aimed at securing the financial future of the girl child. What is the current interest rate under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana?
 (a) 7.6% (b) 8.0% (c) 8.1% (d) 8.2% (e) 8.5% Ans. d
294. A total of 30 tableaux will roll down Kartavya Path, New Delhi, during the 77th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2026. The tableaux will include 17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from Ministries, Departments, and Services. Which theme of Republic Day 2026 tableaux focuses on self-reliant India?
 (a) 150 years of Vande Mataram (b) Viksit Bharat (c) Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
 (d) Digital India (e) Samridhi ka Mantra Ans. e
295. During the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating 40+ election-related apps and web services to enhance citizen participation. ECINET has been developed in how many Indian languages (excluding English)?
 (a) 18 (b) 20 (c) 21 (d) 22 (e) 24 Ans. d
296. What scheme will Amit Shah launch on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Day 2026?
 (a) Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Yojana (b) One District One Cuisine
 (c) Sardar Patel Industrial Zone Programme (d) Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission
 (e) National Skill Development Mission Ans. b
297. CDS General Anil Chauhan released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework, outlining a policy and roadmap for adopting Quantum Technologies in India's Armed Forces. Which of the following is not a pillar of the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework?
 (a) Quantum Computing (b) Quantum Communication
 (c) Quantum Sensing & Metrology (d) Quantum Materials & Devices
 (e) Quantum Nuclear Fusion Ans. e
298. Hyderabad to host Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, at Begumpet Airport, bringing together aviation leaders, aircraft manufacturers, and government delegations from over 20 countries. How often is Wings India organized?
 (a) Annual (b) Biennial (c) Every 3 years (d) Every 5 years (e) Quarterly Ans. b
299. Which ministry signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to strengthen India's skills ecosystem?
 (a) Ministry of Education (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 (c) Ministry of Labour and Employment (d) Ministry of Commerce
 (e) Ministry of Science & Technology Ans. b

300. National Girl Child Day is observed every year on 24 January to raise awareness about the rights, education, and well-being of girls in India. What is the theme of National Girl Child Day 2026?
 (a) Educate a Girl, Empower a Nation (b) Empowering Every Daughter, Building a Stronger India
 (c) Girls First, India Next (d) Equal Rights for Girls
 (e) Girls and Technology Ans. b
301. The United States has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO), following a one-year notice given by President Donald Trump in 2025. What percentage of WHO funding was contributed by the U.S.?
 (a) 10% (b) 15% (c) 18% (d) 20% (e) 25% Ans. c
302. International Day of Education is observed every year on 24 January to highlight the role of education in peace, development, and human rights worldwide. What is the theme of International Day of Education 2026?
 (a) Education for All (b) The power of youth in co-creating education
 (c) Learning Never Stops (d) Global Education for Peace
 (e) Inclusive Learning Opportunities Ans. b
303. Razorpay POS, the offline payments arm of fintech major Razorpay, has secured a licence from the RBI to operate as an _____.
 (a) Online payment aggregator (b) Cross-border payment aggregator (c) Cryptocurrency licence
 (d) Digital wallet licence (e) Offline payment aggregator Ans. e
304. Saina Nehwal announced her retirement from competitive badminton after being out of action for nearly two years due to chronic knee problems and cartilage degeneration. At which Olympics did Saina Nehwal win a bronze medal, becoming the first Indian woman to medal in Olympic badminton?
 (a) Beijing 2008 (b) Tokyo 2020 (c) Rio 2016 (d) London 2012 (e) Athens 2004 Ans. d
305. NASA astronaut Sunita 'Suni' Williams retired after a stellar 27-year career, setting numerous human spaceflight records, including 608 days in space. She ambitiousbaba.com Online Test Series
 (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) 5 Ans. c
306. Where has Punjab launched its first Dog Sanctuary as a pilot project?
 (a) Amritsar (b) Ludhiana (c) Chandigarh (d) Patiala (e) Jalandhar Ans. b
307. Which city has become the first in Uttar Pradesh to be officially recognised as a 'Zero Fresh Waste Dump' city?
 (a) Kanpur (b) Varanasi (c) Prayagraj (d) Lucknow (e) Ghaziabad Ans. d
308. Which organisation has been recognised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all Authorised Dealers?
 (a) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) (b) Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)
 (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (d) Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM)
 (e) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Ans. b
309. Ms. N Rajam, awarded the Padma Vibhushan 2026, is recognised for her contribution in which field?
 (a) Literature and Education (b) Science and Engineering (c) Art
 (d) Public Affairs (e) Social Work Ans. c
310. How much total liquidity is the RBI injecting into the banking system through its recent measures?
 (a) Rs.50,000 crore (b) Rs.1 lakh crore (c) Rs.1.5 lakh crore
 (d) Rs.2 lakh crore (e) Rs.3 lakh crore Ans. d
311. Which state's power distribution utilities emerged as top performers in the 14th Integrated Rating and Ranking Report by the Power Ministry?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Odisha (c) Gujarat (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Punjab Ans. c
312. India's rank among 11 countries in historical AI investments between 2010 and 2024 is:
 (a) 5th (b) 6th (c) 7th (d) 8th (e) 9th Ans. d
313. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of IndusInd Bank?
 (a) Sunil Mehta (b) Rakesh Sharma (c) Aditya Puri (d) Arijit Basu (e) Uday Kotak Ans. d
314. Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named 'ASC ARJUN' at which railway station, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative to enhance passenger safety, security, and service delivery?
 (a) Chennai Terminal (b) Visakhapatnam (c) Mumbai CST
 (d) New Delhi (e) Kolkata Howrah Ans. b
315. International Day of Education is observed annually on 24 January to recognise the role of education in peace, development, and global progress. The theme of International Day of Education 2026 is:
 (a) Education for All (b) Learning Never Stops
 (c) Quality Education for Sustainable Future (d) The power of youth in co-creating education
 (e) Digital Education and Innovation Ans. d

316. What type of licence has Payoneer India received from the RBI recently?
 (a) Payment Aggregator – Domestic Only (b) Digital Wallet Provider
 (c) Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB) (d) Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)
 (e) Foreign Exchange Dealer Ans. c
317. The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to digitise geographical place names?
 (a) Survey of India (b) National Remote Sensing Centre (c) Geological Survey of India
 (d) Indian Space Research Organisation (e) National Informatics Centre Ans. a
318. During the 5th India–Namibia Foreign Office Consultations held on January 19–20, both countries agreed to deepen cooperation in multiple strategic sectors. Which of the following sectors was not explicitly mentioned as part of the discussions?
 (a) Health (b) Defence (c) Agriculture
 (d) Space Technology (e) Critical Minerals Ans. d
319. Who released the book “Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response”?
 (a) President of India (b) Prime Minister of India (c) Union Home Minister
 (d) Vice President (e) Governor of Uttar Pradesh Ans. d
320. India recently delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to which country as part of healthcare cooperation?
 (a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar (e) Afghanistan Ans. e
321. Tata Communications has appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as the Managing Director and CEO-Designate of which company?
 (a) Tata Consultancy Services (b) Tata Digital Limited (c) Tata Elxsi
 (d) Tata Tele Services (e) Tata Communications Limited Ans. e
322. The NeSDA Way Forward for States/UTs – December 2025 report, released by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), primarily aims to assess which of the following aspects of governance?
 (a) Financial inclusion performance of States/UTs (b) Ease of Doing Business reforms
 (c) Implementation status of Smart Cities Mission
 (d) Status, coverage, and quality of e-service delivery across States/UTs
 (e) Performance of Panchayati Raj Institutions Ans. d
323. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU with which organisation to strengthen vocational education and training?
 (a) World Bank (b) UNESCO (c) International Labour Organization
 (d) World Economic Forum (e) OECD Ans. d
324. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan, housing around 50 manuscripts and 2,300 books in 11 Indian classical languages covering subjects like epics, philosophy, science, history, governance, devotional literature, and the Constitution. Which national initiative is Granth Kutir aligned with for preserving and digitising India’s manuscript heritage?
 (a) National Digital Library Mission (b) Gyan Bharatam Mission
 (c) Manuscript Preservation Initiative (d) Rashtriya Granth Mission
 (e) Digital India Mission Ans. d
325. Who has been selected for the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 in the individual category?
 (a) Lt. Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke (b) Shri Piyush Pandey (c) Ms. Alka Yagnik
 (d) Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (e) Shri V S Achuthanandhan Ans. a
326. National Tourism Day is observed every year in India on which date?
 (a) 24 January (b) 25 January (c) 26 January (d) 27 January (e) 28 January Ans. b
327. The 7th India International Seaweed Expo & Summit will be held in which city?
 (a) Kochi (b) Chennai (c) Thiruvananthapuram
 (d) Mumbai (e) Visakhapatnam Ans. a
328. National Voters’ Day is observed every year on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI). What is the theme of National Voters’ Day 2026?
 (a) Every Vote Matters (b) Power of Democracy (c) My India, My Vote
 (d) Vote for a Better Nation (e) Democracy First Ans. c

329. Recently, where was the rare worm-like amphibian *Gegeneophis valmiki* discovered?
 (a) Eastern Ghats (b) Himalayas (c) Northern Western Ghats
 (d) Sundarbans (e) Nilgiri Hills Ans. c
330. Which company conducted the first-ever medical evacuation mission from the International Space Station (ISS)?
 (a) Blue Origin (b) Boeing (c) SpaceX (d) Roscosmos (e) Arianespace Ans. c
331. Where was the 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship held in Ladakh?
 (a) Leh Ice Stadium (b) Nubra Valley Ice Ground
 (c) Biamathang Ice Hockey Ground, Kargil (d) Pangong Ice Arena
 (e) Tso Moriri Ice Field Ans. c
332. Which Indian Naval Sailing Vessel recently reached Muscat, strengthening India-Oman ties?
 (a) INSV Tarini (b) INSV Mhadei (c) INS Arihant (d) INS Vikrant (e) INSV Kaundinya Ans. e
333. Which Indian Fintech Company has received NPCI approval to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider under the UPI framework?
 (a) Paytm (b) ZET (c) PhonePe (d) Google Pay (e) BharatPe Ans. b
334. Which nuclear reactor was restarted at Japan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in 2026, marking nearly 15 years since the Fukushima disaster?
 (a) Reactor No. 4 (b) Reactor No. 5 (c) Reactor No. 6 (d) Reactor No. 7 (e) Reactor No. 8 Ans. c
335. Gulfood 2026, the world's largest annual food and beverage exhibition, will be held from January 26–30, 2026, making history as the first exhibition to operate simultaneously across two mega venues—Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai—with India as the partner country for the first time. Which country has been named the partner country for Gulfood 2026 for the first time?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) United States (c) Egypt (d) India (e) Turkey Ans. d
336. The 25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026, organised by the National School of Drama (NSD), will be held during which period?
 (a) January 10 – February 5, 2026 (b) January 20 – February 15, 2026
 (c) January 27 – February 20, 2026 (d) February 1 – February 28, 2026
 (e) January 15 – March 1, 2026 Ans. c
337. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which organisation to strengthen MSME participation in public procurement?
 (a) FICCI (b) CII (c) World Trade Centre
 (d) ASSOCHAM (e) NITI Aayogs Ans. c
338. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card during his visit to Kerala. The launch took place in which city, highlighting the government's focus on financial inclusion for informal sector workers?
 (a) Kochi (b) Kozhikode (c) Thiruvananthapuram
 (d) Kollam (e) Thrissur Ans. c
339. Who became the first woman CRPF officer from Rajouri to lead an all-male CRPF contingent at the Republic Day Parade?
 (a) Pooja Singh (b) Simran Bala (c) Ritu Sharma (d) Parul Tyagi (e) Anjali Gupta Ans. b
340. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper "Rethinking AI Sovereignty", India was placed at which position among 11 countries based on their historical accumulated investments in the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem between 2010 and 2024, calculated as a percentage of their 2024 GDP?
 (a) 5th (b) 6th (c) 7th (d) 8th (e) 9th Ans. d
341. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee named the Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) panel to review and modernise the investment framework of the National Pension System (NPS). Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of this SAARG committee?
 (a) Uday Kotak (b) Nandan Nilekani (c) Narayan Ramachandran
 (d) Deepak Parekh (e) Chanda Kochhar Ans. c
342. Who has been appointed as the head coach of the senior Indian women's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF)?
 (a) Igor Štimac (b) Thomas Dennerby (c) Maymol Rocky
 (d) Sunil Chhetri (e) Amelia Valverde Ans. e
343. Indian Air Force Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla has been awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, for his exceptional service. The Ashok Chakra was awarded to Shubhanshu Shukla in recognition of his service, including his role in which space mission?
 (a) Gaganyaan Mission (b) Chandrayaan-3 (c) Axiom Mission
 (d) Artemis Mission (e) Shukrayaan Mission

344. Who will inaugurate the first phase of Assam's largest multi-sports stadium in Dibrugarh?
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Himanta Biswa Sarma (c) Nitin Gadkari
 (d) Rajnath Singh (e) Amit Shah Ans. e
345. Which Indian Coast Guard ships arrived at the Port of Colombo for an official visit?
 (a) ICGS Vijaya and ICGS Sarang (b) ICGS Varaha and ICGS Atulya
 (c) ICGS Samrat and ICGS Shaurya (d) ICGS Sagardhwani and ICGS Sujeet
 (e) ICGS Rajput and ICGS Tejas Ans. b
346. Which country has replaced Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?
 (a) Ireland (b) Scotland (c) Afghanistan (d) Netherlands (e) Nepal Ans. b
347. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is set to sign a term contract with which company to source crude oil?
 (a) Shell (b) ExxonMobil (c) Petrobras (d) TotalEnergies (e) Chevron Ans. c
348. Which company is starting the second phase of construction of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala?
 (a) DP World (b) Adani Port Pvt Ltd (c) Essar Ports
 (d) Mumbai Port Trust (e) Cochin Port Trust Ans. b
349. According to the UNCTAD 2025 report, FDI inflows to India surged significantly due to large investments in services like finance, IT, and R&D, as well as manufacturing, supported by government policies to integrate India into global supply chains. What was the total value of FDI inflows to India in 2025?
 (a) USD 35 billion (b) USD 40 billion (c) USD 47 billion (d) USD 50 billion (e) USD 55 billion Ans. c
350. National Geographic Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 25 January (b) 26 January (c) 27 January (d) 28 January (e) 29 January Ans. c
351. International Customs Day is observed every year on which date?
 (a) 25 January (b) 26 January (c) 27 January (d) 28 January (e) 29 January Ans. b
352. How much financial assistance has the World Bank approved for the 'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project' to make Haryana self-reliant in the water sector?
 (a) Rs 4,500 crore (b) Rs 5,000 crore (c) Rs 5,500 crore (d) Rs 5,700 crore (e) Rs 6,000 crore Ans. d
353. Ajit Pawar tragically died in a plane crash near Baramati in Pune district. Ajit Pawar held which political position in Maharashtra at the time of his death?
 (a) Chief Minister (b) Governor (c) Mayor
 (d) Deputy Chief Minister (e) Finance Minister Ans. d
354. Bharti AXA Life Insurance launches "Swabhimaan Retirement" deferred annuity plan, offering customers the ability to plan early, lock in current annuity rates, and secure guaranteed lifetime income, with an Atmanirbhar option. What is the "Atmanirbhar" option in this plan?
 (a) Allows customers to withdraw funds in case of emergency (b) Offers higher interest rates
 (c) Provides additional tax benefits (d) Provides a free health check-up
 (e) Extends premium payment term automatically Ans. a
355. Which AI tools can now be used to order groceries, food, and make dining reservations on Swiggy?
 (a) Siri and Alexa (b) Watson and Bixby
 (c) ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini (d) Cortana and IBM Watson
 (e) Google Assistant only Ans. c
356. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the launch of the 'NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme' as a Proof of Concept (PoC) under its Regulatory Sandbox Framework. Under the Swasthya Pension Scheme, subscribers over 40 years of age (excluding government employees) can transfer what percentage of their contributions from their Common Scheme Account?
 (a) 20% (b) 25% (c) 28% (d) 30% (e) 35% Ans. d
357. Which Indian Company signed an MoU with Embraer to establish a commercial aircraft assembly facility in India?
 (a) Tata Aerospace (b) Reliance Defence
 (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (d) Adani Defence & Aerospace
 (e) Mahindra Aerospace Ans. d
358. On the eve of the 77th Republic Day, how many Armed Forces personnel were approved for gallantry awards by President Droupadi Murmu?
 (a) 50 (b) 60 (c) 70 (d) 80 (e) 90 Ans. c
359. Which Indian state has announced 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture'?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan (e) Karnataka Ans. c

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