

## RBI Grade B Phase 1 General Awareness Memory Based Paper

**Q1.** If the Vice-President of India dies, resigns, or otherwise vacates office, within how many months must the election to fill the vacancy be held?

- (a). 3 months
- (b). 6 months
- (c). 9 months
- (d). 1 year
- (e). As soon as possible, without any specified time limit

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Under **Article 68(2)** of the Constitution of India, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

**Key Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 63** – Provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India.
- **Article 64** – The Vice-President acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Article 67** – The Vice-President holds office for a term of five years but may resign or be removed.
- **Article 68(2)**- A person elected to fill a casual vacancy holds office for a **full five-year term** from the date of entering office (not merely the remainder of the predecessor's term).

**Additional Information:**

- The Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament through proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- The Vice-President can resign by writing to the President of India.
- Removal requires a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.

**Q2.** As per the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021, what is the maximum tenure for which an RBI Ombudsman can be appointed?

- (a). Two years
- (B). Three years
- (c). Four years
- (d). Five years
- (e). Six years

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Under the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** may appoint one or more of its officers as **Ombudsman** and **Deputy Ombudsman** to carry out the functions under the Scheme.

The appointment of an Ombudsman (and Deputy Ombudsman) is **made for a period not exceeding three years at a time** — this is the **maximum tenure** for a single appointment under the Scheme.



This tenure ensures continuity and effectiveness in grievance redressal while allowing for periodic review and reappointment as needed.

**Background Information:**

- The **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021** was notified by the RBI to unify and strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customers of banks, NBFCs, payment system participants, and other regulated entities.
- It integrates earlier ombudsman schemes and adopts a “One Nation – One Ombudsman” approach for jurisdiction-neutral complaint resolution

**Q3.** Which of the following data sets is released by the Reserve Bank of India on a daily basis, similar to Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Money Market Operations (OMO) data of the previous day?

- (a). Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Data
- (b). Forex Data
- (c). Bank credit data
- (d). Reference Exchange Rates data
- (e). Both b and c

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The Reserve Bank issues a number of press releases relating to operations of its monetary policy that are released on a real-time basis through wire agencies and its web-site.

At 9 am, it releases a press release on **Money Market Operations** of the previous day which gives a picture of liquidity in the system to market participants.

The results of the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) operations** of the day are posted on the website by 12.30 PM of the same day.

The **reference exchange rates** are placed on the website by 12.45 PM on every working day.

**Q4.** With reference to the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA), consider the following statements:

1. A BSBDA holder is required to maintain a minimum balance in the account.
2. The account provides for a maximum of four withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals.
3. No charges are levied for non-operation or activation of an inoperative BSBDA.
4. The account includes the provision of an ATM-cum-Debit Card free of cost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a). 2 and 4 only
- (b). 1 and 3 only
- (c). 2 and 3 only
- (d). 2, 3 and 4 only
- (e). 3 and 4 only

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA)** was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India to promote **financial inclusion**.

Statement 1 is incorrect– No minimum balance is required to be maintained in a BSBDA. (It is a zero balance account)

Statement 2 is Correct – A maximum of four withdrawals per month, including ATM withdrawals, is permitted.

Statement 3 is Correct – No charges are levied for non-operation or activation of an inoperative BSBDA.

Statement 4 is Correct – An ATM-cum-Debit Card is provided free of cost.

**Key Features of BSBDA:**

- No minimum balance requirement.
- Free ATM/debit card facility.
- Limited withdrawals (maximum four per month).
- No charges for opening or basic services.

**Q5.** The All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS), which collects detailed data on the assets, liabilities, and capital expenditures of Indian households in rural and urban areas, is conducted periodically by which of the following institutions?

- (a). Reserve Bank of India
- (b). National Statistical Office
- (c). NITI Aayog
- (d). Ministry of Finance
- (e). Securities and Exchange Board of India

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The **All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS)** is conducted periodically by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The survey provides comprehensive data on household assets, liabilities, indebtedness, and capital expenditure across rural and urban India.

**Key Points:**

- AIDIS is conducted as part of the **National Sample Survey (NSS)** rounds.
- Covers data on **household borrowing, asset ownership, and investment patterns**.
- Useful for policymaking related to credit access, financial inclusion, and rural indebtedness.
- Conducted periodically (approximately once every 10 years).

**Background Information:**

- NSO functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- The survey helps assess trends in household debt and financial vulnerability.
- AIDIS findings are often used by RBI, policymakers, and researchers for macroeconomic analysis.

**Q6.** Recently, India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant was inaugurated by PM Modi. Where is the plant established?

- (a). Assam
- (b). Tripura
- (c). Mizoram
- (d). Manipur
- (e). Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant was established in **Assam** at Numaligarh. The plant was set up by Numaligarh Refinery Limited as part of the government's push towards biofuels and the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

**Background Information:**

- The project aligns with the **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 (amended in 2022)**, and the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol.
- Bamboo is abundantly available in the North-Eastern region, making Assam strategically suitable.
- The plant contributes to farmers' income and promotes sustainable energy alternatives.

**Q7.** Four out of these mountain peaks exist in the same nation. Identify odd one out.

- Kangchenjunga
- Kudremukh
- Mount Everest
- Nanda Devi
- Kamet

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Four of the listed peaks — **Kangchenjunga, Nanda Devi, Kamet, and Kudremukh** — are located in **India**, whereas **Mount Everest** is located on the **Nepal–China (Tibet) border** and is not situated in India. Hence, Everest is the odd one out.

**Additional Information:**

- Kangchenjunga
  - **State:** Sikkim
  - Third-highest peak in the world (8,586 m)
  - Located on the India–Nepal border
- Nanda Devi
  - **State:** Uttarakhand
  - Highest peak entirely within India (7,816 m)
  - Located in the Garhwal Himalayas
- Kamet
  - **State:** Uttarakhand
  - Second-highest mountain in India (7,756 m)
  - Situated near the Tibet border
- Kudremukh
  - **State:** Karnataka
  - Part of the Western Ghats
  - Elevation: ~1,894 m
- Mount Everest
  - Located on the **Nepal–China border**
  - Highest mountain in the world (8,848.86 m)

**Q8.** What is the minimum margin requirement for loans extended under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme?

- (a). 0%
- (b). 5%
- (c). 10%
- (d). 15%

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The borrower is not required to pay any upfront margin under DRI scheme.

**Q9.** Under the revised GST structure effective from 22 September 2025, which of the following pre-packaged and labelled items has been moved to the NIL (0%) GST rate slab?

- (a). Packaged breakfast cereals
- (b). Packaged chocolates
- (c). Pre-packaged and labelled paneer
- (d). Bottled aerated drinks
- (e). Packaged instant noodles

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Under the **revised GST structure effective from 22 September 2025**, the Indian government rationalised GST rates and moved several essential food items into the **NIL (0 %) GST rate slab** to make them more affordable.

One of the key items shifted to **0 % GST** was **pre-packaged and labelled paneer (chena/paneer)**, which was earlier taxed at 5 %.

Other essential staples such as roti, paratha, pizza bread, and khakhra were also placed under the 0 % category.

These rate changes were part of the broader **GST 2.0 reforms announced by the 56th meeting of GST Council in 2025**, which consolidated lower rates and exemptions to simplify taxation and reduce the burden on households.

**Why other options are incorrect:**

- (a) *Packaged breakfast cereals* — moved to **5 % GST** under the new slabs, not 0 %.
- (b) *Packaged chocolates* — also falls under **5 % GST** category.
- (d) *Bottled aerated drinks* — typically attract **higher GST of 40%**, not nil.
- (e) *Packaged instant noodles* — placed in **5 % GST slab**, not 0 %

**Q10.** The traditional craft “Thewa Art”, which has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is associated with which Indian state?

- (a). Gujarat
- (b). Rajasthan
- (c). Madhya Pradesh
- (d). Uttar Pradesh
- (e). Maharashtra

Ans.(b)

**Sol. Thewa Art** is a traditional jewellery craft originating from **Rajasthan**, specifically **Pratapgarh district**. It involves **fusing intricately worked gold sheet onto coloured glass**, producing distinctive ornaments. The craft has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, recognising its regional uniqueness and heritage.

**Background Information:**

- Thewa Art dates back to the **18th century** and was patronised by local rulers of Pratapgarh.
- Traditionally practised by a few artisan families, it is known for **floral and mythological motifs**.
- GI tagging helps **protect artisans' livelihoods** and preserves cultural heritage.

**Other Options:**

- (a) *Gujarat* — Known for crafts like **Bandhani** and **Patola**, not Thewa.
- (c) *Madhya Pradesh* — Famous for **Gond art** and **Chanderi**, not Thewa.
- (d) *Uttar Pradesh* — Known for **Chikankari**, **Banarasi silk**.
- (e) *Maharashtra* — Known for **Warli painting**, **Paithani**.

**Q11.** What is the minimum net worth requirement at the time of registration for an entity aspiring to become a Payment Aggregator under the recent regulations of the Reserve Bank of India?

- (a). ₹5 crore
- (b). ₹10 crore
- (c). ₹15 crore
- (d). ₹25 crore
- (e). ₹50 crore

Ans.(c)

**Sol.** As per the RBI's Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways (issued in March 2020 under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007), a **non-bank entity applying for Payment Aggregator (PA) authorisation must have a minimum net worth of ₹15 crore at the time of application**. Further, it must increase the net worth to **₹25 crore within three financial years** of receiving authorisation. A **Payment Aggregator (PA)** is a third-party service provider (e.g., Razorpay, Stripe) that enables merchants to accept various digital payments—cards, UPI, net banking, wallets—without setting up independent bank merchant accounts. They streamline online sales by handling onboarding, technical integration, and fund settlement, serving as an intermediary between businesses and acquirers.

**Q12.** When is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women observed every year?

- (a). 8 March
- (b). 25 November
- (c). 10 December
- (d). 1 December
- (e). 15 October

Ans.(b)

**Sol.** The **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** is observed annually on **25 November**.

The day was officially designated by the United Nations General Assembly in **1999** to raise awareness about violence against women and girls worldwide.

**Key Points:**

- Commemorates the assassination of the **Mirabal sisters** in the Dominican Republic (1960).
- Marks the beginning of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** (25 November – 10 December).
- 10 December coincides with **Human Rights Day**.
- Aims to mobilize governments, civil society, and communities to prevent gender-based violence.

**Q13.** Which Indian state became the pioneer in issuing identification cards and strong institutional support to women Self Help Groups (SHGs)?

- (a). Kerala
- (b). Tamil Nadu
- (c). Andhra Pradesh
- (d). Odisha
- (e). Rajasthan

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol. Tamil Nadu** is the first Indian state to issue **identity cards to women Self Help Group (SHG) members**. The state provides **strong institutional support** through formal SHG federations and linkage with banks. This helped improve **credit access, recognition, and empowerment** of women SHG members.

**Background Information:**

- Tamil Nadu pioneered SHG promotion through **NGO–government collaboration** in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- The model later influenced national programmes like **SGSY** and **NRLM**.
- The state institutionalised SHGs before many others adopted similar frameworks.

**Other Options:**

- **(a) Kerala** – Famous for **Kudumbashree**, launched later (1998).
- **(c) Andhra Pradesh** – Developed a **very strong SHG structure**, but **not the first** to issue SHG ID cards.
- **(d) Odisha** – Expanded SHGs under **Mission Shakti**.
- **(e) Rajasthan** – SHG growth mainly after NRLM

**Q14.** Which organization earned a Guinness World Record in 2025 for selling the most life insurance policies within 24 hours?

- (a). HDFC Life
- (b). SBI Life Insurance
- (c). ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (d). Life Insurance Corporation of India
- (e). Max Life Insurance

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) earned a **Guinness World Record** for issuing the **highest number of life insurance policies in 24 hours**.

LIC's agents collectively sold **over 5.88 lakh (588,000+) policies in a single day**, achieving this global milestone and demonstrating its extensive outreach and distribution strength.

**About LIC:**

- **Established:** 1956 (through nationalization of 245+ private insurers)
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Finance
- **Regulator:** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

**Key Features:**

- Largest life insurer in India
- Extensive network of over **13 lakh agents**
- Significant contributor to India's financial savings and infrastructure investment
- Listed on stock exchanges in 2022

**Q15.** Since 2004, for which category of banks has the Reserve Bank of India discontinued issuing new licences?

- (a). Small Finance Banks
- (b). Local Area Banks
- (c). Payments Bank
- (d). Regional Rural Banks
- (e). Urban Cooperative Banks

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Since **2004**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **not issued any new licences for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**. The policy shift was aimed at strengthening the regulatory framework and consolidating the cooperative banking sector due to concerns related to governance, financial stability, and supervisory challenges.

Instead of issuing new licences, RBI has focused on:

- Strengthening capital and prudential norms for existing UCBs.
- Promoting consolidation through mergers and voluntary transitions to Small Finance Banks.
- Enhancing supervisory oversight under recent amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (as applicable to cooperative banks).

**Key Points:**

- New UCB licences have not been issued since 2004.
- RBI has encouraged structural reforms instead of expansion in this segment.
- Urban Cooperative Banks operate under dual regulation (RBI + Registrar of Cooperative Societies).
- Governance concerns and financial stress in some UCBs led to stricter oversight.

**Q16.** Which Indian institution achieved the top ranking among Indian universities in the QS World University Rankings 2026?

- (a). IIT Madras
- (b). IIT Bombay

- (c). IIT Delhi  
(d). IISc Bengaluru  
(e). BITS Pilani

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** In the **QS World University Rankings 2026**, **IIT Delhi** emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institution, securing the top position among Indian universities with a **global rank of 123**. This marked the strongest showing by an Indian institution in the 2026 edition of the rankings.

**Additional Info:**

- India has 54 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the fourth most represented country.
- Only the United States (192), the United Kingdom (90), and Mainland China (72) have more universities ranked than India.
- Eight Indian institutions have entered the rankings for the first time. This is the highest number of new entrants from any country this year.
- Six Indian institutions feature in the global top 250.

**Q17.** With reference to the geographical size (total area) of countries, which of the following country–rank pairs is incorrectly matched?

- (a). Brazil – 5th largest  
(b). United States – 3rd largest  
(c). Canada – 2nd largest  
(d). India – 7th largest  
(e). Australia-6th largest

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct ranking of countries by total geographical area (land + inland water bodies) is:

1. Russia – ~17.1 million sq km
2. Canada – ~9.98 million sq km
3. China – ~9.60 million sq km
4. United States – ~9.52 million sq km
5. Brazil – ~8.51 million sq km
6. Australia – ~7.69 million sq km
7. India – ~3.287 million sq km

Thus, the **United States ranks 4th**, not 3rd.

**Q18.** What is the daily gross transaction volume in India’s capital market based on recent data (2025)?

- (a). Rs 1 lakh crore  
(b). Rs 2 lakh crore  
(c). Rs 50,000 crore  
(d). Rs 3 lakh crore  
(e). Rs 4 lakh crore

Ans.(e)

**Sol. Average Daily Turnover (Equity Cash Market):**As of 2025, the average daily turnover in the NSE equity cash market was approximately **₹90,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore** (\$10.7–11.9 billion USD), experiencing a year-end slump from higher levels earlier in the year.

**Derivatives Segment:** The derivatives market frequently dominated, with Q1 2025 data indicating average daily futures turnover hitting **₹2.09 trillion** (~\$24.9 billion) and options reaching **₹719 billion** (~\$8.6 billion). Hence, daily gross transaction volume in India's capital market is around Rs 4 lakh crore (as of 2025).

**Q19.** What is the frequency of the Sea Dragon Exercise, a multilateral anti-submarine warfare drill?

- (a). Half Yearly
- (b). Annually
- (c). Biennially
- (d). Once every four years
- (e). Once every five years

Ans.(b)

**Sol.** Exercise Sea Dragon is an **annual, U.S.-led multilateral anti-submarine warfare** (ASW) exercise held in Guam, aimed at strengthening maritime security and interoperability among Indo-Pacific allies. The 2025 iteration (SD25) held in March 2025 focused on tracking simulated and live submarines, involving advanced aircraft from the **U.S., India, Japan, Australia, and South Korea**.

**Objectives of the Exercise:**

- Enhance coordination in submarine detection and tracking.
- Strengthen maritime domain awareness.
- Improve operational readiness and interoperability among Indo-Pacific partners.
- Promote regional security and stability.

**Q20.** The Financial Education Programme for Adults (FEPA) launched by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) aims to spread financial awareness among which of the following groups?

- (a). Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- (b). ASHA workers
- (c). Senior Citizens
- (d). Women and Rural Households
- (e). All of the Above

Ans.(e)

**Sol.** The **Financial Education Programme for Adults (FEPA)** was **launched by the NCFE in 2019**. FEPA is a Financial Literacy Programme designed and implemented to spread financial awareness among the adult population such as Farmers, Women groups, Asha Workers, Anganwadi Workers, Self Help Groups, Employees of Organization, Skill Development Trainees etc. This programme is conducted in line with the targets of National Strategy for Financial Education and the focus have been given to Special Focused Districts (SFDs).



**Objective:** To create financial awareness which will generate confidence in the financially excluded sections of the society to use the financial services and products more effectively thereby bringing more people to the formal financial sector.

**Target Group:** Adult population such as Employees of various organisations, SHG members, Farmers and rural folks, Women groups, household people, MGNREGA cardholders, personnel from forces or any other classes of financially excluded section of the society.

**Free of Cost:** The workshop shall be conducted free of cost and no money will be collected from the participants.

**Q21.** Infosys has partnered with which country for cross border payments? (August 2025)

- (a). Visa
- (b). PayPal
- (c). Mastercard
- (d). Stripe
- (e). Western Union

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Infosys announced a strategic collaboration with **Mastercard** to enable financial institutions to access **Mastercard Move**, the latter's portfolio of money movement capabilities, and thereby **scale cross-border payments**. The partnership integrates Mastercard's global cross-border solutions with Infosys's digital banking platform (Finacle), enabling fast, secure, and reliable international money transfers for banks and other financial institutions.

Mastercard Move provides direct disbursements, banks, non-bank financial institutions and their customers with fast, secure money transfer solutions, both domestically and internationally.

**Key Points:**

- The collaboration is designed to improve **near-real-time cross-border payments** experiences.
- Mastercard Move reaches over **200 countries and 150+ currencies with access to over 95% of the global population**.
- Integration with Infosys Finacle helps streamline onboarding for banks

**Q22.** Which of the following programmes fall under the umbrella of Skill Development schemes in India?

- (a). Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)
- (b). Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- (c). National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)
- (d). Only a and b
- (e). All of the above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) are key initiatives under India's Skill Development framework aimed at enhancing employability and vocational training across diverse sections of society.

**Key Points:**

- JSS focuses on vocational training for non-literate and school dropouts in rural and urban areas.

- PMKVY provides short-term skill training and certification aligned with industry standards.
- NAPS promotes apprenticeship training by incentivising employers.
- These schemes operate under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- PMKVY was launched in **2015**.
- NAPS was launched in **2016** to boost apprenticeship engagement.
- The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme was originally launched as Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVP) in 1967. It was initially established in Mumbai to provide vocational training to industrial workers. The scheme was later renamed as Jan Shikshan Sansthan in the year 2000 and its focus shifted to providing skill training to non-literates and school drop-outs,

**Q23.** Match the following countries with the rivers that originate within their territory:

List I (Country)	List II (River)
A. China	1. Yangtze
B. Peru	2. Amazon
C. Ethiopia	3. Volga
D. Russia	4. Blue Nile

- (A). A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3  
 (b). A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3  
 (c). A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2  
 (d). A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4  
 (e). A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol. 1. Yangtze river:**

- Origin- **Tanggula Mountains**, Tibetan Plateau (Qinghai Province, China)
- Flows entirely within China
- **Longest river in Asia**
- **3rd longest river in the world** (~6,300 km)
- Hosts the **Three Gorges Dam** — world's largest hydroelectric power station

**2. Amazon river:**

- Origin- Andes Mountains in Peru
- It flows through Peru, Brazil and Colombia

**Largest river in the world by discharge volume**

- Second longest river globally (~6,400 km, debated with Nile)
- Forms the **Amazon Basin**, the largest rainforest ecosystem.

**3. Volga river:**

- **Valdai Hills**, northwest of Moscow, Russia
- flows entirely within Russia

**Longest river in Europe** (~3,530 km)

- Drains into the **Caspian Sea**
- Connected to Baltic, Black, and Caspian Seas via canal systems

#### 4. Nile river:

- The Nile has two major tributaries: **White Nile** → Lake Victoria region (Uganda), **Blue Nile** → Lake Tana (Ethiopia), they merge in **Khartoum, Sudan**
- Flows through Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia (Blue Nile tributary) and Egypt
- Traditionally considered the **longest river in the world** (~6,650 km)
- Lifeline of **Egyptian civilization**
- Forms fertile Nile Delta before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea

**Q24.** As of 2025, in which of the following countries have fully operational Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

- (a). United States and Canada
- (b). Russia and China
- (c). France and United Kingdom
- (d). India and Japan
- (e). South Korea and Germany

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** As of 2025, **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are fully operational in **China and Russia**.

Russia operates the **Akademik Lomonosov**, the world's first floating nuclear power plant equipped with SMRs (KLT-40S reactors), supplying electricity to the Arctic region.

China operates the **HTR-PM (High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor – Pebble Bed)**, the world's first commercially operating Generation IV modular reactor at Shidaowan.

#### **Key Points about SMRs:**

- SMRs are nuclear reactors with a capacity typically **below 300 MW(e)**.
- Designed for modular construction and enhanced safety.
- Suitable for remote regions and industrial applications.
- Several countries (USA, Canada, UK, India) are developing SMRs, but they are **not yet fully commercially operational** as of 2025.
- The GoI allocated **₹20,000 crore in the 2025-26 budget** to develop and deploy Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

**Q25.** Which of the following entities are authorized to enforce security interests under the SARFAESI Act, 2002?

- (a). Commercial Banks
- (b). Regional Rural Banks
- (c). Non-Banking Financial Companies
- (d). Asset Reconstruction Companies
- (e). All of the above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002**, banks and specified financial institutions are empowered to enforce security interests without court intervention. This includes Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), notified NBFCs (as per RBI criteria), and Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).

The Act enables secured creditors to take possession of secured assets, manage them, or sell them to recover dues in case of loan default.

**Additional Information:**

A **security interest** refers to a legal right or claim created in favour of a lender over a borrower's asset (such as land, building, machinery, or other property) as collateral for a loan. If the borrower defaults and the account becomes a Non-Performing Asset (NPA), the secured creditor can take possession of the secured asset, manage it, or sell it to recover outstanding dues — without first approaching a court.

**Key provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002**

- Enacted to enable faster recovery of NPAs.
- Allows enforcement of secured assets under **Section 13** of the Act.
- Borrowers may appeal against creditor action before the **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)** under Section 17.
- ARCs are registered with RBI and can acquire financial assets from banks for reconstruction or recovery.

**Q26.** In the acronym AERB, what does the letter 'E' stand for?

- (a). Energy
- (b). Electricity
- (c). Environment
- (d). Engineering
- (e). Establishment

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was established on November 15, 1983, by the President of India. It was constituted under Section 27 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, to carry out regulatory and safety functions regarding the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India.

**Key details:**

- **Purpose:** To ensure that nuclear and radiation facilities do not pose undue risks to health and the environment.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai.
- **Background:** It was formed to formalize safety reviews, which were previously handled by the Safety Review Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- **Authority:** It derives its powers from the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Administrative Authority:** Department of Economic Affairs

**Q27.** Recently, NPCI enhanced the per-transaction UPI limit for specified high-value payments like hospitals and educational institutions to which amount?

- (a). ₹1 lakh
- (b). ₹2 lakh
- (c). ₹3 lakh
- (d). ₹5 lakh
- (e). ₹10 lakh

Ans.(d)

**Sol.** The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** enhanced the per-transaction limit for specified high-value **UPI payments** such as those to **hospitals and educational institutions** from ₹1 lakh to **₹5 lakh**. This change aims to promote digital payments for **large essential payments** via **UPI** rather than cheques or other modes.

**Background Information:**

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is regulated by the **RBI** and operated by **NPCI** (National Payments Corporation of India).
- Standard UPI transaction limits for everyday use remain lower, but **higher ceilings** are provided for select merchant categories

**Q28.** According to the Ministry of Agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. Net sown area in India is more than half of the total geographical area.
2. Sugarcane price increased in 2024 compared to the previous year.
3. Most of irrigation in India is done through tubewells.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

- (a). 1 only
- (b). 2 only
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). 3 only
- (e). None of the Above

Ans.(a)

**Sol.** As per annual report released by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Net area sown comprises 42.8% of the total geographical area.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for Sugar Season 2024–25 is ₹340/quintal at sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. This is a historic price of sugarcane which is about 8% higher than FRP for the season 2023–24.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Well and tubewell irrigation accounts for about 62% of the net irrigated area in the country.

**Q29.** The headquarters of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under Ministry of Mines is located at which of the following places?

- (a). New Delhi
- (b). Hyderabad
- (c). Kolkata
- (d). Mumbai
- (e). Nagpur

Ans.(c)

**Sol.** The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** is headquartered in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. Established in **1851**, it is one of the oldest geological survey organizations in the world and functions under the Ministry of Mines.

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**Key Points:**

- Founded in **1851** primarily for coal exploration.
- Headquarters: **Kolkata**.
- Works under the **Ministry of Mines, Government of India**.
- Responsible for geological mapping, mineral resource assessment, and geoscientific studies.
- GSI plays a key role in discovering India's mineral resources.
- It conducts surveys related to mineral exploration, natural hazards, and environmental geology.

**Q30.** RBI controls the money supply through qualitative and quantitative tools. Which of the following tool falls under qualitative category of controlling money supply?

- (a). SLR
- (b). CRR
- (c). Credit Rationing
- (d). All are Quantitative tools
- (e). Open Market Operations

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The Reserve Bank of India controls money supply through **Quantitative (General) tools** and **Qualitative (Selective) tools**.

**Quantitative Tools (General Credit Controls):**

These affect the overall supply of money and credit in the economy.

- **CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio)**
- **SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)**
- **Open Market Operations (OMO)**
- Bank Rate, Repo Rate, etc.

**Qualitative Tools (Selective Credit Controls):**

These regulate the direction and allocation of credit rather than the total quantity.

- **Credit Rationing**
- Moral Suasion
- Margin Requirements
- Direct Action

**Credit rationing** is a selective method where RBI limits the amount of credit available to certain sectors or borrowers. It does not change total money supply directly but controls **who receives credit and in what proportion**.

**Q31.** In the acronym S3WaaS, what does the letter 'S' signify?

- (a). Smart
- (b). Scalable
- (c). Secure
- (d). Standardized
- (e). Simplified

Ans.(c)

**Sol. S3WaaS (Secure, Scalable, and Sugamya Website as a Service)** was formally launched in 2018, with the project recognized as one of the "51 Gems of Digital India" that year. Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), it provides a secure, configurable platform for government entities to create websites.

**About S3WaaS:**

- Implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Part of the Government of India's digital governance framework.
- Provides standardized, cloud-hosted, and secure websites for government departments.
- Ensures compliance with **Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW)**.
- Promotes accessibility ("Sugamya"), scalability, and security.

**Q32.** Which campaign was launched in September 2025 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare?

- (a). Swasth Mahila Samridhd Bharat Abhiyan
- (b). Sampurna Poshan Sashakt Naari Mission
- (c). Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivaar
- (d). Rashtriya Mahila Aarogya Evam Poshan Abhiyan
- (e). Naari Swasthya Suraksha Sankalp

Ans.(c)

**Sol. The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)** is a landmark initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, aimed at strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India, with a focus on improving access, quality care, and awareness. Described as a Jan Bhagidaari Abhiyaan, it encourages active participation from private hospitals and healthcare professionals to foster inclusive healthcare delivery.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan deployed **more than one lakh health camps** across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Community Health Centres.

The Abhiyan intends to ensure comprehensive screenings for women's health issues like **anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer**.

One of the key objectives of the Abhiyan is to **support immunisation efforts** and **nutritional benefits** to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

The Abhiyan aims to operate on real-time monitoring via the **SASHAKT portal** to ensure transparency and efficiency.

**Q33.** Who is the author of the novel titled "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny"?

- (a). Anita Desai
- (b). Kiran Desai
- (c). Arundhati Roy
- (d). Jhumpa Lahiri
- (e). Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Ans.(b)

**Sol. "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny"** is authored by **Kiran Desai**.

The novel explores **themes of identity, migration, love, and alienation** in a globalised world. It marks her **return to fiction after nearly two decades** following *The Inheritance of Loss*.

**Background Information:**

- The novel was published in **2023**.
- **Kiran Desai** is also the author of *The Inheritance of Loss*, which won the **Booker Prize (2006)**.
- She is the daughter of noted writer **Anita Desai**.

**Q34.** From which date did the mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under the Companies Act, 2013, come into effect in India?

- (a). 1 January 2013
- (b). 1 April 2014
- (c). 1 April 2015
- (d). 1 July 2014
- (e). 1 October 2013

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The **mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** provisions under **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013** were brought into effect **from 1 April 2014**. This is when the related CSR rules were notified and made applicable to eligible companies.

These provisions require certain companies to spend **at least 2% of their average net profit** of the preceding three financial years on CSR activities as specified in Schedule VII of the Act

**Background Information:**

The Companies Act, 2013 received presidential assent in **August 2013** but its major sections, including CSR, were implemented later, with CSR rules notified to take effect **on 1 April 2014**.

**Q35.** According to the Economic Survey, match the following crops with their leading producing states is correctly matched?

- (a). Gram-Gujarat
- (b). Rice- Madhya Pradesh
- (c). Groundnut- Telangana
- (d). Sugarcane- Uttar Pradesh
- (e). None of the Above

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** As per Economic Survey 2024-25, top 3 producing states of following crops are:

1. Rice- Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
2. Gram- Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan
3. Groundnut- Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
4. Sugarcane- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka

Hence, option D is the correct answer.

**Q36.** In which year was the Planning Commission of India replaced by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)?

- (a). 2012
- (b). 2013
- (c). 2014
- (d). 2015
- (e). 2016

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The **Planning Commission of India** was replaced by the **NITI Aayog** in **2015**.

**NITI Aayog** was constituted on **1 January 2015** by an executive resolution of the Government of India.

The shift marked a move from **centralised planning** to **cooperative and competitive federalism**.

**Background Information:**

- **NITI Aayog** stands for **National Institution for Transforming India**.
- It functions as a **policy think tank**, not a fund-allocating body like the Planning Commission.
- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India (ex-officio).
- Emphasis on **bottom-up planning**, states' participation, and outcome-based governance.

**Q37.** Which of the following countries have more than one capital city?

1. South Africa
2. Bolivia
3. Sri Lanka
4. Paraguay
5. Mexico

- (a). 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b). 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c). 1 and 2 only
- (d). 1, 2 and 4 only
- (e). 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Several countries maintain more than one capital for administrative, legislative, or judicial purposes. South Africa has three capitals, Bolivia has two capitals, and Sri Lanka has two capitals. In contrast, Paraguay and Mexico have a single capital each.

**Key Points:**

- South Africa has **Pretoria (Executive)**, **Cape Town (Legislative)**, and **Bloemfontein (Judicial)**.
- Bolivia has **Sucre (Constitutional/Judicial capital)** and **La Paz (Administrative/Executive capital)**.
- Sri Lanka has **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Legislative capital)** and **Colombo (Executive and Judicial capital)**.

**Background Information:**

- South Africa's three-capital system was established in 1910 as a political compromise during the formation of the Union of South Africa.

- Bolivia's dual capital arrangement stems from a 19th-century civil conflict between Sucre and La Paz.
- Sri Lanka shifted its legislative capital to Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte in 1982 to ease congestion in Colombo.

**Other Options:**

- **Paraguay:** Capital is **Asunción** only.
- **Mexico:** Capital is **Mexico City (Ciudad de México)** only.

**Q38.** Which of the following sites are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List?

- Elephanta caves
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
- Fatehpur Sikri
- Only a and c
- All of the above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** All three sites—Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Fatehpur Sikri are inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** due to their outstanding universal value in architecture, history, and cultural heritage.

**Key Points:**

- Elephanta Caves (inscribed 1987) – Renowned for rock-cut sculptures dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (inscribed 2004) – A Victorian Gothic architectural masterpiece in Mumbai.
- Fatehpur Sikri (inscribed 1986) – A Mughal-era imperial city built by Emperor Akbar.

**Background Information:**

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites are designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- India has over **40 World Heritage Sites**, including cultural, natural, and mixed properties.
- Sites are selected based on criteria such as cultural significance, architectural excellence, and historical importance.

**Q39.** Which of the following countries are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

- Norway
- Liechtenstein
- Switzerland
- Iceland
- All

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** currently has **four member countries**. These are **Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and Iceland**. EFTA promotes **free trade and economic integration** among its members without a common external tariff.

**Background Information:**



- **EFTA** was established in **1960** as an alternative to the then European Economic Community (EEC).
- Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Of the four members, **Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein** participate in the **European Economic Area (EEA)**, while **Switzerland** does not (it follows bilateral agreements with the EU).
- India has recently signed a FTA with the bloc in 2025.

**Q40.** Recently (September 2025), Which country's Rating and Investment, Information Inc.(R&I), upgraded India's sovereign rating to BBB+ with stable outlook?

- (a). United Kingdom
- (b). USA
- (c). Japan
- (d). Germany
- (e). Hong Kong

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I), has upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' from 'BBB', while retaining the "Stable" Outlook for the Indian economy.

R&I in its report recognises the progress in fiscal consolidation by the Government, driven by buoyant tax revenues and rationalisation of subsidies, and manageable level of debt along with high growth.

It also highlights India's strengthened external stability, reflected in modest current account deficit, stable surpluses in services and remittances, low external debt-to-GDP ratio, and sufficient forex cover.

**Q41.** Who is the present Chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and where is its headquarters located?

- (a). S. Somanath – Hyderabad
- (b). V. Narayanan – Bengaluru
- (c). K. Sivan – Sriharikota
- (d). V. Narayanan – Thiruvananthapuram
- (e). S. Somanath – Bengaluru

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Dr. V. Narayanan is the current Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, taking over in January, 2025. He also serves as the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Space, and Chairman of the Space Commission.

**Key Points:**

- ISRO was established in **1969**.
- Headquarters: **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Works under the **Department of Space (DoS)**.
- Known for missions like **Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and Aditya-L1**.

**Other Options:**

- S. Somanath – Former ISRO Chairperson.
- K. Sivan – Former Chairperson.

- Sriharikota – Location of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (launch site).
- Thiruvananthapuram – Location of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- Hyderabad – Location of NRSC, not ISRO HQ.

**Q42.** World Mental Health Day is observed every year on which date?

- (a). 7 April
- (b). 10 October
- (c). 1 December
- (d). 21 September
- (e). 3 March

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** World Mental Health Day is observed every year on **10 October**. It is aimed at **raising awareness of mental health issues** and mobilising efforts in support of mental health. The day is supported globally by the **World Health Organization** and other international bodies.

**Background Information:**

- World Mental Health Day was **first observed in 1992**.
- It is coordinated by the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)**.
- Each year is marked by a **specific theme** focusing on priority mental health concerns.

**Other Options:**

- (a) 7 April — Observed as **World Health Day**.
- (c) 1 December — Observed as **World AIDS Day**.
- (d) 21 September — Observed as **International Day of Peace**.
- (e) 3 March — Observed as **World Wildlife Day**.

**Q43.** What is the authorized capital amount of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)?

- (a). ₹5,000 crore
- (b). ₹10,000 crore
- (c). ₹25,000 crore
- (d). ₹50,000 crore
- (e). ₹1,00,000 crore

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (“IIFCL”) is a **100% Government of India owned company** set up in **January 2006** to provide long-term finance to commercially viable infrastructure projects. IIFCL has been registered as a **Non-Banking Financial Company, Non-Deposit Taking**, Infrastructure Finance Company (“NBFC-ND-IFC”) with the Reserve Bank of India (“RBI”) since September 2013 and follows applicable prudential norms of the RBI.

As a long-term lending institution, IIFCL is amongst the most diversified public sector infrastructure lenders in terms of eligible infrastructure sub-sectors and product offerings. It has the mandate to finance both greenfield and brownfield projects, covering Direct Lending, Takeout Finance, Refinance and Credit Enhancement, across all infrastructure sub-sectors as notified by the Government

The authorized and paid-up capital of the company stood at ₹10,000 Crore and ₹9,999.92 Crore, respectively as on 31st March 2025.

**Q44.** What is the minimum credit rating required for a deposit-taking NBFC (NBFC-D) to accept or renew public deposits under the regulations of the Reserve Bank of India?

- (a). BBB–
- (b). BBB
- (c). BBB+
- (d). AA–
- (e). A–

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** As per RBI regulatory norms, a deposit taking NBFC:

must have a deposit-accepting Certificate of Registration, and

a minimum investment grade credit rating of 'BBB–' from a SEBI-registered credit rating agency.

Further, such NBFCs may accept or hold public deposits only up to 1.5 times their Net Owned Funds (NOF).

'BBB–' is the minimum investment grade threshold. Any rating below this does not qualify for deposit acceptance.

**Q45.** Which of the following option correctly matches Urban cooperative bank tier with housing loan limit that can be granted?

- (a). Tier 1: up to Rs 60 lakh per dwelling unit
- (b). Tier 2: up to Rs 1 crore per dwelling unit
- (c). Tier 2: up to Rs 1.5 crore per dwelling unit
- (d). Tier 4: up to Rs 2.5 crore per dwelling unit
- (e). All of the above

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** As of the latest RBI circulars (effective April 1, 2025), Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) have revised individual housing loan limits based on their tier, increasing to a maximum of ₹3 crore for Tier 4, with 20-year repayment, subject to exposure limits.

**UCB tier wise housing loan limits (per dwelling unit)**

- **Tier 1:** ₹60 lakh
- **Tier 2:** ₹1.40 crore
- **Tier 3:** ₹2 crore
- **Tier 4:** ₹3 crore

**Additional Info:**

- Total housing loans are subject to a maximum of 15% (single borrower) and 25% (group of borrowers) of Tier-I capital.
- Total real estate and commercial real estate loans cannot exceed 25% of total loans.
- Housing loans must be repaid within 20 years.
- No foreclosure charges or prepayment penalties are allowed on floating rate loans.

### Tier wise definition of UCBs

- **Tier 1:** All unit UCBs (single branch), all salary earners' UCBs (regardless of deposit size), and UCBs with deposits **up to ₹100 crore.**
- **Tier 2:** UCBs with deposits **more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore.**
- **Tier 3:** UCBs with deposits **more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore.**
- **Tier 4:** UCBs with deposits **more than ₹10,000 crore**

**Q46.** The Government of India and the World Food Programme (WFP) have announced a collaboration aimed at addressing the global hunger crisis. Which SDG is not part of this initiative?

- (a). SDG 1
- (b). SDG 3
- (c). SDG 7
- (d). SDG 12
- (e). None of the Above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The Government of India and the World Food Programme (WFP) have announced a significant milestone in their collaboration aimed at addressing the global hunger crisis by signing a Letter of Intent (LoI). Under this initiative, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) offers WFP the opportunity to supply fortified rice from India, aiding in fulfilling the food and nutritional requirements of the most vulnerable populations in crisis zones globally.

This collaboration underscores the strength of global partnerships. By sourcing rice from India, WFP will utilise the resources of an agricultural surplus nation to deliver life-saving aid and make tangible progress against hunger.

As per official sources, **the collaboration is supporting all 17 SDG. Hence, option E is the correct answer.**

**Q47.** Under RBI's "FREE-AI" framework on responsible use of artificial intelligence in financial services, how many strategic pillars have been identified?

- (a). Four
- (b). Five
- (c). Six
- (d). Seven
- (e). Eight

**Ans.(c)**

### **Sol. Committee Details**

- **Committee Name:** Committee on Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI)
- **Constituted by:** Reserve Bank of India
- **Year:** December 2024
- **Report Released:** 13 August 2025
- **Chairman:** Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (Professor, IIT Bombay)

The framework aims to guide **ethical, safe, and responsible adoption of AI in financial services.**

### Seven Sutras (Guiding Principles of AI)

The committee proposed **7 foundational principles** (“Seven Sutras”) for responsible AI adoption.

1. **Trust is the Foundation**
2. **People First**
3. **Innovation over Restraint**
4. **Fairness and Equity**
5. **Accountability**
6. **Understandable by Design (Explainability)**
7. **Safety, Resilience & Sustainability**

These principles ensure **ethical, transparent and inclusive AI systems** in financial institutions.

### Six Strategic Pillars of FREE-AI

The **26 recommendations** are grouped under **6 pillars**.

1. **Infrastructure:** Shared **data & computing infrastructure**, AI innovation sandbox, Indigenous financial AI models
2. **Policy:** Clear regulatory framework for AI, Alignment with financial regulations
3. **Capacity:** AI skill development for **board, management, and employees**, Institutional capability building
4. **Governance:** AI governance frameworks in financial institutions, Accountability mechanisms
5. **Protection:** Consumer protection, Data privacy and cybersecurity safeguards
6. **Assurance:** AI audits and monitoring, Risk assessment and compliance checks

**Q48.** Who is the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)? (As of 2025)

- (a). Dr. Randeep Guleria
- (b). Dr. Rajiv Bahl
- (c). Dr. V.K. Paul
- (d). Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- (e). Dr. Balram Bhargava

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Dr. Rajiv Bahl is the current Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research (DHR), a position he has held since October 7, 2022.

He is a renowned pediatrician and public health researcher, formerly heading the Research on Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at the World Health Organization (WHO).

### About ICMR

- **Established:** 1911 (as IRFA – Indian Research Fund Association; renamed ICMR in 1949)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- India’s **apex body for medical research**.

### Mandate of ICMR:

- Formulation, coordination, and promotion of **biomedical research** in India
- Research in communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Development of diagnostics, vaccines, and public health guidelines
- Played a major role during the **COVID-19 pandemic**

**Q49.** As per the Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2025, banks may decide differential interest rates on savings bank accounts for balances exceeding \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a). ₹50,000
- (b). ₹75,000
- (c). ₹1,00,000
- (d). ₹3,00,000
- (e). ₹5,00,000

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** As per RBI's Interest Rate on Deposits Directions, banks are permitted to offer **differential interest rates on savings bank deposits**, provided the differential rate structure applies only to balances of **₹1 lakh and above**. For balances below ₹1 lakh, banks must apply a uniform rate.

**Key Points:**

- Applicable to **Savings Bank Accounts**.
- Differential interest rates allowed only for balances **exceeding ₹1 lakh**.
- Ensures transparency and non-discrimination for small depositors.
- Banks must disclose rate structures clearly to customers.

**Background Information:**

- Interest rates on savings deposits are deregulated.
- RBI permits banks to set rates subject to transparency and board-approved policies.
- Differential rate structure must be **uniformly applicable** within defined balance slabs.

**Q50.** What is the name of the new Indian Naval Base inaugurated recently (September 2025) in Gurugram, Haryana?

- (a). INS Varsha
- (b). INS Jatayu
- (c). INS Aravali
- (d). INS Baaz
- (e). INS Vikrant

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** INS Aravali, Indian Navy's latest Naval Base, was commissioned at Gurugram in September 2025.

INS Aravali provides the foundation for a robust administrative and logistical support, commensurate with the increasing scale and sophistication of facilities, thereby ensuring seamless operations.

INS Aravali, deriving its name from the unwavering Aravali range, shall support various information and communication centres of the Indian Navy which are key to India's and Indian Navy's command, control and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) framework.

**Other options:**

1. **INS Jatayu** – Naval base at Minicoy, Lakshadweep.
2. **INS Varsha** – Upcoming naval base project on the east coast.
3. **INS Baaz** – Naval Air Station in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
4. **INS Vikrant** – Indigenous aircraft carrier.

**Q51.** Who was the first Indian to win the Pulitzer Prize?

- (a). Jhumpa Lahiri
- (b). Siddhartha Mukherjee
- (c). Anita Desai
- (d). Gobind Behari Lal
- (e). Arundhati Roy

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** **Gobind Behari Lal** was the **first Indian to win the Pulitzer Prize**. He received the award in **1937** for **science journalism**.

He was a **science editor and journalist** based in the US. He was part of a reporting team of *Science Service* that explained scientific developments to the general public.

His contribution helped popularise science reporting in the early 20th century.

**Background Information:**

- The **Pulitzer Prize** was established in **1917** in the United States by **Joseph Pulitzer**, a newspaper publisher.
- Administered by **Columbia University, New York**.
- Considered one of the **most prestigious global awards** in journalism and literature.
- Awarded for **Journalism, Literature, Drama, and Music**.
- Major categories include:
  - Journalism (Public Service, Investigative Reporting, Editorial Writing, Photography, etc.)
  - Letters & Drama (Fiction, History, Biography, Poetry, Drama)
  - Music (Distinguished musical composition)

**Other Options:**

- (a) *Jhumpa Lahiri* — Winner of the Pulitzer Prize (2000) for *Interpreter of Maladies*, but **not the first Indian**.
- (b) *Siddhartha Mukherjee* — Won Pulitzer Prize (2011) for *The Emperor of All Maladies*.
- (c) *Anita Desai* — Never won the Pulitzer Prize.
- (e) *Arundhati Roy* — Won the Booker Prize, **not** the Pulitzer.

**Q52.** What was the theme of World Population Day 2025, observed on 11 July?

- (a). Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world
- (b). Enabling youth to shape their families in an equitable and sustainable world
- (c). Supporting adolescents to plan their families in a just and inclusive society
- (d). Promoting reproductive choices for young people in a balanced and progressive world
- (e). Ensuring family planning access for youth in a resilient and developed world

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The official theme of **World Population Day 2025** focused on empowering young people to make informed reproductive choices and to build families in a fair, inclusive, and hopeful global environment.

**Key Points:**

- Observed annually on **11 July**.
- Emphasized youth agency, reproductive rights, and gender equality.
- Highlighted equitable access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.

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**Background Information:**

- Established in **1989** by the UNDP Governing Council.
- Inspired by the “Day of Five Billion” (11 July 1987).
- Led globally by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

**Q53.** What is the name of the world’s first Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition flagged off by the Ministry of Defence?

- (a). Sagar Pradakshina
- (b). Samudra Parikrama
- (c). Samudra Pradakshina
- (d). Sagar Parikrama
- (e). Aatmanirbhar Samudra Yatra

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The historic Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition involving women officers of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force — was officially flagged off as “**Samudra Pradakshina**” from the Gateway of India, Mumbai. It is the first-ever expedition of its kind, covering approximately **26,000 nautical miles** around the world aboard the Indian Army Sailing Vessel *Triveni*, symbolising jointmanship, “Nari Shakti”, and India’s maritime capability.

Key Points:

- **Samudra Pradakshina** is the first *Tri-Service all-women* sailing circumnavigation expedition.
- Flagged off in **September 2025** by the Raksha Mantri.
- Involved 10 women officers covering all major oceans.

**Q54.** Which of the following statements correctly describes key eligibility and capital requirements for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) as per RBI guidelines?

- (a). The minimum paid-up voting equity capital required for SFBs is ₹100 crore.
- (b). Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can be promoters if they have control over an NBFC with a satisfactory track record of at least 3 years.
- (c). Existing NBFC with Resident individuals or professionals having 10 years of experience in banking and finance
- (d). All of the Above
- (e). None of the Above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** 1. The minimum paid-up voting equity share capital/ net worth for small finance banks shall be ₹300 crore. (not 100 crore)

2. Indian residents (individuals or professionals), either alone or jointly, can promote a Small Finance Bank if they:

- Are Indian citizens,
- Have at least **10 years of senior-level experience in banking or finance**, and
- Meet RBI’s eligibility conditions.

3. Existing private sector institutions such as NBFCs, MFIs and LABs can convert into Small Finance Banks if:

- They are **owned and controlled by residents (as per FEMA rules)**,
- Have successfully operated for at least **5 years**, and
- Comply with all RBI and legal regulatory requirements.

So, all the statements are incorrect.

**Q55.** Which of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically addresses Quality Education?

- (a). SDG 2
- (b). SDG 3
- (c). SDG 4
- (d). SDG 5
- (e). SDG 6

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol. SDG 4 – Quality Education** aims to **ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**. It is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in **2015** under the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

**Key Targets under SDG 4**

- Ensure free, equitable primary and secondary education
- Improve access to technical, vocational, and higher education
- Eliminate gender disparities in education
- Promote education for sustainable development

**Other Options:**

- SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
- SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

**Q56.** Capital Adequacy and Provisioning Guidelines as per Basel III norms are applicable to which of the following regulated entities?

1. Local Area Banks
2. Payments Banks
3. Regional Rural Banks
4. Scheduled Commercial Banks

- (a). 1 and 4 only
- (b). 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c). 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d). 4 only
- (e). 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The **Basel III capital adequacy and provisioning norms**, as implemented by the Reserve Bank of India, are primarily applicable to **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** operating in India.

Basel III is an international regulatory framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision to strengthen bank capital requirements, improve risk management, and enhance financial stability.

**Entity wise Clarification:**

- **Local Area Banks (LABs)** – Not directly covered under full Basel III framework.
- **Payments Banks** – Subject to specific capital norms prescribed by RBI, not full Basel III capital framework.
- **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** – Governed by separate capital and prudential norms; not fully under Basel III regime like SCBs.
- **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** – Fully subject to Basel III norms including:
  - Minimum Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)
  - Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)
  - Leverage Ratio requirements

**Background Information:**

- Basel III was introduced globally after the 2008 financial crisis.
- India began phased implementation of Basel III from 2013 onward.
- It strengthens capital buffers and liquidity standards to absorb financial shocks.

**Q57.** Which of the following are Kharif forage crops?

1. Oats
  2. Sorghum (Jowar)
  3. Berseem
  4. Cowpea
- (a). 1 and 4 only  
(b). 1 and 3 only  
(c). 1 and 2 only  
(d). 2 and 4 only  
(e). 3 and 4 only

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Cowpea and Sorghum (Jowar) are major **Kharif forage crops**, sown during the monsoon season (June–July). In contrast, **Berseem and Oats** are **Rabi forage crops**, grown during the winter season.

**Forage crops** are crops grown primarily for feeding livestock rather than for human consumption. They are cultivated to provide green fodder, hay, or silage to animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, and goats.

These crops may be fed:

- **Directly as green fodder**
- **Preserved as hay (dried fodder)**
- **Converted into silage (fermented fodder)**

**Examples of Forage crops:**

- **Kharif:** Maize, Sorghum (Jowar), Bajra, Cowpea
- **Rabi:** Berseem, Lucerne, Oats



**Q58.** After the recent update (June 2025), how many services are covered under the expanded Citizen's Charter of the Reserve Bank of India?

- (a). 154
- (b). 182
- (c). 193
- (d). 204
- (e). 215

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The Reserve Bank of India has expanded its Citizen's Charter to cover **204 services**, enhancing transparency and accountability in service delivery. Additionally, timelines for 11 services have been rationalised to improve efficiency and responsiveness.

Previously, RBI services were categorised under two heads — Timelines for **Regulatory Approvals with 133 services**, and the **Citizens' Charter with 58 services**. These have now been merged under the single banner of the Citizens' Charter, covering services for both regulated entities and citizens.

According to the RBI, 180 of the services are available through the PRAVAAH platform, 14 via over-the-counter or offline modes, and 10 through other online platforms such as the Auditor Allocation System (AAS) and e-Kuber.

**Additional Info:**

RBI's Citizen's Charter outlines services provided to the public and prescribed timelines.

It enhances institutional accountability and citizen-centric service standards.

Periodically updated to align with operational improvements.

**Q59.** As of 2025, how many Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) hold the status of Maharatna in India?

- (a). 11
- (b). 12
- (c). 13
- (d). 14
- (e). 15

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The Government of India classifies Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) into three categories: Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna based on specific eligibility criteria. As of 2025, there are 14 Maharatna Companies in India with the latest addition of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in the year 2024.

The **Maharatna** category was introduced in **2010** to empower large CPSEs with greater financial and operational autonomy so they can compete globally.

**Key Features of Maharatna Status:**

- Must already be a **Navratna CPSE**
- Listed on Indian stock exchange
- Minimum average annual turnover of ₹25,000 crore (last 3 years)
- Minimum average annual net worth of ₹15,000 crore (last 3 years)
- Minimum average annual net profit after tax of ₹5,000 crore (last 3 years)
- Can invest up to **15% of net worth in a project (subject to a ceiling of ₹5,000 crore)** without prior government approval

**Q60.** Which planet in our Solar System has the largest volcano?

- (a). Earth
- (b). Venus
- (c). Mars
- (d). Saturn
- (e). Jupiter

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The largest volcano in the Solar System is **Olympus Mons**, located on Mars. It is a massive shield volcano and is about **22 km high**, making it nearly three times the height of Mount Everest.

**Key Points:**

- **Olympus Mons** is approximately **600 km in diameter**.
- It is a shield volcano formed by long-lasting lava flows.
- Mars' lower gravity allowed the volcano to grow much taller than those on Earth.
- Olympus Mons is situated in the **Tharsis volcanic region** of Mars.
- Mars lacks active plate tectonics, which enabled continuous lava accumulation at one spot.
- It is the tallest known planetary mountain in the Solar System.

**Q61.** Which portfolios have been held by Piyush Goyal in Union Government?

1. Ministry of Railways
  2. Ministry of Coal
  3. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
  4. Ministry of Power
- (a). 1, 2 and 3 only
  - (b). 2, 3 and 4 only
  - (c). 1, 3 and 4 only
  - (d). 3 and 4 only
  - (e). All 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Piyush Goyal has held all the listed portfolios at different times in the Union Government. His ministerial tenures are as follows:

**Ministry of Power**

- **Tenure:** 2014 – 2017
- Oversaw major reforms including UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana).
- Focused on rural electrification and strengthening power infrastructure.

**Ministry of Coal**

- **Tenure:** 2014 – 2017
- Implemented transparent coal block auction mechanisms after Supreme Court cancellations.
- Increased domestic coal production and improved allocation transparency.

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### Ministry of Railways

- **Tenure:** 2017 – 2019
- Introduced modernization initiatives and safety reforms.
- Emphasized electrification and infrastructure upgradation.

### Ministry of Commerce & Industry

- **Tenure:** 2019 – Present (continuing in subsequent terms)
  - Handles trade negotiations, export promotion, and industrial policy.
- He also briefly held **additional charge of the Ministry of Finance (2019)**.

**Q62.** Who won the 2025 FIDE Women's Grand Swiss chess tournament?

- (a). Koneru Humpy
- (b). Vaishali Rameshbabu
- (c). Kateryna Lagno
- (d). Ju Wenjun
- (e). Anna Muzychuk

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Indian GM **Vaishali Rameshbabu** won the **2025 FIDE Women's Grand Swiss chess tournament**, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. She finished with 8/11 points and took the title on tiebreaks **ahead of Kateryna Lagno**.

This was her **second consecutive Women's Grand Swiss win** (also champion in 2023).

**Q63.** With reference to India's performance in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India ranked 44th in innovation inputs, lowest from previous years..
2. India ranked 32nd in innovative outputs, best from previous years.
3. India secured the 39th rank overall in the Global Innovation Index 2025.

- (a). 1 only
- (b). 2 only
- (c). 3 only
- (d). 1 and 3 only
- (e). 2 and 3 only

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol. Statement 1 is incorrect:** India ranked 52nd in innovation inputs in 2025, lower than 44th rank in 2024.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India's rank in innovation outputs improved to 32 from 33 in 2024. This is also best ever rank in this category.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** India's rank improved to 38 in 2025 from 39 in 2024 in overall category.

**Q64.** World Bank is providing a loan assistance of USD 500 million for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP). Which of these states is covered under the project?

- (a). Himachal Pradesh
- (b). Rajasthan

- (c). Uttar Pradesh  
(d). Andhra Pradesh  
(e). All of the Above

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km for the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**, with loan assistance of US \$ 500 million against total project cost of US \$ 1288.24 million (Rs. 7,662.47 crore). The project promotes environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient highway development.

**Q65.** Which regulatory authority governs Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) in India?

- (a). RBI  
(b). Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
(c). IRDAI  
(d). Ministry of Finance  
(e). SEBI

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) in India are regulated by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** under the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**. VCFs fall under **Category I Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**, which invest in start-ups, early-stage ventures, and socially desirable sectors.

**Key Points:**

- Regulated under **SEBI AIF Regulations, 2012**.
- Classified under **Category I AIF**.
- Focus on start-ups, MSMEs, and emerging sectors.
- Must register with SEBI before commencing operations.

**Q66.** The WGES (World Green Economy Summit) was launched in \_\_\_\_\_ and organized by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a). Nairobi, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
(b). Dubai, World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)  
(c). Vienna, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)  
(d). Abu Dhabi, World Green Economy Organization  
(e). Nairobi, United Nations Development Programme (UNEP)

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The **World Green Economy Summit (WGES)** was launched in **2013** in Dubai. It is organized by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and the **World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)**.

The summit serves as a global platform to promote green economy initiatives, sustainable development, clean energy transitions, and climate action. It brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and environmental experts to advance global sustainability goals.

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**Key Points:**

- Launched in **2013** in Dubai, UAE.
- Promotes green finance, renewable energy, and sustainable innovation.
- Aligns with UAE's vision for climate neutrality and global sustainability leadership.
- Supports international cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Additional Info:**

- DEWA is the main electricity and water utility provider in Dubai.
- The World Green Economy Organization works to facilitate the global transition to a green economy.
- WGES is held annually and attracts global participation from governments and private sectors.

**Q67.** What is the aggregate 24-hour transaction limit prescribed for UPI payments made towards stock market and related capital market transactions?

- (a). ₹1 lakh
- (b). ₹2 lakh
- (c). ₹5 lakh
- (d). ₹10 lakh
- (e). ₹15 lakh

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has revised the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** limits for select high-value categories, including **stock market and related capital market transactions**. For these categories, the **per-transaction cap** is now **₹5 lakh**, and the **aggregate 24-hour transaction limit** is **₹10 lakh** allowing for larger investments in stocks, mutual funds, etc., with enhanced security for higher amounts. The enhanced UPI limits came into effect starting **15 September 2025**, allowing UPI to support larger transactions for verified merchants in categories like capital markets, insurance, and travel. The standard **P2P (Person-to-Person)** UPI limit continues to remain at ₹1 lakh per day.

**Q68.** Which fintech company became the first to fully operationalise the e₹ (Retail Digital Rupee) wallet in India after receiving approval from the RBI?

- (a). Paytm
- (b). PhonePe
- (c). Mobikwik
- (d). Razorpay
- (e). Jupiter

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** **MobiKwik** became the first fintech company to fully operationalise the **e₹ wallet** after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in **2024** to participate directly in the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC-Retail) ecosystem.

**Key Points:**

- RBI launched the **CBDC-Retail pilot in December 2022**.
- In **2024**, RBI permitted select fintech firms to operate e₹ wallets.
- MobiKwik was the first fintech to fully operationalise the wallet infrastructure.
- The digital rupee (e₹) is a **legal tender** issued digitally by RBI.

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**Additional Information:**

- ₹ is India's **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
- Aims to reduce cash handling costs and enhance digital transaction efficiency.
- Operates alongside UPI and other digital payment systems but represents sovereign-backed digital money.

**Q69.** Which company developed the "Nano Banana" AI platform?

- (a). Google
- (b). Microsoft
- (c). OpenAI
- (d). Anthropic
- (e). Meta platforms

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Google's "Nano Banana" (officially Gemini 2.5 Flash Image), an advanced AI image generation and editing model, was released on August 26, 2025. It debuted in the Gemini app and Google AI services, offering high-fidelity editing and character consistency. The initiative aligns with Google's broader AI strategy, including generative AI and advanced model development.

**Other Options:**

- Microsoft – Focuses on AI integration through Azure and OpenAI partnership.
- Meta Platforms – Known for LLaMA models and open-source AI initiatives.
- OpenAI – Developer of GPT and ChatGPT.
- Anthropic – Developer of Claude AI models.

**Q70.** Who serves as the ex-officio President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?

- (a). Prime Minister
- (b). Minister of Education
- (c). Minister of Science and Technology
- (d). Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
- (e). Director General of CSIR

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The **Prime Minister of India** is the **ex-officio President of CSIR**.

- CSIR was established in **1942**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- The **Vice President of CSIR** is the Union Minister of Science & Technology.
- The **Director General of CSIR** serves as the principal executive officer.

This structure reflects the strategic importance of CSIR in national scientific research and innovation.

**About CSIR**

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
- CSIR is one of India's largest publicly funded R&D organizations. Its mandate includes:

- Promoting **scientific and industrial research** in India
- Supporting **innovation and technology development**
- Advancing research in areas such as Aerospace, Chemicals, Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals, Environmental science, Engineering and materials
- Contributing to national missions in health, energy, water, and sustainable development
- CSIR operates a network of **37+ national laboratories** and research institutes across India.

**Q71.** What pattern is observed in India’s performance across the subcomponents of the Human Development Report 2025?

- (a). Strong and uniform improvement across health, education, and income indicators
- (b). Decline in income and health indicators but improvement in education
- (c). Major improvement in education indicators with stagnant income levels
- (d). Improvement in income and life expectancy, but stagnation in expected years of schooling
- (e). None of the Above

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** According to the **Human Development Report 2025**, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **for the year 2023**, India recorded improvement in **GNI per capita** and **life expectancy**, while progress in **average years of schooling** remained relatively slow or stagnant.

**Changes in India's HDI values between 2022 and 2023**

Key Data (Human Development Index)	2022	2023
Rank	133	130
HDI value	0.676	0.685
Life Expectancy (years)	71.70	72.00
Expected Years of Schooling (years)	12.96	12.95
Mean Years of Schooling (years)	6.57	6.88
Gross National Income Per Capita (\$ 2021 PPP)	8475.68	9046.76

**Background Information:**

- HDI measures **health (life expectancy)**, **education (mean & expected years of schooling)**, and **income (GNI per capita)**.
- Introduced in **1990** by UNDP.
- India is categorized under **medium human development**.

**Q72.** Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901. Which Nobel Prize category was added later in 1968?

- (a). Nobel Prize in Peace
- (b). Nobel Prize in Literature
- (c). Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences
- (d). Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- (e). Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Ans.(c)

**Sol.** The **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** was established in 1968 by Sweden's central bank to mark its 300th anniversary. It was first awarded in 1969 and is officially known as the *Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel*. It was not part of the original five prizes created by Alfred Nobel's will in 1895.

**Background Information:**

- The original Nobel Prizes (1901) covered **Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace**.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Norway, while the others are awarded in Sweden.
- The Nobel Prizes were established through the will of **Alfred Nobel**, a Swedish inventor and industrialist.

**Q73.** Which of the following parameters is excluded from the Quality Dimension of the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)?

- (a). . Financial literacy levels
- (b). Grievance redressal mechanism
- (c). Consumer protection framework
- (d). Volume of digital payment transactions
- (e). Transparency and disclosure practices

Ans.(d)

**Sol.** The *Quality Dimension* of RBI's FI-Index captures aspects such as financial literacy, consumer protection, grievance redressal mechanisms, and transparency. However, the **volume of digital payment transactions** falls under the *Usage Dimension*, not the Quality Dimension.

**Key Points:**

- FI-Index comprises three dimensions: **Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%)**.
- Quality dimension focuses on customer experience and protection.
- Usage dimension measures extent and frequency of financial service utilization.

**Background Information:**

- FI-Index was introduced by RBI in **August 2021**.
- It is a **composite index (0–100 scale)** measuring financial inclusion across the country.
- Published annually in July.

**Q74.** What is the minimum net worth requirement for a Microfinance Institution (MFI) registered as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-MFI) under RBI regulations?

- (a). ₹2 crore
- (b). ₹5 crore
- (c). ₹10 crore
- (d). ₹20 crore
- (e). ₹25 crore

Ans.(b)

**Sol.** As per the norms of the Reserve Bank of India, the minimum net owned fund (NOF) requirement for an **NBFC-MFI** is **₹5 crore** (₹2 crore for entities registered in the North Eastern Region).

**Microfinance** refers to the provision of small-value financial services—primarily loans—to low-income households who lack access to formal banking. Under RBI’s harmonised framework (2022), a **microfinance loan** is defined as a collateral-free loan given to a household with annual income up to:

- ₹3 lakh (both rural and urban), and
- Subject to a cap on repayment obligations to ensure borrower protection.

**Key Points:**

- NBFC-MFIs must maintain minimum **₹5 crore net owned fund**.
- Loans are **collateral-free**.
- Household income ceiling: **₹3 lakh per annum** (as per revised RBI norms).
- Focus on financial inclusion and credit access for economically weaker sections.
- MFIs are regulated by RBI under the NBFC framework.
- Earlier, income caps were lower and differentiated between rural and urban areas; harmonised guidelines were issued in **March 2022**.
- MFIs play a crucial role in achieving financial inclusion and supporting self-employment.

**Q75.** In which year was the Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- (a). 1957
- (b). 1962
- (c). 1963
- (d). 1971
- (e). 1983

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The MiG-21 was inducted into the Indian Air Force in **1963**, making India one of the first countries outside the Soviet Union to operate this supersonic fighter aircraft.

**Key Details:**

- India became the **first country outside the USSR** to both operate and later manufacture the MiG-21 under license.
- Manufactured in India by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- Played a major role in:
  - 1965 Indo-Pakistan War
  - 1971 Indo-Pakistan War
  - Kargil Conflict (1999)
- Known as the **“backbone of the IAF”** for several decades.

**Q76.** Which of the following countries is not included in the top five positions of the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2025?

- (a). Singapore
- (b). Switzerland
- (c). Denmark
- (d). Ireland
- (e). Hong Kong

Ans.(d)

**Sol. Top 5 countries as per index:**

1. Switzerland: Score 100
2. Singapore: Score 99.44
3. Hong Kong: Score 99.22
4. Denmark: Score 97.51
5. UAE: Score 96.09

Ireland ranks 7th with a score of 91.31.

The rankings assess countries based on their economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

The ranking highlights areas for improvement in economic performance and infrastructure of the nations.

India ranks 41st out of 69 countries, slipping two spots from 39th in 2024.

**Q77.** Why was Vallabhbhai Patel given the title “Sardar” after the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928?

- (a). For leading a nationwide boycott of British goods during the Civil Disobedience Movement and coordinating tax refusal across provinces
- (b). For organizing and successfully leading peasants of Bardoli in Gujarat against a steep increase in land revenue assessment imposed by the British government
- (c). For negotiating with the British after the Satyagraha and securing relief for indigo farmers
- (d). For heading the Ahmedabad Mill Workers’ Strike and securing wage reforms for industrial labourers
- (e). For mobilizing farmers in Kheda district during the Non-Cooperation Movement to refuse payment of revenue during famine

Ans.(b)

**Sol.** The **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)** was a non-violent peasant movement in Bardoli, Gujarat, against a **30% increase in land revenue** imposed by the British authorities despite agrarian distress.

Under the leadership of Vallabhbhai Patel:

- Peasants collectively refused to pay the enhanced revenue.
- The movement strictly followed Gandhian non-violence.
- British authorities eventually reduced the revenue demand and restored confiscated lands.

In recognition of his disciplined leadership and success, the people of Bardoli—especially women—honored him with the title “**Sardar**” (leader/chief).

**Q78.** Which organisation approved \$200 million for the India Green Finance Facility (IGFF) — a new clean energy programme led by the Asian Development Bank?

- (a). Green Climate Fund
- (b). International Monetary Fund
- (c). World Bank
- (d). United Nations Development Programme
- (e). World Economic Forum

Ans.(a)

Sol. The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** approved **\$200 million** in **July 2025** to support the **India Green Finance Facility (IGFF)** — a clean energy programme that is **led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. The funding aims to unlock large-scale public and private investment in emerging clean energy technologies in India by mobilising climate finance and strengthening development finance institutions.

**Key Points:**

- IGFF is a **blended finance facility** designed to drive investment in clean energy and climate action.
- The \$200 million GCF funding supports lines of credit and risk-sharing mechanisms to facilitate renewable energy, green hydrogen, biogas, and other low-carbon technologies.
- This marks a significant climate finance collaboration between **GCF** and **ADB** to accelerate India's energy transition.

**Q79.** Which of the following Indian banks have partnered with the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) to measure and disclose financed emissions?

- State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
- Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda
- Axis Bank and Yes Bank
- Punjab National Bank and IDFC First Bank
- IndusInd Bank and Canara Bank

Ans.(d)

Sol. Several Indian banks have joined the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)** — a global initiative that enables financial institutions to **measure and disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their financed activities (Scope 3 financed emissions)**. This helps banks improve transparency on climate risk and align with global climate goals.

**Indian Banks that are PCAF signatories:**

- **Union Bank of India** – First major Indian bank to sign PCAF.
- **IDFC First Bank** – Joined PCAF, expanding the initiative's footprint in India.
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** – Also signed up as a PCAF member.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** – Became a PCAF signatory to strengthen climate action commitments.

**About the PCAF Initiative:**

- **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)** is a **global collaborative initiative** of financial institutions committed to developing standardized methodologies to measure and disclose financed emissions (Scope 3), i.e., emissions linked to their loans and investments.
- Measuring financed emissions helps banks understand climate risks embedded in their portfolios and support the transition to **low-carbon financing**.
- The initiative supports alignment with climate reporting standards and evolving regulatory expectations, including climate risk disclosure frameworks



**Q80.** Who holds the position of President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2025–26 term?

- (a). Sanjiv Puri
- (b). R. Mukundan
- (c). Chandrajit Banerjee
- (d). Rajiv Memani
- (e). Suchitra K. Ella

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** **Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of Ernst & Young India**, assumed office as the **President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the year **2025–26**. He succeeded Sanjiv Puri (CMD of ITC Ltd) in June 2025 after being elected by the CII National Council.

**Key Points:**

- Rajiv Memani is also a member of the **EY Global Executive Board** and Chair of the Growth Markets Council.
- CII is one of India’s premier industry associations, engaged in policy advocacy and promoting industrial development.
- Other office bearers for 2025–26 include **R. Mukundan** (President-Designate) and **Dr. Suchitra K. Ella** (Vice President).

**Background Information:**

- CII was founded in **1895** and has a membership base spanning diverse industry sectors.
- The President of CII leads the organisation’s strategic engagement with government, industry, and global stakeholders.

