

COMPETITIVE EDGE: FINANCIAL AFFAIRS MASTERY FOR REGULATORY EXAMS

Q1. Under which legislation did RBI grant final PA-CB authorisation to BRISKPE in December 2025?

- A. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- B. Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- C. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- D. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- E. Companies Act, 2013

Answer: B (Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007)

Explanation: RBI granted PA-CB authorisation to BRISKPE under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act, 2007). BRISKPE was founded in 2023 and supports inward/outward payments up to Rs 25 lakh per transaction.

Q2. BRISKPE's PA-CB operations support inward export collections and outward import payables up to what limit per transaction?

- A. Rs 10 lakh
- B. Rs 15 lakh
- C. Rs 20 lakh
- D. Rs 25 lakh
- E. Rs 50 lakh

Answer: D (Rs 25 lakh)

Explanation: BRISKPE supports payments up to Rs 25 lakh per transaction. It partners with AD Category-I banks in India for settlements and offers A2A and XPI products for international payments.

Q3. Under RBI's revised NBFC infrastructure loan guidelines (effective April 1, 2026), a 75% risk weight becomes applicable once what percentage of the original project debt is repaid?

- A. 1%
- B. 2%
- C. 5%
- D. 7%
- E. 10%

Answer: B (2%)

Explanation: Under the revised guidelines, 75% risk weight applies once 2% of the originally sanctioned debt is repaid — significantly lower than the 5% threshold proposed in the draft norms. The 50% RW applies after 5% repayment.

Q4. The grace period under RBI's NBFC infrastructure risk-weight framework, for exposures attracting lower RW under extant guidelines, extends till:

- A. March 31, 2026
- B. September 30, 2026
- C. March 31, 2027
- D. December 31, 2026
- E. April 1, 2027

Answer: C (March 31, 2027)

Explanation: NBFCs can maintain extant risk weights till next review/renewal or March 31, 2027, whichever is earlier. The Amendment Directions are effective from April 1, 2026.

Q5. The SBI MF received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake in RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank. As of February 20, 2026, what was SBI MF's current holding in RBL Bank?

- A. 0.95%
- B. 1.45%
- C. 1.88%
- D. 2.50%
- E. 3.10%

Answer: C (1.88%)

Explanation: As of February 20, 2026, SBI MF held about 1.88% of RBL Bank's shares. As of 2025, SBI MF held around 2% in Bandhan Bank. The transaction must be completed within one year from the approval date.

Q6. Under which section of the RBI Act, 1934 was the CoR of 35 NBFCs cancelled?

- A. Section 45-I (a)
- B. Section 45-IA (3)
- C. Section 45-IA (6)
- D. Section 22 (1)
- E. Section 47 (2)

Answer: C (Section 45-IA (6))

Explanation: RBI exercised powers under Section 45-IA(6) of the RBI Act, 1934 to cancel CoRs. Section 45-I(a) defines NBFIs — companies are now barred from conducting NBFi business under that clause.

Q7. The RB-IOS 2026 will come into effect from:

- A. January 1, 2026
- B. April 1, 2026
- C. July 1, 2026
- D. October 1, 2026
- E. January 1, 2027

Answer: C (July 1, 2026)

Explanation: RB-IOS 2026 supersedes RB-IOS 2021 and comes into effect from July 1, 2026. It embodies a 'One Nation, One Ombudsman' approach and has no dispute cap.

Q8. Under RB-IOS 2026, the maximum compensation an RBI Ombudsman can award for **consequential** loss suffered by a complainant is:

- A. Rs 10 lakh
- B. Rs 20 lakh
- C. Rs 25 lakh
- D. Rs 30 lakh
- E. Rs 50 lakh

Answer: D (Rs 30 lakh)

Explanation: The compensation limit was raised from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 30 lakh for consequential loss. Additionally, up to Rs 3 lakh (previously Rs 1 lakh) can be awarded for loss of time, harassment, and mental anguish.

Q9. Under RB-IOS 2026, Non-Scheduled Primary UCBs are covered if their deposit size is at least:

- A. Rs 10 crore
- B. Rs 25 crore
- C. Rs 50 crore
- D. Rs 100 crore
- E. Rs 200 crore

Answer: C (Rs 50 crore)

Explanation: Non-Scheduled Primary UCBs with deposits of Rs 50 crore and above (as per the audited balance sheet of the previous FY) are covered under RB-IOS 2026.

Q10. FEDAI was recognised by RBI as a Self-Regulatory Organisation under which framework?

- A. BIS SRO Framework
- B. RBI Omnibus Framework for SROs
- C. Banking Regulation Act SRO Framework
- D. PSS Act SRO Guidelines
- E. FEMA Self-Regulation Framework

Answer: B (RBI Omnibus Framework for SROs)

Explanation: RBI recognised FEDAI as an SRO under the Omnibus Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisations of the RBI. FEDAI was established in 1958 and its chairman is Srinivasa Panigrahi.

Q11. What is the minimum net worth an SRO recognised by RBI must maintain within one year of recognition?

- A. Rs 50 lakh
- B. Rs 1 crore
- C. Rs 2 crore
- D. Rs 5 crore
- E. Rs 10 crore

Answer: C (Rs 2 crore)

Explanation: RBI's eligibility criteria for SRO recognition requires maintaining a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore within one year of recognition. The entity must be a not-for-profit registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Q12. Which foreign bank became the 4th bank to receive in-principle approval for the Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) model in India, after DBS Bank India, SBM Bank India, and Emirates NBD?

- A. Sumitomo Mitsui Trust
- B. Mizuho Bank
- C. SMBC
- D. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ
- E. Standard Chartered Bank

Answer: C

Explanation: SMBC (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation) becomes the fourth foreign bank approved for the WOS model. The final banking licence will be issued under Section 22(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Minimum paid-up capital required: Rs 500 crore.

Q13. Under NIRYAT PROTSAHAN, what is the rate of interest subvention available on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit for MSMEs in FY26?

- A. 1.50% p.a.
- B. 2.00% p.a.
- C. 2.50% p.a.
- D. 2.75% p.a.
- E. 3.00% p.a.

Answer: D (2.75% p.a.)

Explanation: The interest subvention rate is 2.75% p.a., with a maximum benefit of Rs 50 lakh per MSME exporter for FY26. Eligible MSMEs must hold a valid IEC and MSME Udyam Registration Number (URM).

Q14. Under the NIRYAT PROTSAHAN Collateral Support component, what is the guarantee coverage extended to MSE exporters in partnership with CGTMSE?

- A. 65%
- B. 75%
- C. 80%
- D. 85%
- E. 90%

Answer: D (85%)

Explanation: Guarantee coverage is 85% for MSE and 65% for Medium exporters, with a maximum outstanding guaranteed exposure of Rs 10 crore per exporter per financial year. EPM total outlay is Rs 25,060 crore for FY26-FY31.

Q15. The new FEMA (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026 will supersede which regulations?

- A. FEMA (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2013
- B. FEMA (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015
- C. FEMA (Trade Transactions) Regulations, 2018
- D. FEMA (Current Account) Regulations, 2000
- E. FEMA (Cross-Border) Regulations, 2020

Answer: B (FEMA (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015)

Explanation: The new FEMA 2026 regulations will supersede the FEMA (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015 and take effect from October 1, 2026. They were notified under Sections 7, 8, 10(6), and 47(2) of FEMA, 1999.

Q16. Under new FEMA 2026 rules, AD banks must enter EDF details into EDPMS within how many working days of receipt?

- A. 2 working days
- B. 3 working days
- C. 5 working days
- D. 7 working days
- E. 10 working days

Answer: C (5 working days)

Explanation: AD banks must enter EDF details for goods exported through non-EDI ports into EDPMS within 5 working days. References to RBI must be routed via the PRAVAAH portal.

Q17. Under FEMA 2026, export proceeds must be realised within _____ if settled in Indian Rupees (INR).

- A. 9 months
- B. 12 months
- C. 15 months
- D. 18 months
- E. 24 months

Answer: D (18 months)

Explanation: Exports invoiced and settled in INR must be realised within 18 months. Exports settled in foreign currency must be realised within 15 months of shipment or invoice.

Q18. Payoneer India must achieve a net worth of Rs 25 crore within how many years of receiving PA-CB in-principle approval?

- A. One year
- B. Two years
- C. Three years
- D. Four years
- E. Five years

Answer: C (Three years)

Explanation: Non-bank PA-CB entities must initially maintain a net worth of Rs 15 crore, reaching Rs 25 crore by year three. Per-transaction limit is Rs 25 lakh, with separate accounts for imports and exports.

Q19. Punjab & Sind Bank received RBI approval on January 29, 2026 to open a branch at which IFSC location?

- A. SEEPZ Mumbai
- B. Chennai IFSC
- C. GIFT City, Gandhinagar
- D. Kolkata Financial Hub
- E. Hyderabad IFSC

Answer: C (GIFT City, Gandhinagar)

Explanation: Punjab & Sind Bank received RBI approval to open a branch at the IFSC in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The branch will operate under the IFSC framework for cross-border financial services.

Q20. Infrastructure Investment Trusts are primarily designed to invest in operational infrastructure assets that generate stable cash flows. However, to allow limited exposure to new infrastructure development projects, SEBI has permitted privately listed InvITs to invest a small portion of their assets in greenfield infrastructure projects. What is the maximum percentage of asset value that privately listed InvITs are allowed to invest in such greenfield projects?

- A. 5 percent
- B. 10 percent
- C. 8 percent
- D. 12 percent
- E. 15 percent

Answer: B

Q21. SBI's CHAKRA will primarily focus on 8 sunrise sectors. Which of the following is NOT one of the 8 sectors?

- A. Green Hydrogen
- B. Electric Mobility
- C. Advanced Cell Chemistry & Battery Storage
- D. Nuclear Energy
- E. Data Centre Infrastructure

Answer: D (Nuclear Energy)

Explanation: The 8 sectors are: Renewable Energy, Advanced Cell Chemistry & Battery Storage, Electric Mobility, Green Hydrogen, Semiconductors, Decarbonisation, Smart Infrastructure, and Data Centre Infrastructure. Nuclear Energy is NOT among them.

Q22. The RB-IOS 2026 applies to all NBFCs (with customer interface and asset size \geq Rs 100 crore) EXCEPT which of the following categories?

- A. Investment and Credit Companies
- B. Housing Finance Companies
- C. NBFC-P2P Lenders
- D. Prepaid Payment Instrument issuers
- E. Credit Information Companies

Answer: B (Housing Finance Companies (HFCs))

Explanation: RB-IOS 2026 explicitly excludes HFCs, Core Investment Companies (CIC), IDf-NBFCs, NBFC-IFCs, NOFHCs, Primary Dealers, and Mortgage Guarantee Companies. All Non-bank PPI Issuers and Credit Information Companies ARE covered.

Q23. SEBI mandated NISM Series-III-C certification for AIF compliance officers effective from:

- A. April 1, 2026
- B. July 1, 2026
- C. October 1, 2026
- D. January 1, 2027
- E. April 1, 2027

Answer: D (January 1, 2027)

Explanation: SEBI mandated the NISM Series-III-C: Securities Intermediaries Compliance (Fund) Certification Examination for AIF compliance officers, effective January 1, 2027. AIF assets have grown from Rs 28,000 crore to Rs 15 lakh crore (CAGR 49%) in ten years.

Q24. Under revised SEBI Merchant Banker norms, Category-I MBs must maintain a net worth of Rs 50 crore by:

- A. January 02, 2028
- B. January 02, 2027

- C. April 03, 2026
- D. April 01, 2029
- E. January 02, 2030

Answer: A (January 02, 2028)

Explanation: Category-I Merchant Bankers must reach Rs 25 crore net worth by January 02, 2027, and Rs 50 crore by January 02, 2028. The regulations were amended as SEBI (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025.

Q25. What is the maximum underwriting obligation limit set by SEBI for Merchant Bankers in relation to their Liquid Net Worth (LNW)?

- A. 5 times
- B. 10 times
- C. 15 times
- D. 25 times
- E. 20 times

Answer: E (20 times)

Explanation: SEBI mandated that total underwriting obligations must not exceed 20 times the merchant banker's liquid net worth. MBs have two years (until January 02, 2028) to comply with this requirement.

Q26. Under SEBI's revised Merchant Banker norms, Category-II MBs must generate minimum revenue of how much over 3 years?

- A. Rs 5 crore
- B. Rs 2.5 crore
- C. Rs 1 crore
- D. Rs 10 crore
- E. Rs 25 crore

Answer: A (Rs 5 crore)

Explanation: Category-II MBs must generate Rs 5 crore in revenue from permitted activities over 3 years (first assessment from April 01, 2029). Category-I MBs must generate Rs 25 crore. Non-compliance may result in cancellation of registration.

Q27. SEBI defines Liquid Net Worth (LNW) for Merchant Bankers as 'unencumbered liquid assets'. Which of the following is NOT included in LNW?

- A. Cash
- B. Bank deposits
- C. Government Securities
- D. Real estate holdings
- E. Select Mutual Fund units

Answer: D (Real estate holdings)

Explanation: SEBI's LNW definition covers cash, bank deposits, Government Securities (G-Secs), and select MF units. Real estate holdings are illiquid assets and are not counted in LNW.

Q28. By which date must existing Merchant Bankers appoint an independent compliance officer as per SEBI's new regulations?

- A. January 02, 2026

- B. April 03, 2026
- C. July 01, 2026
- D. January 02, 2027
- E. April 01, 2029

Answer: B (April 03, 2026)

Explanation: MBs must appoint an independent compliance officer (separate from principal officers) by April 03, 2026. They must also unwind existing outsourcing arrangements of core merchant banking activities by the same date.

Q29. India's GDP reached USD 4.18 trillion, making it the world's _____ largest economy, overtaking Japan.

- A. Fourth
- B. Third
- C. Second
- D. Fifth
- E. Sixth

Answer: A (Fourth)

Explanation: India overtook Japan to become the 4th largest economy at USD 4.18 trillion. The ranking is: USA (1st), China (2nd), Germany (3rd), India (4th). India aims to surpass Germany within 2.5–3 years.

Q30. India's GDP is projected to reach approximately how much by 2030 as per government estimates?

- A. USD 5.0 trillion
- B. USD 5.5 trillion
- C. USD 6.5 trillion
- D. USD 8.0 trillion
- E. USD 7.3 trillion

Answer: E (USD 7.3 trillion)

Explanation: India's GDP is projected to reach approximately USD 7.3 trillion by 2030. India aims to attain High Middle-Income (HMI) status by 2047. Q2 FY26 GDP growth was 8.2%.

Q31. As of November 2025, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 686.2 billion, providing an import cover of over how many months?

- A. 7 months
- B. 9 months
- C. 11 months
- D. 13 months
- E. 15 months

Answer: C (11 months)

Explanation: India's forex reserves of USD 686.2 billion provide an import cover of over 11 months. The Current Account Deficit moderated from 2.2% of GDP in Q2 FY25 to 1.3% in Q2 FY26.

Q32. India's Gross FDI in H1 FY26 (April–September 2025) grew by what percentage?

- A. 9.4%
- B. 14.2%

C. 29.1%

D. 24.7%

E. 19.4%

Answer: E (19.4%)

Explanation: Gross FDI grew 19.4% to USD 51.8 billion in H1 FY26, while Net FDI surged 127.6% to USD 7.7 billion. FPIs recorded net outflows of USD 0.7 billion in FY26 (April–December).

Q33. The World Bank approved USD 830 million for PM-SETU. What are the loan terms (maturity and grace period)?

A. 10 years maturity, 2-year grace period

B. 15 years maturity, 3-year grace period

C. 19.5 years maturity, 4-year grace period

D. 25 years maturity, 5-year grace period

E. 30 years maturity, 6-year grace period

Answer: C (19.5 years maturity, 4-year grace period)

Explanation: The PM-SETU loan has a final maturity of 19.5 years including a 4-year grace period. The program was jointly prepared by World Bank and ADB. It seeks to generate over 1 million skilled workers annually with 25% female participation.

34. Impact investing has gained importance as investors increasingly seek opportunities that generate measurable social benefits along with financial returns. To promote broader participation in such investments, SEBI has reduced the minimum investment requirement in Social Impact Funds listed on the Social Stock Exchange. Under the revised rule, the minimum investment threshold has been reduced from ____ to 1000?

A. 50,000

B. 500,000

C. 10,00,000

D. 1,00,000

E. 2,00,000

Answer: E

Q35. The NSO's FAE for FY26 estimates the Tertiary Sector growth at:

A. 6.6%

B. 7.3%

C. 7.5%

D. 8.2%

E. 9.1%

Answer: E (9.1%)

Explanation: The Tertiary Sector is estimated to grow at 9.1% in FY26 (up from 7.2% in FY25). Manufacturing is estimated at 7.0%, while the Primary Sector is estimated at 2.7%. The National Statistical Office (NSO) estimates the Tertiary (Services) Sector growth at 9.1% for FY 2025-26 in its First Advance Estimates (FAE). This buoyant momentum makes services the primary driver of India's overall Real Gross Value Added (GVA) growth, which is pegged at 7.3%

36. Alternative Investment Funds are privately pooled investment vehicles regulated by SEBI and invest in areas such as private equity, venture capital and infrastructure. To improve ease of doing business and reduce approval timelines, SEBI proposed a new mechanism allowing quick initiation of AIF schemes while retaining regulatory oversight. Under this proposal, which framework has been introduced to fast-track the launch of AIF schemes?

- A. Register and Operate Framework
- B. File and Activate System
- C. Lodge and Execute Framework
- D. Launch and Execute Mechanism
- E. Lodge and Launch Framework

Answer: E

Q37. The UPI One World Wallet extended at India AI Impact Summit 2026 allows customers to load a maximum of Rs 25,000 per transaction. What is the monthly loading cap?

- A. Rs 25,000
- B. Rs 40,000
- C. Rs 50,000
- D. Rs 75,000
- E. Rs 1,00,000

Answer: C (Rs 50,000)

Explanation: The maximum wallet loading is Rs 25,000 per transaction, with a maximum of 2 wallet loadings per month, capped at Rs 50,000 per month. The wallet is available at IGIA (Delhi) and NPCI Pavillion at Bharat Mandapam.

Q38. The 16th FC recommended that for grants to local bodies, what split is used between basic grants and performance-based grants?

- A. 70:30
- B. 75:25
- C. 80:20
- D. 85:15
- E. 90:10

Answer: C (80:20)

Explanation: Grants to local bodies are divided into basic (80%) and performance-based (20%) components. Of the basic grant, 50% will be untied and 50% tied to sanitation/solid waste management and/or water management.

Q39. The cost-sharing pattern for Disaster Management Grants recommended by the 16th FC between Centre and States is 75:25 for most states. What is the ratio for North-Eastern and Himalayan states?

- A. 60:40
- B. 70:30
- C. 80:20
- D. 85:15
- E. 90:10

Page 81

Answer: E (90:10)

Explanation: For North-Eastern and Himalayan states, the cost-sharing ratio is 90:10 (Centre:State) for disaster management grants, compared to 75:25 for all other states. Total disaster management corpus is Rs 2,04,401 crore.

Q40. AIFs often face operational challenges when winding up operations due to pending litigation, tax liabilities or administrative expenses. Earlier regulations required AIFs to distribute all liquidation proceeds and maintain a NIL bank balance before surrendering registration. SEBI has now allowed AIFs to retain funds beyond their permissible life in certain cases. Such retention of liquidation proceeds is permitted if what proportion of investors by value approve the decision?

- A. 50 percent
- B. 60 percent
- C. 66 percent
- D. 90 percent
- E. 75 percent

Answer: E

Q41. The NSE IX Global Access platform is regulated by which authority?

- A. SEBI
- B. IFSCA
- C. IRDAI
- D. RBI
- E. Ministry of Finance

Answer: B (International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA))

Explanation: The NSE IX Global Access platform is regulated by IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority). It initially offers US-listed stocks and plans to expand to 30+ international markets in 3–6 months. No separate demat account is needed.

Q42. The World Bank's GEP January 2026 report projects India's GDP growth at ____ for FY26 and ____ for FY27.

- A. 7.0% and 6.3%
- B. 7.2% and 6.5%
- C. 7.3% and 6.7%
- D. 7.4% and 6.9%
- E. 7.5% and 7.0%

Answer: B (7.2% and 6.5%)

Explanation: World Bank projected 7.2% for FY26 (revised upward from 6.3% in June 2025) and 6.5% for FY27, assuming 50% US import tariffs remain. India's GDP is expected to edge up to 6.6% in FY28. Global Economic Prospects January 2026

Q43. In the World Bank's GEP January 2026 report, global growth is projected at ____ for CY2026.

- A. 2.4%
- B. 2.6%
- C. 2.8%
- D. 3.0%
- E. 3.2%

Answer: B (2.6%)

Explanation: Global growth is projected at 2.6% for CY26, down marginally from 2.7% in CY25. South Asia growth is expected at 7.1% in CY25 and 6.2% in CY26. The World Bank excludes Pakistan and Afghanistan from its South Asia region.

Q44. The IMF's World Economic Outlook for January 2026 is titled:

- A. Global Resilience Amid Uncertainty
- B. Navigating Turbulent Waters
- C. Balancing Growth and Stability
- D. World at a Crossroads
- E. Global Economy Steady amid Divergent Forces

Answer: E (Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces)

Explanation: The IMF WEO is titled 'Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces'. It revised India's FY26 growth to 7.3% (from 6.6% in October 2025). India's growth would moderate to 6.4% in both FY27 and FY28.

Q45. Under the CBDC-based PDS in Gujarat, digital coupons (₹) will be generated through RBI and credited to beneficiaries. At which shops can they be redeemed?

- A. Any NPCI-registered merchant
- B. Any UPI QR enabled shop
- C. Fair Price Shops (FPS)
- D. State-run supermarkets only
- E. Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Answer: C (Fair Price Shops (FPS))

Explanation: Beneficiaries can redeem their entitled foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPS) using CBDC coupon or voucher codes. The system aims to make ration distribution transparent and leakage-free, addressing biometric and e-POS issues.

Q46. The SBI GTFC in Kolkata uses several advanced technologies. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a technology used by GTFC?

- A. Artificial Intelligence
- B. Machine Learning
- C. Blockchain
- D. Quantum Computing
- E. Traditional paper-based transitioning

Answer: D (Quantum Computing)

Explanation: GTFC uses AI, Machine Learning, and Blockchain — but Quantum Computing is not mentioned. The GTFC has 277 total staff (161 SBI employees, 105 outsourced, 11 temporary) and has contributed Rs 1.40 crore GST to West Bengal since 2024.

Q47. UNCTAD's Global Investment Trends Monitor reported that India's FDI inflows surged by what percentage to USD 47 billion in 2025?

- A. 45%
- B. 58%
- C. 63%
- D. 73%
- E. 82%

Answer: D (73%)

Explanation: India's FDI inflows surged 73% to USD 47 billion in 2025, driven by IT, R&D, and manufacturing. Global FDI reached USD 1.61 trillion in 2025, up 14%. UNCTAD headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. UN Conference on Trade and Development is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations Secretariat that promotes the interests of developing countries in the governance of international trade, financial flows and technology transfer.

Q48. In UNCTAD's 2025 FDI data, which country emerged as the world's largest FDI recipient?

- A. China
- B. United Kingdom
- C. Germany
- D. France
- E. United States of America

Answer: E (United States of America)

Explanation: The USA emerged as the world's largest FDI recipient (2% increase). Developed economies saw a 43% increase to USD 728 billion. Developing economies' FDI decreased 2% to USD 877 billion (55% of global flows).

Q49. India ranked ____ globally in hosting data centre greenfield investments in 2025, according to UNCTAD.

- A. 3rd
- B. 5th
- C. 6th
- D. 7th
- E. 9th

Answer: D (7th)

Explanation: India ranked 7th in data centre investments. The top 3 were France (1st), USA (2nd), Republic of Korea (3rd). Total greenfield investment in data centres exceeded USD 270 billion —more than 1/5th of all investment projects.

Q50. The Government of India increased the foreign investment limit in Indian insurance companies from 74% to:

- A. 76%
- B. 80%
- C. 90%
- D. 100%
- E. No change

Answer: D (100%)

Explanation: GoI increased the limit on foreign investment in Indian insurance companies from 74% to 100%, as highlighted in Moody's report. This is expected to improve financial flexibility for state-owned insurers.

Q51. Which organisation received the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at the Hong Kong Leadership Awards?

- A. NSE

- B. BSE
- C. SEBI
- D. MCX
- E. NCDEX

Answer: B

Explanation: BSE received the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at Hong Kong Leadership Awards & CMO Asia Awards held at InterContinental Grand Stanford, Hong Kong SAR, China. BSE is Asia's 1st and oldest stock exchange.

Q52. Who was appointed as Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank effective January 01, 2026?

- A. K. Satyanarayana Raju
- B. Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia
- C. Debadatta Chand
- D. Sivasubramanian Ramann
- E. Rohit Karan Sawhney

Answer: B (Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia)

Explanation: Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia was appointed Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank for 3 months or until a regular incumbent is appointed. He succeeded K. Satyanarayana Raju and previously served as Executive Director at Canara Bank.

Q53. Regulatory authorities periodically simplify procedural requirements to reduce compliance burden for investors holding physical securities. Under the revised framework of SEBI for issuance of duplicate securities, up to what value of lost or damaged securities can investors avail a simplified documentation process?

- A. Up to ₹5 lakh
- B. Up to ₹7.5 lakh
- C. Up to ₹10 lakh
- D. Up to ₹15 lakh
- E. Up to ₹25 lakh

Answer: C

Explanation: SEBI enhanced the simplified documentation threshold from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

Q54. To enable Indian clearing entities to operate in European markets, RBI signed an MoU with Europe's financial regulator. The agreement facilitates regulatory cooperation for a specific category of market infrastructure. Which entities are covered under this MoU?

- A. Payment Aggregators
- B. Credit Rating Agencies
- C. Depositories
- D. Central Counterparties
- E. Trade Repositories

Answer: D

Q55. ICICI Bank re-appointed Sandeep Bakshi as MD & CEO for the tenure:

- A. October 04, 2025 to October 03, 2027
- B. October 04, 2026 to October 03, 2028
- C. November 27, 2026 to November 26, 2028

D. January 01, 2026 to December 31, 2027

E. October 04, 2027 to October 03, 2029

Answer: B (October 04, 2026 to October 03, 2028)

Explanation: Sandeep Bakshi was re-appointed as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank from October 04, 2026 to October 03, 2028. Ajay Kumar Gupta was also re-appointed as ED from November 27, 2026 to November 26, 2028. Bakshi was first appointed in October 2018.

Q56. In order to further ease compliance for investors holding very small-value securities, regulators have relaxed formalities that otherwise increase time and cost for claimants. These relaxations apply only up to a specified monetary limit. For which value of securities is notarisation of documents not required, allowing submission of a simple undertaking on plain paper?

A. Up to ₹5,000

B. Up to ₹10,000

C. Up to ₹25,000

D. Up to ₹50,000

E. Up to ₹1 lakh

56. Answer: B

Q57. As part of fiscal consolidation efforts, the Union Budget 2026–27 outlined key deficit targets while continuing growth-oriented spending. What fiscal deficit has been pegged for FY 2026–27 as a percentage of GDP?

A. 4.8%

B. 4.5%

C. 4.4%

D. 4.0%

E. 4.3%

Page 117

Answer: E

Explanation: Fiscal deficit target is 4.3% of GDP.

Q58. Every edition of Financial Literacy Week is organised around a central theme to align outreach efforts and educational messaging. These themes typically reflect current priorities such as savings habits, digital payments, or responsible credit behaviour. What was the officially announced theme of Financial Literacy Week 2026?

A. Smart Borrowing, Safe Banking

B. Financial Awareness for Sustainable Growth

C. Financial Planning for a Secure Tomorrow

D. Financial Inclusion for All

E. KYC Your First Step Towards Secure Banking

Answer: E

Q59. The DoP-SIDBI MoU for verification of IMEs uses how many post offices for on-ground verification?

A. 50,000

B. 1 lakh

C. 1.25 lakh

D. 1.64 lakh

E. 2 lakh

Answer: D (1.64 lakh)

Explanation: The MoU leverages 1.64 lakh post offices and uses SIDBI's CPV mobile app for real-time geo-tagged verification. The MoU is valid from December 31, 2025 to December 30, 2027. IMEs are verified on the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP). The DoP-SIDBI MoU leverages India Post's vast nationwide network of over 1.64 lakh post offices to conduct on-ground Contact Point Verification (CPV) for Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) registered on the Udyam Assist Platform

Q60. SMFCL, India's first maritime NBFC, sanctioned Rs 4,000 crore for which category at its 51st Board Meeting?

A. A Greenfield Port Project

B. Goa Shipyard Limited

C. Dredging Corporation of India

D. Coastal Shipping Modernisation

E. Naval Vessel Upgradation

Answer: A (A Greenfield Port Project)

Explanation: SMFCL allocated Rs 4,000 crore for a Greenfield Port Project. DCI received Rs 150 crore and GSL received Rs 110 crore. Total sanctions were Rs 4,300 crore. SMFCL was launched in June 2025 as nodal agency for the Rs 25,000 crore MDF.

Q61. Foreign Portfolio Investor onboarding historically involved extensive paperwork. In 2026, one Indian bank completed the first fully digital FPI licence issuance using electronic signatures. Which bank achieved this milestone?

A. SBI

B. ICICI Bank

C. Axis Bank

D. Kotak Mahindra Bank

E. HDFC Bank

Answer: D

Explanation: Kotak Mahindra Bank issued India's first fully digital FPI licence.

Q62. NPCI was launched as a joint initiative of RBI and IBA. It was set up under which Act, and in which year?

A. Banking Regulation Act, 1949; 2006

B. Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007; 2008

C. RBI Act, 1934; 2010

D. FEMA, 1999; 2005

E. Companies Act, 1956; 2009

Answer: B (Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007; 2008)

Explanation: NPCI was established in 2008 under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act), 2007. It was launched as a joint initiative of RBI and India Banks' Association (IBA) with 10 core promoter banks.

Q63. To improve women's participation in capital markets, a mutual fund house launched India's first women-centric AMC branch. Which mutual fund initiated this move?

- A. SBI Mutual Fund
- B. HDFC Mutual Fund
- C. ICICI Prudential MF
- D. Nippon MF
- E. LIC Mutual Fund

Answer: E

Explanation: LIC Mutual Fund launched India's first women-centric AMC branch.

Q64. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank's UPI partnership with TechFini features a platform capable of handling how many transactions per second?

- A. 1,000 TPS
- B. 3,000 TPS
- C. 5,000 TPS
- D. 7,500 TPS
- E. 10,000 TPS

Answer: E (10,000 TPS)

Explanation: TechFini's cloud-native UPI platform handles up to 10,000 transactions per second (TPS). TechFini serves as a TSP for TMB, managing UPI switching. The partnership also enables UPI Autopay for automated EMI and loan repayments.

Q65. Under this special FPI framework, investors receive relaxed norms in exchange for committing funds for a minimum lock-in period. What is the minimum retention period under VRR?

- A. 1 year
- B. 2 years
- C. 3 years
- D. 4 years
- E. 5 years

Answer: C

Explanation: VRR requires minimum retention of 3 years.

Q66. Apart from government securities, RBI also prescribes limits for corporate debt participation by FPIs. What is the FPI cap on corporate bonds?

- A. 15%
- B. 12%
- C. 10%
- D. 18%
- E. 20%

Answer: A

Explanation: Corporate bond FPI limit is 15%.

Q67. HDFC Bank integrated India's CBDC Digital Rupee into its SmartGateway platform. What is the key merchant benefit?

- A. 1% cashback on transactions
- B. No minimum transaction limit
- C. Zero transaction cost
- D. Instant credit settlement

E. 5x reward points

Answer: C (Zero transaction cost)

Explanation: Merchants can accept Digital Rupee payments at zero transaction cost with an intermediary-free settlement process. SmartGateway now supports CBDC alongside UPI, cards, and net banking.

Q68. Federal Bank's refreshed brand identity 'The Fortuna Wave' was launched with which brand ambassador?

A. Amitabh Bachchan

B. Priyanka Chopra

C. Deepika Padukone

D. Alia Bhatt

E. Vidya Balan

Answer: E (Vidya Balan)

Explanation: Federal Bank launched 'The Fortuna Wave' in Mumbai with brand ambassador Vidya Balan. The new insignia consists of three wave elements representing authenticity, togetherness, and prosperity. Federal Bank was incorporated in 1931 in Aluva, Kerala.

Q69. Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines are periodically modified to channel institutional credit toward agriculture, MSMEs and cooperative institutions. Under the revised Master Direction on Priority Sector Lending issued in 2025, certain lending arrangements have been recognised for PSL classification to encourage financing through cooperative networks. Loans sanctioned by banks to which institution for onward lending to cooperative societies will qualify as PSL?

A. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

B. National Rural Development Agency

C. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

D. National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA)

E. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

Answer: A

Q70. How many total Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) are currently operational in India, as per the January 2026 news?

A. 5

B. 6

C. 7

D. 8

E. 9

Answer: C (7)

Explanation: There are 7 SPDs: ICICI Securities Primary Dealership, Morgan Stanley India PD, Nomura Fixed Income Securities, PNB Gifts, SBI DFHI, STCI PD, and Goldman Sachs (India) Capital Markets. Bank of Baroda received RBI approval to convert from Bank PD to SPD. There are 14 bank-affiliated PDs.

Q71. The Export Promotion Mission includes a range of targeted policy interventions to address financing gaps, compliance barriers and logistics challenges faced by exporters, particularly MSMEs. These interventions aim to enhance India's presence in global markets by

strengthening export infrastructure and institutional support. How many new interventions have been introduced under the Export Promotion Mission?

- A. Five
- B. Six
- C. Seven
- D. Eight
- E. Nine

Answer: C

Q72. Infrastructure financing policies increasingly focus on unlocking value from existing public assets rather than relying solely on fresh borrowing. In this context, the Government of India launched the second phase of a major asset programme aimed at generating funds for new infrastructure investment. Which initiative was officially launched by the Union Finance Minister as the second phase of India's infrastructure programme?

- A. National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0
- B. National Infrastructure Pipeline 2.0
- C. Infrastructure Recycling Mission 2.0
- D. Bharat Infrastructure Monetisation Programme
- E. Strategic Asset Development Pipeline

Answer: A

Q73. Digital currency introduces policy features that allow governments to ensure that welfare transfers are used strictly for their intended purpose. In the CBDC-based subsidy pilot, digital tokens carry a feature that restricts their use only for specified transactions such as purchasing food grains under the Public Distribution System. Which feature ensures that such tokens remain purpose-bound?

- A. Tokenisation
- B. Programmability
- C. Interoperability
- D. Traceability
- E. Cryptographic Anchoring

Answer: B

Q74. The PFRDA committee constituted for assured NPS payouts is chaired by M. S. Sahoo and has how many members?

- A. 7
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 15
- E. 20

Answer: D (15)

Explanation: The 15-member high-level expert committee is chaired by M. S. Sahoo, former Chairperson of IBBI. It comprises experts from law, actuarial science, finance, insurance, capital markets, and academia. PFRDA was established in 2003, with statutory status under PFRDA Act, 2013.

Q75. India's medium-term debt strategy aims to gradually reduce public debt ratios while maintaining development expenditure. What is the Debt-to-GDP ratio projected for BE 2026–27?

- A. 57.1%
- B. 56.5%
- C. 56.1%
- D. 55.6%
- E. 54.9%

Answer: D

Explanation: Debt-to-GDP is projected at 55.6%.