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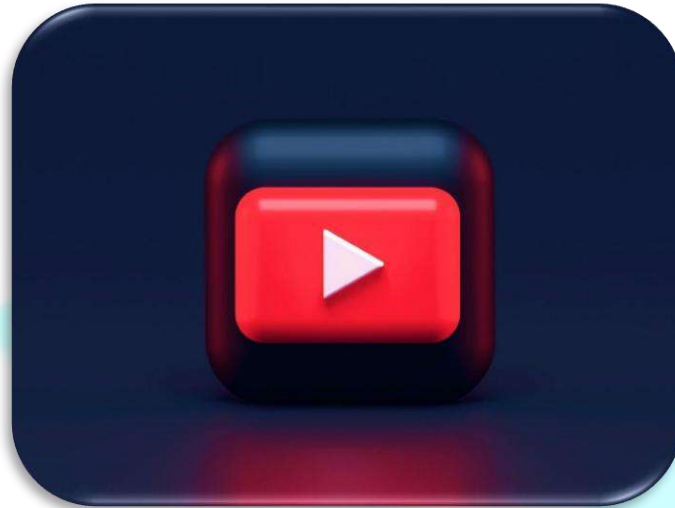


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Hey there,

Your Aparchit sir is here.

I have been providing Aparchit Super Current Affairs on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Additionally, I run GA-paid groups and channels on Telegram for three years. Over the past three years, you have consistently shown me a great deal of love, support, and respect. Your numerous messages urging me to join YouTube have been instrumental in boosting my confidence and inspiring me to take the plunge. "Your support and love mean the world to me. They provide me the strength and courage to overcome any challenge that comes my way. Knowing that you're always there for me is everything. Please continue to be my rock and support me through thick and thin."

Ultimately, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for giving me an abundance of love, support, and respect. Thank you so much, India.

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State - Himachal Pradesh
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Samridhi
State - Bihar
Selected as - PO



Name - Jyothy Jagadeesan
State - Kerala
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Neelam
State - Jharkhand
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Anju
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Christina Dsouza
State - Maharashtra
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Himanshu Gupta
State - Uttar Pradesh
Selected as - IBPS PO & Clerk



Name - Anil
State - West Bengal
Selected as - RRB PO / RRB Clerk/
IBPS Clerk



Name - Shivkumar Sharma
State - Rajasthan
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Reeksha Dongre
State - Maharashtra
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Maya Mohan
State - Kerala
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Mehalar
State - Tamilnadu
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



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Aparchit 8 January 2026 English Super Current Affairs MCQ with Facts By Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. 1. Which bank recently integrated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Rupee (₹) into its online merchant payment platform, SmartGateway?

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

Answer: C

- HDFC Bank Integrates Digital Rupee CBDC into SmartGateway Platform.
- **HDFC Bank** integrated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, the **Digital Rupee (₹)**, into its online merchant payment platform, **SmartGateway**.
- SmartGateway now supports the RBI-backed Digital Rupee (CBDC) alongside existing payment options like Unified Payments Interface (UPI), cards, and net banking.
- Merchants can accept Digital Rupee payments at zero transaction cost, with an intermediary-free, efficient settlement process.
- Strengthens the bank's digital-first strategy and supports India's transition to a cash-light, inclusive digital economy

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2025

- HDFC Bank integrated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), the Digital Rupee (₹), into its online merchant payment platform, SmartGateway.
- HDFC Bank is in the news for being named India's most valuable brand by Kantar BrandZ, surpassing TCS with a brand value of nearly \$45 billion.
- HDFC Bank has been barred from onboarding new customers at its Dubai International Financial Centre branch by the local regulator.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has committed \$150 million to HDFC Capital Advisors's H-DREAM Fund to promote green and affordable housing in India.
- VinFast India partners with HDFC Bank to deliver comprehensive EV financing solutions.

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- Zomato Partners with Tata Digital to Launch Unlimited Rewards on Online Food Orders Paid Via the Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card.
- PhonePe and HDFC Bank have launched a co-branded credit card, available in two variants, "Ultimo" and "UNO," which integrates with the UPI network to provide rewards on everyday spending.
- NTPC signed a \$750 million foreign currency loan with Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) units in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

❖ **HDFC BANK**

- ❖ **Founded:** 1994
- ❖ **Founder:** Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- ❖ **HQ:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ **MD & CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan
- ❖ **Tagline:** We understand your world

Q. 2. Which entity recently unveiled its refreshed brand identity, known as "The Fortuna Wave"?

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) State Bank of India (SBI)
- C) Federal Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

Answer: C

- Federal Bank Unveils Refreshed Brand Entity 'The Fortuna Wave'.
- **Federal Bank Limited**, an Indian private sector bank, launched '**The Fortuna Wave**', a refreshed brand identity, as part of a strategic brand refresh to signal modernization and future-readiness, in Mumbai (Maharashtra) in the presence of **Vidya Balan**, brand ambassador of the bank.
- The central feature of the refresh is "Fortuna Wave", a new visual insignia, which consists of three wave elements such as authenticity, togetherness, and prosperity.

FEDERAL BANK IN NEWS 2025

- Blackstone to invest Rs 6200 crore for 9.99% stake in Federal Bank.
- Federal Bank launched its new cultural initiative, "Bharat Surotsav," in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Federal Bank in collaboration with fintech partners M2P and MinkasuPay has introduced the first-ever biometric authentication solution for e-commerce card transactions.

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- Scapia and Federal Bank launch RuPay Credit Card with UPI and travel features.
- Federal Bank is set to increase its stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Co Ltd to 30% by acquiring an additional 4% stake from Ageas Insurance International for up to Rs 105 crore.
- Federal Bank Launches India's First Biometric Authentication for E-Commerce Card Payments.
- Federal Bank has appointed actor Vidya Balan its first-ever brand ambassador.

❖ About Federal Bank

- ❖ The private sector Federal Bank was established as Travancore Federal Bank Limited on 23 April 1931.
- ❖ The bank was renamed as Federal Bank Limited in December 1949.
- ❖ The Bank became a scheduled commercial bank in July 1970.
- ❖ **Headquarters:** Aluva, Kochi, Kerala
- ❖ **MD & CEO :** KV Subramanian
- ❖ **Tagline:** Your Perfect Banking Partner

Q. 3. Which Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) secured an 'Excellent' rating from the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for the fifth consecutive year in early 2026?

- A) RailTel Corporation of India
- B) Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)
- C) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)
- D) Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)

Answer: B

- Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC) was awarded the 'Excellent' rating by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for the **financial year 2024-25**.
- This achievement marks the **fifth consecutive year** the company has secured the highest performance rating since its stock market listing in FY 2020-21.
- **Performance Period:** The rating was awarded for performance in FY 2024-25.
- **Track Record:** This is the **fifth straight year** of 'Excellent' ratings since IRFC's listing in FY21.
- **Target Achievement:** By the end of Q3 FY 2025-26, IRFC had already achieved its annual sanction guidance of **₹60,000 crore**.



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- **Corporate Phase:** The company is currently operating under its "IRFC 2.0" phase, focusing on diversifying its lending portfolio into allied sectors like metro rail, ports, and logistics.

Q. 4. Astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope recently confirmed the first detection of a new type of astronomical object, a starless, gas-rich dark matter cloud. What have scientists nicknamed this object?

- A) Dark Matter Halo
- B) Ghost Nebula
- C) Cloud-9
- D) Failed Star

Answer: C

- NASA's Hubble Telescope Discovered First Starless Gas Cloud 'Cloud-9' .
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Hubble Telescope discovered a starless, gas-rich, dark-matter cloud, which is nicknamed 'Cloud-9'.
- The results related to Cloud-9 were published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', and later presented at the 247th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Phoenix.
- This newly discovered dark matter-dominated cloud, considered a 'relic' or remnant of early galaxy formation, is located 14 million light-years from Earth near the spiral galaxy **Messier 94 (M94)**.
- Cloud-9 is also called a **Reionization-Limited HI Cloud (RELHIC)** as both have nearly same composition.

NASA IN NEWS 2025

- NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have launched IMAP, Carruthers Geocorona Observatory, and the SWFO-L mission to study the Sun's influence in the solar system.
- NASA-ISRO joint satellite NISAR will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on July 30 .
- GSLV-F16 will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite into a 743 km Sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98.4 degrees.
- NASA launched twin satellites as part of the TRACERS mission to study magnetic reconnection and its effects in Earth's atmosphere.



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- **Dangeti Jahnvi from Andhra Pradesh, will travel to space in 2029. She is the first Indian to complete Nasa's International Air and Space Program.**
- NASA's SPHEREx space telescope is slated to launch from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite mission is now tentatively scheduled for launch in June 2025.
- NASA's IM-2 mission, launched on February 26, 2025, is indeed a significant step in lunar exploration. This mission, part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative and the Artemis program.
- NASA's PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) mission was launched on February 8, 2024. The mission aims to study the health of Earth's oceans and atmosphere by observing plankton, aerosols, clouds, and their interactions.
- Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS) was launched on June 25, 2025 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore returned to Earth after a 286 days stay on the International Space Station. Their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida.
- NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has made history by setting the record for the most time spent spacewalking by a woman.
- She logged 62 hours and 6 minutes of spacewalking, surpassing the previous record of 60 hours and 21 minutes held by former astronaut Peggy Whitson.
- NASA will launch the Pandora mission in 2025 to study the atmospheres of distant exoplanets. It will focus on clouds, hazes, and water, key factors for habitability.

Q. 5. As of November 2025, what percentage of the Indian Railways' Broad Gauge network has been electrified?

- A) 90.0%
- B) 95.5%
- C) 99.2%
- D) 100%

Answer: C

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- Indian Railways has electrified 99.2% of its Broad Gauge (1.676 metre distance between the inner faces of the two parallel rail lines) network, covering 69,427 Route Kilometres (RKMs) out of 70,001 RKMs as of November 2025, aligning infrastructure growth with sustainability.
- **Historical Significance:** Railway electrification in India began in 1925 with the first electric train running between Bombay Victoria Terminus and Kurla Harbour, laying the foundation for energy-efficient rail mobility.
- **Acceleration in the Last Decade:** Electrification pace surged from 1.42 km/day (2004–2014) to over 15 km/day (2019–2025). The share of electrified railway tracks increased from 24% in 2000 to over 96% by 2024, reaching 99.2% by November 2025.
- **Near-Universal State Coverage:** Railways' networks in **25 States/UTs are 100% electrified**, with **only 5 States** (Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, and Goa) having residual non-electrified sections totalling 574 RKMs (0.8%).
- **Economic and Environmental Gains:** Electric traction is **about 70% more economical** than diesel and significantly reduces carbon emissions, air pollution, and fossil fuel dependence.
- **Global Railway Electrification (as of June 2025):** **Switzerland** leads with **100%** railway electrification, followed by **China (82%)**, **Spain (67%)**, Japan (64%), France (60%), Russia (52%), and the United Kingdom (39%).
- **Integration of Renewable Energy:** As of November 2025, Indian Railways has commissioned **898 MW** of solar capacity, up from **3.68 MW in 2014**, representing a nearly 244-fold increase. Solar installations now cover **2,626 railway stations** across India.

Q. 6. Which major global distinction did Indian Railways officially achieve by late 2025?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A) Largest rail network in the world | B) World's largest electrified rail network |
| C) First 100% solar-powered railway | D) Highest rail bridge in the world |

Answer: B

Q. 7. What is the target year set by Indian Railways to become a "Net Zero Carbon Emitter"?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| A) 2025 | B) 2030 |
| C) 2040 | D) 2050 |

Answer: B

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Q. 8. Where was the world's first LC-Max Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) commissioned?

- A) Mumbai, India
- B) Houston, USA
- C) Visakhapatnam (Vizag), India
- D) Singapore

Answer: C

- The world's first LC-Max Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) has been commissioned by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at its Visakh Refinery in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Owner/Operator:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).
- **Location:** Visakh Refinery, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Capacity:** The facility has a capacity of 3.55 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).
- **Purpose:** It is designed to convert around 93% of low-value, "bottom-of-the-barrel" heavy residue oils into high-value products such as diesel and jet fuel.
- **Technology Provider:** The LC-Max technology was developed and patented by Chevron Lummus Global (CLG).
- **EPC Contractor:** The engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract for the unit was executed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

Q. 9. Who is the current Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) as of January 2026?

- A) Dr. D.K. Shukla
- B) S. B. Chafle
- C) A. K. Balasubrahmanian
- D) Guntur Nageswara Rao

Answer: C

- **K. Balasubrahmanian Assumes Charge as Chairman of AERB.**
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Modi, appointed distinguished scientist **A. K. Balasubrahmanian** as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (**AERB**), India's apex nuclear safety regulator, for **three years**.
- He succeeded Dr. D.K. Shukla



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Q. 10. What is the primary payload of ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission?

- A) Chandrayaan-3
- B) BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite
- C) EOS-N1 (Anvesha) Earth observation satellite
- D) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft

Answer: C

- ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket is set to lift off from the first launchpad at Sriharikota, marking India's first space launch of 2026.

About PSLV-C62 Mission:

- It is a **multi-payload mission** of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) that will carry **one primary satellite and 18 secondary payloads into space**.
- It is **ISRO's first space launch of 2026**.
- It is scheduled to lift off from Sriharikota.
- The mission's **primary payload** is the **earth observation satellite EOS-N1 (codenamed 'Anvesha')**, a **hyperspectral imaging satellite** developed primarily for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for **strategic purposes**.
- PSLV-C62 will also carry **Europe's Kestrel Initial Demonstrator (KID)**, an **experimental mission** involving a **small re-entry capsule** developed in collaboration with a **Spanish start-up**.
- The capsule is expected to **re-enter Earth's atmosphere and splash down in the South Pacific Ocean**.
- Additionally, **commercial payloads from startups and research institutions across India, Mauritius, Luxembourg, the UAE, Singapore, Europe, and the United States** are manifested for the PSLV-C62 Mission.
- **Several Indian startups** and academic institutions are also **flying their satellites**.
- These include **OrbitAID Aerospace's AayulSAT**, **CV Raman Global University's CGUSAT-1**, **Dhruva Space's DA-1**, **Space Kidz India's SR-2**, **Assam Don Bosco University's Lachit-1**, **Akshath Aerospace's Solaras-S4**, and **Dayanand Sagar University's DSAT-1**.
- **Bengaluru-based OrbitAID Aerospace's AayulSAT** stands out as a historic first.
- It is **India's maiden on-orbit satellite refuelling payload**.



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- The mission aims to **demonstrate technologies** that could **extend the operational life** of satellites by enabling **in-orbit servicing and refuelling**.

Q. 11. The PSLV-C62 is considered a "return to flight" mission following the failure of which previous PSLV flight?

- A) PSLV-C59
- B) PSLV-C61
- C) PSLV-C60
- D) PSLV-C37

Answer: B

- The **PSLV-C62** mission is the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first launch of **2026**, scheduled for **January 12** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
- It serves as a "Return to Flight" mission for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) after the failure of the PSLV-C61 mission in May 2025.

Q. 12. Which product from Rajasthan was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in January 2026?

- A) Bikaneri Bhujia
- B) Nagauri Ashwagandha
- C) Makrana Marble
- D) Blue Pottery of Jaipur

Answer: B

- Recently, the Centre has officially granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 'Nagauri Ashwagandha'.
About Nagauri Ashwagandha:
- It is mainly grown in the **Nagaur district of Rajasthan**.
- Nagaur's **dry climate** and **sandy soil** are ideally suited for Ashwagandha cultivation.
- It has **longer, thicker roots** rich in medicinal compounds, particularly alkaloids.
- Its berries are known for **their dark, bright red colour**, which is considered a clear indicator of superior quality.
- It has brittle and starchy roots. The 'Nagori Ashwagandha' is the **supreme among all Ashwagandha varieties** in arid region.



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GI TAG IN NEWS 2025

- Ponduru Khadi, a traditional handspun and handwoven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Five products from Tamil Nadu received the Geographical Indications (GI – legal tag for regional products) status, raising the State's total to 74 GI products.
- The products are Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi naatu sakkarai (jaggery powder), Thooyamalli rice, Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware), and Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys).
- The Darjeeling Mandarin Orange, known locally as "suntala," was officially granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on November 24, 2025.
- Ramban Sulai honey from Jammu & Kashmir has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The traditional Arunachal Pradesh dao, a hand-forged blade integral to several tribal communities, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mathura Poshak and Meerut Bugle Recognized as GI tag Products in Uttar Pradesh.
- Gujarat's Ambaji white marble receives GI tag, enhancing its global recognition and market potential for its unique quality.
- From Kesar Mango to Sustainable Weaves: Unveiling Kutch and Saurashtra's GI Tagged Heritage.
- From Kutch, products recognized for their textile and craft heritage are: Embroidery, Ajrakh block-printing, Bandhani tie-dye, Rogan Craft painting, and Kutch shawls.
- In Saurashtra region, the distinct products are: Gir Kesar Mango from the Gir region, Jamnagari Bandhani (a unique style of tie-dye), and the Rajkot Patola silk weave.
- The application fee for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag has been reduced from ₹5,000 to ₹1,000 to encourage more participation from tribal communities and local artisans.
- Pochampally Ikat is indeed on the UNESCO tentative heritage list as part of the "iconic saree weaving clusters of India".
- Pochampally Ikat also received the GI status in 2005.
- APEDA facilitated the first-ever air shipment of GI-tagged Indi Limes from Karnataka and Puliyankudi Limes from Tamil Nadu to the United Kingdom.
- GoI Granted GI Tag to Sikkim's Lepcha Musical Instruments 'Tungbuk' and 'Pumtong Pulit'.



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- Meghalaya's indigenous textile 'Ryndia' has received the GI tag for its organic, handwoven, and naturally dyed fabric.
- Warangal Chapata Chilli, also known as Tomato Chilli, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognizing its unique qualities and regional significance in Telangana.
- Kannadippaya, a traditional tribal handicraft from Kerala, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kumbakonam betel leaf, grown in the fertile Cauvery River basin of Thanjavur, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag by the Government of India.
- The Saudagari block print, a traditional textile art form, has been officially granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This craft is practised by artisans in Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, and has been preserved for nearly 300 years.
- A consignment of 30 tonnes of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged jaggery from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, has been shipped to Bangladesh.
- Meghalaya's Eri Silk, known locally as Ryndia silk, recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2025.
- Rajasthan's famous sangri bean from the Thar Desert received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Rajasthan's famous dish, Ker Sangri, has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Chanderi sarees and Maheshwari sarees from Madhya Pradesh have received Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The Government of India has set a target of 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) tags for the Indian products by 2030.
- Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) from Nicobar district in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was recently awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.

❖ GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-

- ❖ GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



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- ❖ Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- ❖ The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- ❖ A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.

Q. 13. The Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project is located in which country?

- A) India
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Nepal
- D) Bhutan

Answer: D

- The Adani Group recently commenced the 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project in Bhutan.
- About Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project:**
- It is a **570 MW run-of-river** hydropower project being built on the **Wangchu River/basin in Chukha District, Bhutan**.
 - The Wangchu River (also called Raidāk River in India) is a significant **tributary of the Brahmaputra**.
 - It is being **developed by Wangchhu Hydroelectric Power Limited (WHPL)**, a joint venture company formed by India's Adani Power Limited (APL) and Bhutan's state-owned Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC) following a shareholders' agreement.
 - It will be implemented on a **build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT)** basis.

Q. 14. The "SHINE" (Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women) scheme, recently launched in India, is an initiative of which organization?

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B) National Skill Development Corporation
- C) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- D) NITI Aayog

Answer: C

- Recently, at the 79th Bureau of Indian Standards foundation Day union minister launch SHINE scheme in New Delhi.



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About SHINE Scheme:

- The **Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women (SHINE)** is a new scheme of the **Bureau of Indian Standards**.
- It **places women**, at the center of India's quality journey.
- Through structured training, grassroots partnerships with NGOs and SHGs, and practical, locally delivered programmes.
- It **empowers women with knowledge** that protects families and strengthens livelihoods.
- Through this BIS spreads awareness about standards, safety, and quality within households, self-help groups, and communities.

Key Facts about Bureau of Indian Standards:

- It is the **National Standard Body of India** established under the **BIS Act 2016**.
- **Objective:** It was established for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It is the **successor of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI)**, which was created in 1947 to ensure quality control and competitive efficiency in the rapid industrialization era.
- BIS represents India in **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** and **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is functioning under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- **Headquarter:** It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and maintains regional and branch offices throughout the country.

Q. 15. What is a "W Ursae Majoris (W UMa)" star, recently studied by astronomers using data from the Devasthal Fast Optical Telescope?

- A) A high-mass solitary neutron star
- B) A low-mass contact binary star system
- C) A type of interstellar nebula
- D) A planet orbiting a red dwarf

Answer: B



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- Astronomers from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences used data from Devasthal Fast Optical Telescope and NASA's TESS space telescope to create detailed light curves of the W Ursae Majoris (W UMa) star.

About W Ursae Majoris Star:

- It is also known as a **low mass contact binary**, is a type of **eclipsing binary variable star**.
- They share a **single outer atmosphere** and they orbit around each other.
- W UMa stars are easily recognized by their **light curves** with **near equal minima** and **continuous light variation**.
- Their variability ranges from a few tenths to slightly over a magnitude. The periods are typically short and range between **25 days to around 1.0 days**.
- The idea of the contact binary seems to have been **first introduced by Kuiper (1941)**.

Q. 16. Which country spearheaded the resolution to declare 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists?

- A) Brazil
- B) Mongolia
- C) Australia
- D) Kenya

Answer: B

Q. 17. Which year did the UN declare as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)?

- A) 2024
- B) 2025
- C) 2026
- D) 2027

Answer: C

- UN Declares 2026 as International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- The United Nations, under the leadership of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), has declared 2026 as the 'International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists'. The other themes of 2026 are: International Year of Women Farmers, and International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.
- This initiative was led by Mongolia, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will work as the lead agency to raise awareness about these important ecosystems and their custodians.



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- The United Nations officially declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) (IYRP 2026) through a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2022.
- **UNCCD COP17:** A major event to be hosted by Mongolia in 2026 which will strengthen commitments for rangeland management.
- The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2027 as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism and, on the basis of an initiative of Tajikistan, the International Year of Legal Literacy.

Q. 18. Which organization developed India's first indigenous cosmic dust detector, the Dust EXperiment (DEX), launched aboard the PSLV-C58 mission?

- A) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- B) Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
- C) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- D) Space Applications Centre (SAC)

Answer: B

- According to the study of its first Dust Experiment (DEX), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed that approximately one interplanetary dust particle enters the Earth's atmosphere every 1,000 seconds.
- The Dust EXperiment (DEX) is India's first indigenous instrument designed to detect high-speed Interplanetary Dust Particles (IDPs).
- **Developer:** The instrument was developed by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad.
- **Mission:** It was flown on the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM-3) as part of the PSLV-C58 / XPoSat mission, launched on January 1, 2024.
- **Key Discovery:** In early 2026, ISRO confirmed that DEX successfully detected cosmic dust particles striking at a rate of roughly one every 1,000 seconds (about every 16–17 minutes).

Technical Specs:

- **Weight:** ~3 kg.
- **Power Consumption:** ~4.5 Watts.
- **Operating Altitude:** Approximately 350 km in low Earth orbit.



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STATIC GK Based Current Affairs MCQs 8 January 2026

Q. 1. What does "APPLE" stand for in the context of the ISRO mission?

- A) Advanced Passenger Payload for Lunar Exploration
- B) Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment
- C) Asian Planetary Payload for Low-Earth Orbit
- D) Applied Physics and Planetary Exploration

Answer: B

Q. 2. Which organization declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists?

- A) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- B) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- C) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- D) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Answer: B

Q. 3. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) headquarters is located in which city, and when was it established?

- A) Mumbai, 1947
- B) Chennai, 1986
- C) New Delhi, 1986
- D) Kolkata, 2016

Answer: C

Q. 4. Which Indian act governs the registration and protection of Geographical Indications?

- A) Indian Patents Act, 1970
- B) Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- C) Trademarks Act, 1999
- D) Copyright Act, 1957

Answer: B



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Q. 5. What is the initial validity period of a GI tag registration in India?

- A) 5 years
- B) 10 years
- C) 20 years
- D) Lifetime

Answer: B

Q. 6. Which ministry is responsible for the Geographical Indications Registry?

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: C

Q. 7. Where is the PSLV-C62 mission scheduled to be launched from?

- A) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- B) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota
- C) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)
- D) Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)

Answer: B

Q. 8. Which organization developed the primary satellite, EOS-N1, for this mission?

- A) ISRO
- B) HAL
- C) DRDO
- D) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)

Answer: C



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Q. 9. When was the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) constituted, and where is its headquarters located?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A) 1957; New Delhi | B) 1983; Bengaluru |
| C) 1983; Mumbai | D) 1962; Mumbai |

Answer: C

Q. 10. Which of the following was the first nuclear reactor established in India?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A) CIRUS | B) Dhruva |
| C) Apsara | D) Kamini |

Answer: C

- India's first nuclear reactor, Apsara, was established in 1956.
- Established at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** in Trombay, Mumbai.
- It was the first nuclear reactor in all of Asia



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NAME - PRIYADARSHINI
KALIYAMCORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120035944
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



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NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY
ROLL NO - 2603003298
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART
GRAMIN BANK CLERK
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



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NAME - ISHITA GARG
ROLL NO - 2283004123
STATE - PUNJAB
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



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NAME - NIPUN
ROLL NO - 1533002831
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



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NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 1801005276
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMMENA
BANK
STATE - KARNATAKA



Name: Bathina Maneesha
Rollno: 2543024278
Selected in : RRB clerk
State : Telangana

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NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA
ROLL NO - 2543024278
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - TELAGANA



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NAME - NISHU SHARMA
ROLL NO - 1523008901
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



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NAME - GURIYA KUMARI
ROLL NO - 1373006773
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN
BANK



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NAME - GURPREET KAUR
ROLL NO - 2283002821
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



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NAME - MANU VARGHESE
ROLL NO - 2110710970
BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN
BANK CLERK