

AIR1

UP-PSC2026

Prelims Facts Drill

Current Affairs *through* Q&A

**Monthly Compilation- 06
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POLITY, GOVERNANCE & JUDICIARY

CIC EXEMPTION OF BCCI FROM THE RTI ACT, 2005

- Which body ruled that the BCCI does not qualify as a “public authority” under the RTI Act, 2005?
 - Central Information Commission (CIC).
- What was the CIC’s decision regarding the applicability of the RTI Act, 2005 to the BCCI?
 - The CIC ruled that the BCCI does not qualify as a “public authority” under the RTI Act, 2005.
- Which earlier CIC order was reversed by the recent ruling?
 - The 2018 order that had declared the BCCI a public authority under the RTI framework.
- Under which Section of the RTI Act, 2005 did the CIC examine whether BCCI qualifies as a public authority?
 - Section 2(h).
- How is the BCCI registered according to the CIC ruling?
 - It is a private society registered under Tamil Nadu law.
- Why did the CIC hold that BCCI does not qualify as a public authority?
 - It is neither established by Parliament, a State Legislature, nor through a government notification.
- Can tax exemptions and statutory concessions available under general law be treated as “substantial financing” by the government?
 - No.
- What did the CIC observe about government control over the BCCI?
 - The government exercises no significant administrative control over the BCCI and neither appoints its office-bearers nor funds its large-scale market-driven activities.

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR) OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

- What is the full form of SIR in the context of electoral rolls?
 - Special Intensive Revision.
- When will Phase 3 of the Special Intensive Revision commence?
 - 30th May 2026.
- Across how many States and Union Territories will Phase 3 of SIR commence?
 - 16 States and 3 Union Territories.
- Who supervises the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls?
 - The Chief Election Commissioner.
- Which Article of the Constitution provides the authority for the ECI to supervise and conduct elections?
 - Article 324.
- Which legislation authorises the ECI to undertake special revision of electoral rolls?
 - Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

- **What is the primary purpose of the Special Intensive Revision?**
 - It is a comprehensive revision exercise of electoral rolls.
- **Which constitutional body conducts and supervises the Special Intensive Revision?**
 - Election Commission of India (ECI).

CREAMY LAYER IN SC/ST RESERVATION

- **What principle is currently being considered by the Supreme Court in relation to SC/ST reservations?**
 - The “creamy layer” principle.
- **What issue has the debate on the creamy layer in SC/ST reservations raised?**
 - Whether economic advancement can outweigh caste-based social discrimination.
- **Which case dealt with internal inequalities within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?**
 - State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh Case, 2024.
- **What did the Supreme Court hold in the State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh case?**
 - States can create sub-classifications within SC/ST categories to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits.
- **By what majority did the Supreme Court deliver the judgment in the Davinder Singh case?**
 - 6:1 majority.
- **Which earlier Supreme Court judgment was overruled in the Davinder Singh case?**
 - E.V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2004).
- **What principle of equality did the Supreme Court emphasise in relation to SC/ST sub-classification?**
 - The principle of substantive equality.
- **Which constitutional authority identifies Scheduled Castes under Article 341?**
 - The President of India.

CREAMY LAYER PRINCIPLE

- **What is the Creamy Layer Principle?**
 - It is a legal concept used to exclude relatively affluent and socially advanced members of backward communities from reservation benefits.
- **What is the primary objective of the Creamy Layer Principle?**
 - To ensure that affirmative action benefits reach the genuinely disadvantaged sections.
- **Which Supreme Court case introduced the Creamy Layer Principle?**
 - Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992).
- **What percentage of reservation for OBCs was upheld by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case?**
 - 27%.
- **Who are automatically excluded from OBC reservation benefits under the status/post filter mentioned in the document?**

- Children of persons holding Constitutional posts or Group A/Class I and Group B/Class II government posts.
- **What is the income ceiling mentioned for the creamy layer among non-government employees?**
 - ₹8 lakh per year.
- **For how many consecutive years must the income exceed the prescribed limit for classification under the creamy layer?**
 - Three consecutive years.
- **Which types of income are excluded while calculating the income limit?**
 - Salary income and agricultural income.

EMPOWERING SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

- **Which Ministry issued new guidelines to strengthen School Management Committees?**
 - Ministry of Education.
- **What is the primary objective of the new guidelines for School Management Committees?**
 - To strengthen decentralised and community-driven school governance.
- **With which national education policy are the new SMC guidelines aligned?**
 - National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Up to which class has the mandate of School Management Committees been extended?**
 - Class 12.
- **What percentage of SMC members must be parents or guardians of enrolled students?**
 - 75%.
- **What minimum percentage of SMC members must be women?**
 - At least 50%.
- **Who will constitute the remaining 25% of SMC members?**
 - Local elected representatives, teachers and frontline workers such as ASHA and Anganwadi workers.
- **Which earlier provisions does the new framework replace?**
 - Earlier provisions under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act, 2009.

SUPREME COURT COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDS 9 JUDGES TO CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

- **How many advocates were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as judges of the Calcutta High Court?**
 - Nine advocates.
- **To which authority did the Supreme Court Collegium recommend the names?**
 - The Central Government.
- **Under which Article are High Court judges appointed by the President?**
 - Article 217.

- **Who appoints the judges of a High Court?**
 - The President of India.
- **After consultation with whom is the Chief Justice of a High Court appointed?**
 - The Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the concerned State.
- **Whom does the President consult for the appointment of other High Court judges?**
 - The Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
- **Which Article governs the appointment of Supreme Court judges?**
 - Article 124(2).
- **Who appoints the Chief Justice of India?**
 - The President, after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as deemed necessary.

VANDE MATARAM AND PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR

- **Which Act is proposed to be amended to make intentional insult or obstruction to the singing of Vande Mataram a punishable offence?**
 - Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- **What conduct relating to Vande Mataram is proposed to be made punishable?**
 - Intentional insult or obstruction to its singing.
- **Which national symbols are currently protected under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971?**
 - The National Anthem, the National Flag and the Constitution of India.
- **What additional protection does the proposed amendment seek to provide?**
 - Statutory protection to the National Song, Vande Mataram.
- **What is the maximum imprisonment prescribed under Section 3 for intentionally preventing the singing of the National Anthem?**
 - Up to three years.
- **Who composed Vande Mataram?**
 - Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- **In which novel was Vande Mataram published?**
 - Anandamath.
- **What status was accorded to Vande Mataram after independence?**
 - It was accorded the status of the National Song of India.

NEET-UG 2026 CONTROVERSY

- **Which examination was cancelled by the National Testing Agency in 2026?**
 - NEET-UG 2026.
- **Why was NEET-UG 2026 cancelled?**
 - Following allegations of a major paper leak and circulation of a highly accurate “guess paper.”

- **Which agency was entrusted with the investigation into the examination irregularities?**
 - Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- **What major concerns were revived by the NEET-UG 2026 controversy?**
 - Transparency, accountability and systemic weaknesses in India's examination ecosystem.
- **How does the NTA differ institutionally from the UPSC according to the document?**
 - Unlike UPSC, the NTA functions as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **What staffing issue affects the NTA's institutional capacity?**
 - It largely depends on deputation and contractual staff.
- **What risk is created by conducting high-stakes examinations for millions of candidates on a single day?**
 - A "single-point failure" risk.
- **What cybersecurity risks are associated with Computer-Based Testing?**
 - Hacking, remote access attacks and cyber-enabled cheating.

RECONSTITUTION OF NITI AAYOG

- **Who was appointed as the new Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?**
 - Ashok Kumar Lahiri.
- **Whom did Ashok Kumar Lahiri replace as Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?**
 - Suman K. Bery.
- **When was NITI Aayog established?**
 - 2015.
- **Which institution did NITI Aayog replace?**
 - Planning Commission.
- **What is the nature of NITI Aayog?**
 - It is an advisory, extra-constitutional and non-statutory body.
- **Who serves as the Chairperson of NITI Aayog?**
 - The Prime Minister of India.
- **Who appoints the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?**
 - The Prime Minister.
- **Which body is the highest decision-making body of NITI Aayog?**
 - Governing Council.

INDICES RELEASED BY NITI AAYOG

- **Which NITI Aayog index focuses on improving healthcare services and outcomes?**
 - State Health Index.
- **Which NITI Aayog index focuses on efficient use of water resources?**
 - Composite Water Management Index.
- **Which index enhances international trade capabilities of States?**
 - Export Preparedness Index.

- Which NITI Aayog index focuses on sustainable development goals?
 - SDG India Index.
- Which NITI Aayog index addresses financial stability and management?
 - Fiscal Health Index.
- Which index is associated with the health performance of States?
 - State Health Index.
- Which index is related to the management of water resources?
 - Composite Water Management Index.
- Which index focuses on the fiscal stability and financial management of States?
 - Fiscal Health Index.

RIGHT TO SAFE TRAVEL ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS UNDER ARTICLE 21

- Which Fundamental Right was linked by the Supreme Court with the safety of commuters on National Highways?
 - Right to life under Article 21.
- What did the Supreme Court hold regarding safe passage on National Highways?
 - The right to safe passage on highways forms an integral part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21.
- What positive obligation does Article 21 impose on the State according to the Court?
 - To provide a safe environment for citizens.
- Which constitutional Article guarantees the Right to Life?
 - Article 21.
- What percentage of India's total road network is constituted by National Highways according to the document?
 - About 2%.
- Whose safety was specifically emphasised by the Supreme Court in this ruling?
 - The safety of commuters on National Highways.
- How did the Supreme Court interpret the right to safe passage on highways?
 - As an integral component of the Fundamental Right to Life.
- What broader constitutional principle is reflected in this ruling?
 - The State has a positive obligation to ensure a safe environment for citizens.

RTE ACT, 2009 AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- In which case did the Supreme Court uphold 25% reservation for EWS in private schools?
 - Dinesh Biwaji Ashtikar vs State of Maharashtra (2026).
- What percentage of reservation for EWS in private schools was upheld by the Supreme Court?
 - 25%.
- Under which provision of the RTE Act, 2009 is the EWS reservation provided?
 - Section 12(1)(c).

- **How did the Supreme Court describe this provision?**
 - As a “national mission” aimed at promoting substantive equality and social inclusion through integrated education.
- **Which Fundamental Right is operationalised by the RTE Act, 2009?**
 - Article 21A.
- **What does Article 21A provide?**
 - Free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- **What is the broader objective of the EWS reservation in private schools according to the judgment?**
 - Promoting substantive equality and social inclusion through integrated education.
- **Which legislation provides the statutory framework for the Right to Education?**
 - Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

SUPREME COURT PANEL FOR DISABLED-FRIENDLY PRISON REFORMS

- **What type of committee did the Supreme Court constitute for prison reforms?**
 - A high-powered committee.
- **Who chairs the committee constituted for disabled-friendly prison reforms?**
 - Justice S. Ravindra Bhat.
- **What is the primary purpose of the committee?**
 - To prepare a comprehensive roadmap for making prisons disabled-friendly.
- **What concerns must be balanced while making prisons disabled-friendly?**
 - Reform and security concerns.
- **What has the committee’s mandate been expanded to include?**
 - Disability-inclusive prison reforms.
- **What broader approach does the expanded mandate indicate?**
 - A broader systemic approach towards prison administration.
- **Which institution constituted the high-powered committee?**
 - Supreme Court of India.
- **What category of prison reform is specifically highlighted by the committee?**
 - Disability-inclusive and disabled-friendly prison reforms.

SUPREME COURT EXPANDS DEFINITION OF ACID ATTACK VICTIMS

- **Which Act’s scope was expanded by the Supreme Court in relation to acid attack victims?**
 - Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- **Who has now been recognised as “acid attack victims” under the expanded interpretation?**
 - Survivors of forcible acid ingestion.
- **What did the Supreme Court rule regarding individuals forcibly made to ingest acid?**
 - They will now be legally treated as acid attack victims under the RPwD Act, 2016.

- **Which constitutional provision did the Supreme Court invoke to expand the definition?**
 - Article 142.
- **How did the Supreme Court introduce the expanded definition?**
 - Through a “deemed amendment.”
- **Which Act provides the legal framework under which the expanded definition applies?**
 - Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- **What type of acid-related harm has been specifically recognised under the expanded definition?**
 - Forcible ingestion of acid.
- **What constitutional power enabled the Supreme Court to introduce this expanded interpretation?**
 - Its extraordinary powers under Article 142.

MAKING RIGHT TO VOTE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

- **What constitutional change has the Opposition demanded regarding the Right to Vote?**
 - Elevating it from a statutory right to a Fundamental Right.
- **Where is the Right to Vote currently placed in the Indian legal framework?**
 - It currently exists as a statutory right.
- **What constitutional Article provides the foundation for the Right to Vote?**
 - Article 326.
- **What is the minimum voting age in India according to Article 326?**
 - 18 years.
- **Which Constitutional Amendment reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years?**
 - 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.
- **Which Act governs voter eligibility and electoral rolls?**
 - Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- **Which Act governs the conduct of elections, disqualifications and voting procedures?**
 - Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- **Which Fundamental Right has the Supreme Court associated with the freedom of voting?**
 - Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW AND MERGER CLAUSE

- **Why did seven former MPs of the Aam Aadmi Party invoke the merger provision under the Anti-Defection Law?**
 - To avoid disqualification after joining the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- **What constitutional issue has been raised regarding the merger provision?**
 - Whether a legislature party alone can claim a valid merger without an actual merger of the original political party.
- **What is the primary objective of the Anti-Defection Law?**
 - To prevent elected representatives from changing political parties for personal or political gains.

- **Through which Constitutional Amendment was the Anti-Defection Law inserted into the Constitution?**
 - 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985.
- **Which Schedule was added to the Constitution through the 52nd Amendment?**
 - Tenth Schedule.
- **Which Constitutional Amendment removed the earlier “split” provision?**
 - 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- **What exception was retained after the removal of the split provision?**
 - The “merger” exception.
- **What are the grounds for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law mentioned in the document?**
 - Voluntary resignation, abandonment of loyalty, voting against the party, an independent member joining a party, and a nominated member joining a party.

GOVERNOR’S POWER IN POST-ELECTION STALEMATES

- **Which constitutional issue arose following the West Bengal Assembly election results?**
 - The Governor’s powers when a Chief Minister refuses to resign despite losing the legislative mandate.
- **Under which Article is the Chief Minister appointed by the Governor?**
 - Article 164(1).
- **During whose pleasure does the Chief Minister hold office according to Article 164(1)?**
 - During the pleasure of the Governor.
- **Is the Governor’s “pleasure” regarding the Chief Minister absolute or arbitrary?**
 - No. The Supreme Court has clarified that it is not absolute or arbitrary.
- **On what does the Governor’s pleasure depend?**
 - Whether the Council of Ministers continues to enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.
- **Which Supreme Court case is cited regarding the nature of the Governor’s pleasure?**
 - Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974)
- **What happens when election results clearly show that the ruling party has lost majority support?**
 - The Chief Minister’s constitutional authority to continue governing effectively ceases.
- **What is the constitutional basis for the Chief Minister’s continuation in office after an election?**
 - Continued confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR IN RESOLVING THE STALEMATE

- **What may the Governor formally ask the incumbent Chief Minister to submit after electoral defeat?**
 - Resignation.

- **Whom can the Governor invite to form the new government after the Election Commission officially notifies the election results?**
 - The leader of the majority party or coalition.
- **What can the Governor direct if there is uncertainty regarding majority support?**
 - An immediate floor test in the Legislative Assembly.
- **What must the incumbent Chief Minister prove in a floor test?**
 - Majority support by securing the confidence of more than 50% of the sitting MLAs.
- **What happens if the incumbent Chief Minister fails to prove majority support?**
 - The Chief Minister must resign.
- **Which two Supreme Court cases held that a floor test is the constitutionally valid method to determine majority support?**
 - S.R. Bommai Case and Shivraj Singh Chouhan Case.
- **What is the constitutional purpose of a floor test?**
 - To determine whether the government enjoys majority support in the Legislative Assembly.
- **When can the Governor invite the leader of a majority party or coalition to form the government?**
 - Once the Election Commission officially notifies the election results.

DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- **Under which Article does a State Legislative Assembly normally have a tenure of five years?**
 - Article 172.
- **What normally happens to a State Legislative Assembly after the completion of its five-year tenure?**
 - It stands automatically dissolved.
- **What happens to the existing government once the Assembly's term expires?**
 - It technically loses its legal basis even if the Chief Minister has not formally resigned.
- **On which date was the West Bengal Legislative Assembly dissolved according to the document?**
 - 7 May 2026.
- **Under which Article was the West Bengal Legislative Assembly dissolved?**
 - Article 174.
- **Which constitutional authority dissolved the West Bengal Legislative Assembly?**
 - The Governor of West Bengal.
- **What does parliamentary convention expect from a defeated Chief Minister?**
 - Immediate resignation.
- **How is the constitutional transition of power ultimately ensured after dissolution of the Assembly?**
 - Through dissolution of the Assembly and the Governor's responsibility to facilitate the formation of a new government.

SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES) AMENDMENT BILL, 2026

- Which Bill proposes to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court?
 - Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.
- From how many to how many judges does the Bill propose to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court?
 - From 34 to 38 judges.
- Does the proposed strength of 38 judges include the Chief Justice of India?
 - Yes.
- Which Act does the proposed amendment seek to revise?
 - Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- When was the previous revision in the strength of the Supreme Court made?
 - 2019.
- What did Article 124(1) originally provide regarding the composition of the Supreme Court?
 - The Chief Justice of India and seven other judges.
- Who has the power to increase the number of Supreme Court judges?
 - Parliament through legislation.
- How does the procedure for increasing Supreme Court strength differ from that of High Courts?
 - An increase in Supreme Court strength requires an Act of Parliament, whereas High Court strength can be increased by the President under Article 216 through executive action.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

- Who has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee for 2026–27?
 - K.C. Venugopal.
- What is the primary function of the Public Accounts Committee?
 - To ensure executive accountability by scrutinising government expenditure and financial administration.
- How does the PAC function within Parliament?
 - As a financial watchdog of Parliament.
- What does the PAC seek to ensure regarding public money?
 - That public money is spent legally, efficiently and for purposes approved by the legislature.
- When was the Public Accounts Committee first established?
 - 1921.
- Under which reforms was the PAC first established?
 - Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.
- Since which year has it become a convention that the PAC Chairperson is appointed from the Opposition?
 - 1967.

- **How many members does the Public Accounts Committee consist of?**
 - 22 members: 15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha.

INDIA'S FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY (FLN) CRISIS

- **What does Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) refer to?**
 - A child's ability to read simple texts with understanding and solve basic arithmetic problems by the end of Class 3.
- **Why is FLN considered important for children?**
 - It forms the basis for higher-order learning, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities and acquisition of 21st-century skills.
- **Which report highlights the slow progress in achieving meaningful learning outcomes in India?**
 - Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).
- **Who publishes the ASER report mentioned in the document?**
 - Pratham Foundation.
- **What percentage of Grade 3 students in government schools could read a Grade 2-level text in 2022?**
 - 16.3%.
- **What percentage of Grade 3 students in government schools could read a Grade 2-level text in 2024?**
 - 23.4%.
- **What is India's target for achieving universal FLN according to the document?**
 - 2026–27.
- **How does the World Bank define "learning poverty"?**
 - The inability to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10.

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ED)

- **When did the Directorate of Enforcement complete 70 years?**
 - 1st May 2026.
- **What is the primary role of the Directorate of Enforcement?**
 - Investigating economic crimes and financial irregularities.
- **Under which department does the Directorate of Enforcement function?**
 - Department of Revenue.
- **Under which Ministry does the ED function?**
 - Ministry of Finance.
- **What is the constitutional and statutory nature of the ED?**
 - It is an executive body that is non-constitutional and non-statutory in nature.
- **What type of jurisdiction does the ED have?**
 - Pan-India jurisdiction.

- **Who heads the Directorate of Enforcement?**
– Director of Enforcement.
- **Where is the headquarters of the ED located and what is its zonal structure?**
– Its headquarters is in New Delhi, with 10 Zonal Offices and 11 Sub-Zonal Offices across India.

MANIPUR ETHNIC CONFLICT AND EXPANSION OF UAPA POWERS

- **Which department of Manipur issued the notification expanding operational powers under UAPA?**
– Home Department of Manipur.
- **Which provision of the UAPA, 1967 was invoked in the notification?**
– Section 43A.
- **What powers were extended to lower-ranked police personnel under the notification?**
– Powers to conduct arrests, searches and seizures.
- **Which rank of police personnel is now authorised to exercise anti-terror powers under Section 43A in Manipur?**
– Officers not below the rank of Head Constable or Havildar in civil and armed police.
- **Why did the Manipur Government justify the expansion of these powers?**
– Heavy FIR workloads, shortage of senior officers and the need for faster operational response during ongoing unrest.
- **Which senior officers ordinarily exercise such powers?**
– Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) or Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs).
- **Who has been designated as the supervisory authority for actions taken under the notification?**
– Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur.
- **Under what circumstances can empowered officers make arrests or conduct searches?**
– When they have “reason to believe” that a UAPA-related offence has been committed or may occur.

PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING (PROG) RULES, 2026

- **Which Ministry notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Rules, 2026?**
– Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Under which Act have the PROG Rules, 2026 been framed?**
– Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.
- **What is the primary objective of the PROG Rules, 2026?**
– To establish a structured framework for regulating India’s online gaming ecosystem and promoting e-sports.
- **What are online games according to the document?**
– Digital or electronic games operated through software using the internet or other electronic communication technologies.

- **What areas do the PROG Rules particularly focus on?**
 - Online money games, user protection and responsible gaming practices.
- **Which authority has been established under the PROG Rules, 2026?**
 - Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI).
- **Under which Ministry will the OGAI function and where will it be headquartered?**
 - It will function as an attached office under MeitY and will be headquartered in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- **Who will chair the Online Gaming Authority of India?**
 - The Additional Secretary of MeitY, ex officio.

NEW DISTRICTS IN LADAKH

- **Which Union Territory approved the creation of new districts mentioned in the document?**
 - Ladakh.
- **What is the headquarters of the Nubra district?**
 - Diskit.
- **What is the headquarters of the Sham district?**
 - Khaltse.
- **What is the headquarters of the Changthang district?**
 - Nyoma.
- **What is the headquarters of the Zaskar district?**
 - Padum.
- **What is the headquarters of the Drass district?**
 - Drass-Ranbirpura.
- **Which newly created district has its headquarters at Nyoma?**
 - Changthang.
- **Which newly created district has its headquarters at Padum?**
 - Zaskar.

STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

- **In which four States were the State Legislative Assembly elections held according to the document?**
 - Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- **How many seats did the BJP win in Assam?**
 - 82 out of 126 seats.
- **How many seats did the BJP win in West Bengal?**
 - 207 out of 293 seats.
- **Which alliance came to power in Kerala?**
 - Congress-led United Democratic Front.

- **How many seats did Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam win in Tamil Nadu?**
– 108 out of 243 seats.
- **In which Union Territory were elections also held?**
– Puducherry.
- **How many seats did the NDA win in Puducherry?**
– 18 out of 30 seats.

ONE CASE ONE DATA AND SU SAHAY

- **What is the objective of the One Case One Data Initiative?**
– To eliminate inconsistencies in court records across different judicial databases.
- **What is 'Su Sahay'?**
– An AI-powered chatbot integrated into the Supreme Court website.
- **Who launched the One Case One Data Initiative and Su Sahay?**
– The Supreme Court of India.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

INDIA'S FIRST AI COMBAT AIRCRAFT – KAAL BHAIRAVA

- **What is the name of India's first AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft?**
– Kaal Bhairava.
- **Which company developed Kaal Bhairava?**
– Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace.
- **Where will Kaal Bhairava be manufactured?**
– Portugal.
- **Which European technology firm is collaborating in the manufacture of Kaal Bhairava?**
– SKETCHPIXEL.
- **Why is the manufacture of Kaal Bhairava in Europe significant?**
– It marks the first time India's AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft will be manufactured in Europe.
- **What area of defence technology does Kaal Bhairava demonstrate India's advancing expertise in?**
– Autonomous warfare systems.
- **What does the Kaal Bhairava project demonstrate regarding Indian defence technology?**
– The expanding global footprint of indigenous defence technologies through international collaborations.
- **What broader capability does Kaal Bhairava highlight?**
– India's advancing expertise in AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft and aerospace technology.

TRANSFER OF 'PRAJNA' SYSTEM

- **Which organisation handed over the Prajna system to the Ministry of Home Affairs?**
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **What type of system is Prajna?**
 - An indigenous AI-enabled satellite intelligence system.
- **To which Ministry was Prajna handed over?**
 - Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **What is the primary purpose of transferring Prajna to the Ministry of Home Affairs?**
 - To strengthen internal security operations and real-time decision-making.
- **Which DRDO centre developed the Prajna system?**
 - Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.
- **Which technologies are integrated into Prajna?**
 - Artificial intelligence and satellite-based surveillance technologies.
- **How can Prajna support internal security?**
 - By enhancing monitoring of sensitive areas and improving threat detection capabilities.
- **Which operations can Prajna support?**
 - Counter-terrorism and border management operations.

UIDAI-NFSU COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY

- **Which two institutions entered into a five-year collaboration on cybersecurity?**
 - Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).
- **What is the duration of the UIDAI-NFSU collaboration?**
 - Five years.
- **Which major areas are covered under the collaboration?**
 - Digital forensics, cybersecurity and advanced technology research.
- **What is the primary objective of the collaboration?**
 - To strengthen cyber resilience across UIDAI's digital infrastructure.
- **Which broader ecosystem does UIDAI's infrastructure support?**
 - India's digital identity ecosystem and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- **What are the major strategic pillars of the collaboration?**
 - Academic and capacity development, information security enhancement, forensic infrastructure, cybersecurity support systems, research in emerging technologies, and student outreach and skill development.
- **Under which Act was UIDAI established?**
 - Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- **Under which Ministry does UIDAI function?**
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

2029 TARGET TO END INSURGENCY

- **What target has the Union Government set for ending insurgency in Northeast India?**
– 2029.
- **Which region is covered by the Government's 2029 insurgency target?**
– Northeast India.
- **Which State has been given immediate priority for restoring peace and stability?**
– Manipur.
- **What is the immediate priority under the Government's insurgency strategy?**
– Restoring peace and stability in Manipur.
- **By which year does the Union Government aim to end insurgency in Northeast India?**
– 2029.
- **What two objectives are specifically mentioned for Manipur?**
– Peace and stability.
- **Is the 2029 target limited only to Manipur?**
– No, it applies to insurgency in Northeast India, with immediate priority given to Manipur.
- **Which level of government has set the 2029 target?**
– The Union Government.

OPERATION SINDOOR MARKS ONE YEAR

- **What was the name of the multi-dimensional military operation launched by India in May 2025?**
– Operation Sindoor.
- **When was Operation Sindoor launched?**
– 7–8 May 2025.
- **What event led to the launch of Operation Sindoor?**
– The Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **How many tourists were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack mentioned in the document?**
– 26 tourists.
- **Which organisation was identified in the document in connection with the Pahalgam terror attack?**
– The Resistance Front.
- **What type of operation was Operation Sindoor?**
– A multi-dimensional military operation.
- **In which Union Territory did the triggering terror attack take place?**
– Jammu and Kashmir.
- **When did Operation Sindoor complete one year?**
– In May 2026.

AH-64E APACHE HELICOPTERS AND M777A2 ULTRA-LIGHT HOWITZERS

- **What type of helicopter is the AH-64E Apache?**
 - An advanced multi-role combat helicopter used by the US Army and several global defence forces.
- **What is the M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzer known for?**
 - Its lightweight design and high mobility.
- **Why is the M777A2 suitable for deployment in mountainous border regions?**
 - Because of its lightweight design and high mobility.

ULPGM-V3 MISSILE

- **What does ULPGM-V3 stand for?**
 - UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile.
- **Which organisation conducted the flight trials of ULPGM-V3?**
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Where were the ULPGM-V3 flight trials conducted?**
 - National Open Area Range (NOAR), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- **In what types of terrain can the ULPGM-V3 operate effectively?**
 - Plains as well as high-altitude terrains.

INS MAHENDRAGIRI

- **Under which project was INS Mahendragiri inducted into the Indian Navy?**
 - Project 17A (Nilgiri-class).
- **What percentage of indigenous content does INS Mahendragiri contain?**
 - Nearly 75%.
- **Who designed INS Mahendragiri?**
 - Warship Design Bureau.
- **How many stealth guided-missile frigates are being constructed under Project 17A?**
 - Seven.

11TH INDIA-EGYPT JOINT DEFENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

- **Where was the 11th India-Egypt Joint Defence Committee Meeting held?**
 - Cairo.
- **What was the primary objective of the meeting?**
 - To enhance bilateral defence cooperation and chart a roadmap for future military engagement.
- **What defence cooperation plan did India and Egypt agree upon?**
 - A forward-looking defence cooperation plan for 2026–27.
- **What was significant about the naval cooperation between India and Egypt?**
 - The two countries conducted their first-ever Navy-to-Navy staff talks.

TACTICAL ADVANCED RANGE AUGMENTATION (TARA)

- Which organisations successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of TARA?
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force.
- Where was the maiden flight trial of TARA conducted?
 - Off the coast of Odisha.
- What is the significance of TARA for India's defence capabilities?
 - It is India's first indigenous glide weapon system.

CINBAX-II 2026

- Which countries participated in CINBAX-II 2026?
 - India and Cambodia.
- What type of exercise is CINBAX-II 2026?
 - India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise.
- Where was the second edition of CINBAX-II conducted?
 - Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia.

IN-SLN DIVEX 2026

- Which countries conducted the 4th edition of IN-SLN DIVEX 2026?
 - India and Sri Lanka.
- What type of exercise is IN-SLN DIVEX 2026?
 - A bilateral diving exercise.
- Where was IN-SLN DIVEX 2026 conducted?
 - Colombo.

OPERATION NANJEEVAN

- Under which operation did 27 Maoists surrender before Jharkhand Police?
 - Operation Nanjeevan.
- Which groups were the surrendered Maoists linked to?
 - The banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) and Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP).
- Where did the 27 Maoists surrender?
 - Before Jharkhand Police in Ranchi.

ECONOMY, INDUSTRY & FINANCE

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS) 2025

- Who released the Annual Report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025?
 - National Statistical Office (NSO).

- **Under which Ministry does the National Statistical Office function?**
 - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **What does the PLFS 2025 report indicate about India's employment scenario?**
 - Continued stability in the employment scenario.
- **What does improvement in labour force participation indicate according to the report?**
 - Gradual strengthening of economic activity.
- **What was India's Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) according to the major highlights?**
 - 59.3%.
- **What was the male LFPR according to the major highlights?**
 - 79.1%.
- **What was the female LFPR according to the major highlights?**
 - 40.0%.
- **What were the Unemployment Rate and Worker Population Ratio (WPR)?**
 - Unemployment Rate: 3.1%; Worker Population Ratio: 57.4%.

DEPRECIATION OF INDIAN RUPEE

- **Beyond which level did the Indian Rupee weaken against the US Dollar?**
 - ₹94 per US Dollar.
- **What were the major factors behind the depreciation of the Indian Rupee?**
 - Rising crude oil prices and escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia.
- **What is the difference between depreciation and devaluation of a currency?**
 - Depreciation occurs because of market demand and supply forces, whereas devaluation is a deliberate reduction in currency value by the government or central bank.
- **How did higher crude oil prices affect India's external sector?**
 - They increased India's import bill and widened the Current Account Deficit.
- **How did Foreign Portfolio Investors contribute to pressure on the rupee?**
 - FPIs shifted investments towards safer assets such as the US dollar, leading to capital outflows from emerging markets such as India.
- **What type of exchange rate system does India follow?**
 - Managed floating exchange rate system.
- **How does the Reserve Bank of India intervene under the managed floating exchange rate system?**
 - It intervenes to limit excessive volatility in the rupee's value.
- **What measures can the RBI use to manage rupee depreciation?**
 - Selling US dollars from foreign exchange reserves, increasing interest rates to attract foreign capital, and using instruments such as OMOs and repo/reverse repo operations to manage liquidity.

INCREASE IN EFFECTIVE IMPORT DUTY

- **On which commodities was the effective import duty increased?**
 - Gold and silver.
- **From what percentage to what percentage was the effective import duty on gold and silver increased?**
 - From 9.2% to 18.4%.
- **Why did the government increase the effective import duty on gold and silver?**
 - To protect foreign exchange reserves and support rupee stability amid global geopolitical tensions.
- **What happened to India's foreign exchange reserves for the week ending 1st May 2026?**
 - They declined by USD 7.7 billion.
- **To what level did India's foreign exchange reserves decline?**
 - USD 690 billion.
- **How much did India's gold reserves decline during the same period?**
 - By USD 5 billion.
- **To what level did India's gold reserves fall?**
 - USD 115 billion.
- **What broader objective was associated with the increase in effective import duty?**
 - Protecting foreign exchange reserves and supporting stability of the Indian Rupee.

INDIA'S GOLD AND SILVER IMPORTS

- **What was the value of India's gold imports during 2025–26?**
 - USD 71.9 billion.
- **Why did India's gold imports rise during 2025–26?**
 - Mainly because of higher global prices.
- **By how much did India's silver imports surge during 2025–26?**
 - By 150%.
- **What was the value of India's silver imports during 2025–26?**
 - USD 12 billion.
- **What is India's position among the world's largest gold consumers?**
 - Second-largest gold consumer after China.
- **Which country is India's biggest gold supplier according to the infographic?**
 - Switzerland.
- **What was the value of India's gold imports in FY24 according to the infographic?**
 - USD 45.54 billion.
- **What was the value of India's gold imports in FY26 according to the infographic?**
 - USD 71.98 billion.

INDIA'S TOTAL SUGAR EXPORT BAN

- Which organisation placed exports of all categories of sugar under the “Prohibited” category?
 - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- Which categories of sugar have been placed under the “Prohibited” category?
 - Raw, white and refined sugar.
- Until when has the total sugar export ban been imposed?
 - 30th September 2026.
- What was the earlier export status of sugar before the complete export ban?
 - “Restricted” category based on quantitative restrictions.
- What are the major objectives of India's total sugar export ban?
 - To protect domestic availability, control food inflation, build strategic buffer stocks and address future risks from El Niño and fertilizer disruptions.
- What is India's position in global sugar production and consumption?
 - India is the world's second-largest sugar producer after Brazil and the world's largest consumer of sugar.
- Which country is the world's largest sugar producer according to the document?
 - Brazil.
- Which States are identified as major sugar-producing States in India?
 - Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

REASONS FOR INDIA'S TOTAL SUGAR EXPORT BAN

- What climatic phenomenon is expected to continue through 2026 according to global climate models?
 - Moderate-to-strong El Niño.
- How could El Niño affect India's Southwest Monsoon?
 - It may weaken the Southwest Monsoon.
- Why could reduced rainfall affect the 2027–28 sugar season?
 - Because sugarcane has a long crop cycle.
- What is the crop cycle of the Suru crop in North India?
 - 11–12 months.
- What is the crop cycle of Adsali/pre-seasonal crops in Maharashtra?
 - 15–18 months.
- What is the government's objective regarding current sugar surpluses?
 - To preserve current surpluses and create a multi-year strategic buffer.
- How could West Asia tensions affect India's sugarcane sector?
 - They could disrupt maritime supply chains of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers.
- Which aspects of sugarcane production could be affected by fertilizer supply disruptions?
 - Cane productivity, sucrose recovery rates and the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane.

FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE (FRP) OF SUGARCANE

- **What FRP of sugarcane was approved for the 2026–27 sugar season?**
– ₹365 per quintal.
- **Which body approved the increase in the FRP of sugarcane?**
– Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- **What does Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) represent?**
– The minimum price that sugar mills are legally required to pay sugarcane farmers for the cane procured from them.
- **How does FRP differ from MSP in terms of legal status?**
– FRP is a statutory obligation, whereas MSP is largely recommendatory and linked to government procurement.
- **Under which order is FRP fixed?**
– Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- **What happens if sugar mills fail to pay the FRP?**
– It constitutes a legal violation and may attract penalties.
- **On whose recommendations does the CCEA decide the FRP?**
– Recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- **Who pays FRP and who fixes it?**
– Private and cooperative sugar mills pay it, while the Central Government through the CCEA fixes it.

FIRST STRUCTURED PULSE PROCUREMENT IN BIHAR

- **Under which framework has the Government strengthened MSP-based procurement of pulses?**
– PM-AASHA.
- **Which State has launched its first structured pulse procurement programme?**
– Bihar.
- **Under which mission has Bihar launched its first structured pulse procurement programme?**
– Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission.
- **What has the Government strengthened through the initiative?**
– MSP-based procurement.
- **Which State is specifically mentioned for expanded procurement operations?**
– Chhattisgarh.
- **What is the nature of Bihar's pulse procurement programme?**
– It is the State's first structured pulse procurement programme.
- **Which agricultural commodity is the focus of this procurement initiative?**
– Pulses.
- **What is the broader procurement mechanism mentioned in the document?**
– MSP-based procurement under PM-AASHA.

TAMIL NADU LEADS MARINE FISH PRODUCTION

- Which State emerged as India's top marine fish-producing State in 2025?
– Tamil Nadu.
- Which State ranked second in marine fish production in 2025?
– Kerala.
- Which State ranked third in marine fish production in 2025?
– Gujarat.
- What was India's total marine fish production in 2025?
– Around 35.7 lakh tonnes.
- By approximately what percentage did India's marine fish production increase in 2025 compared to 2024?
– Nearly 3%.
- Which sector is referred to in the ranking of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat?
– Marine fish production.
- Which State led India in marine fish production in 2025?
– Tamil Nadu.
- What was the approximate total marine fish production of India in 2025?
– 35.7 lakh tonnes.

UDGAM PORTAL

- Which institution launched the UDGAM portal?
– Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- What does UDGAM stand for?
– Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information.
- What is the primary purpose of the UDGAM portal?
– To allow users to identify unclaimed deposits/accounts across multiple banks.

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT & AVIATION

INDIA EXPANDS DEFINITION OF ATF

- Which Ministry amended the definition of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)?
– Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Which order was amended to expand the definition of ATF?
– Aviation Turbine Fuel (Regulation of Marketing) Order, 2001.
- What is the major objective of expanding the definition of ATF?
– To promote Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), reduce crude oil import dependence and strengthen India's energy security.

- **What global disruption was specifically mentioned in relation to India's energy security?**
 - The West Asia crisis.
- **What is the initiative compared with in the petroleum sector?**
 - Ethanol blending in petrol.
- **What is the purpose of promoting cleaner aviation fuel adoption?**
 - To support decarbonisation in the aviation sector.
- **From which sources can synthesised hydrocarbons for SAF be produced?**
 - Biomass, natural gas and other renewable feedstocks.
- **What are India's indicative SAF blending targets?**
 - 1% by 2027, 2% by 2028 and 5% by 2030.

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL (SAF)

- **What is Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)?**
 - A renewable biofuel chemically similar to conventional ATF.
- **Can SAF be used in existing aircraft engines?**
 - Yes, as a “drop-in” fuel.
- **What are the major feedstocks for SAF mentioned in the document?**
 - Used cooking oil, algae oils, animal fats, agricultural residues, forestry waste, municipal solid waste, sugars and starches.
- **What is the Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) pathway?**
 - A pathway that converts renewable alcohols such as ethanol and butanol into hydrocarbon-based aviation fuel suitable for aircraft use.
- **What are India's indicative SAF blending targets for 2027, 2028 and 2030?**
 - 1%, 2% and 5%, respectively.
- **How is SAF similar to conventional ATF?**
 - It is chemically similar and can be used as a drop-in fuel in existing aircraft engines.
- **Which renewable alcohols can be converted into aviation fuel through the ATJ pathway?**
 - Ethanol and butanol.
- **What is the broader environmental objective of promoting SAF?**
 - To support decarbonisation in the aviation sector.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

- **When was Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) launched?**
 - 2000.
- **What type of scheme is PMGSY?**
 - A Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **What is the primary objective of PMGSY?**
 - To provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.

- **What broader developmental objectives does PMGSY support?**
 - Poverty reduction and rural economic integration.
- **What population criterion is used for coverage of rural habitations in plain areas?**
 - 500+ population, based on Census 2011 norms.
- **What population criterion applies to North-Eastern and Himalayan States/UTs?**
 - 250+ population.
- **Which special regions are also included under PMGSY coverage?**
 - Tribal (Schedule V) areas, Aspirational Districts/Blocks and desert regions.
- **With which initiatives is PMGSY-IV integrated?**
 - Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and PM-JANMAN.

PMGSY-IV

- **What does PMGSY-IV aim to strengthen?**
 - Last-mile rural connectivity and rural transformation.
- **Where was the national launch of PMGSY-IV held according to the document?**
 - Bhairunda in Madhya Pradesh.
- **What occasion was associated with the launch of PMGSY-IV?**
 - The Silver Jubilee (25 years) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- **What is the time period associated with PMGSY Phase-IV in the infographic?**
 - 2024–2029.
- **What is the objective of PMGSY-IV regarding rural roads?**
 - To provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations.
- **Which population threshold applies to plain areas under PMGSY?**
 - 500+ population.
- **Which population threshold applies to North-Eastern and Himalayan States/UTs?**
 - 250+ population.
- **Which two programmes are integrated with PMGSY-IV to prioritise connectivity in vulnerable regions?**
 - Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and PM-JANMAN.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAUNCH OF MISSION DRISHTI

- **Which company successfully launched Mission Drishti?**
 - GalaxEye Space.
- **When was Mission Drishti launched?**
 - 3rd May 2026.

- **Which rocket was used to launch Mission Drishti?**
– SpaceX Falcon 9.
- **From where was Mission Drishti launched?**
– Vandenberg Space Force Base.
- **What is the approximate weight of Mission Drishti?**
– Around 190 kg.
- **What is unique about Mission Drishti among commercial satellites?**
– It is the first commercial satellite globally to integrate both Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Electro-Optical (EO) sensors on a single platform.
- **How does the combination of SAR and EO sensors enhance observation capabilities?**
– It enables continuous 24/7 observation, including through clouds, darkness and heavy rainfall.
- **What is the spatial resolution range of Mission Drishti?**
– 1.2 to 3.6 metres.

INDIA'S 1ST ORBITAL DATA CENTRE SATELLITE

- **Which Bengaluru-based startup partnered with Sarvam AI to develop Pathfinder?**
– Pixxel.
- **What is Pathfinder?**
– India's first orbital data-centre satellite.
- **When is Pathfinder scheduled for launch?**
– Q4 2026.
- **What is the primary objective of Pathfinder?**
– To process AI workloads directly in space using onboard GPUs.
- **What is an orbital data centre?**
– A constellation of satellites equipped with high-performance computing hardware, such as GPUs, capable of processing data directly in space.
- **How do orbital data centres differ from conventional satellites?**
– They process data onboard using edge computing and transmit only processed insights to ground stations instead of transmitting raw data.
- **How can orbital data centres reduce data bottlenecks?**
– Processing Earth-observation data in orbit minimises bandwidth usage and lowers downlink delays.
- **What terrestrial limitations can orbital data centres address?**
– Constraints related to land, cooling water and rising energy demand from generative AI systems.

MAJOR TECH INFRASTRUCTURE IN AHMEDABAD

- **Who inaugurated the Million Minds Tech Park and GREMI City Campus?**
– Amit Shah.
- **Where were the Million Minds Tech Park and GREMI City Campus inaugurated?**
– Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- **What broader ecosystem are the two projects expected to boost?**
 - Gujarat's technology and innovation ecosystem.
- **What is Million Minds Tech Park envisioned as?**
 - A major hub for Global Capability Centres.
- **What does GREMI stand for?**
 - Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute.
- **What sectors does GREMI aim to promote?**
 - Education, training and research in real estate and urban development.
- **Which project is envisioned as a major hub for Global Capability Centres?**
 - Million Minds Tech Park.
- **Which project focuses on education, training and research in real estate and urban development?**
 - Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute (GREMI).

INDIA-JAPAN AI STRATEGIC DIALOGUE 2026

- **Where was the inaugural India-Japan AI Strategic Dialogue 2026 held?**
 - Mumbai.
- **What was the significance of the inaugural India-Japan AI Strategic Dialogue 2026?**
 - It marked an important step toward building a strong, innovative and trustworthy bilateral AI ecosystem.
- **What did India and Japan examine regarding AI professionals and researchers?**
 - Mechanisms to improve their international mobility.
- **What type of bilateral AI ecosystem do India and Japan seek to build?**
 - A strong, innovative and trustworthy AI ecosystem.
- **Which two countries participated in the India-Japan AI Strategic Dialogue 2026?**
 - India and Japan.

ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

SO₂ MITIGATION FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- **Which institution conducted the study on SO₂ mitigation from coal-fired power plants?**
 - Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.
- **In which journal was the study published?**
 - Nature.
- **How many deaths annually in India could potentially be prevented through complete mitigation of SO₂ emissions from coal-fired power plants?**
 - More than 1.24 lakh deaths.

- **From what level did India's SO₂ emissions from coal-fired power plants rise in 2005?**
 - 2.36 thousand kilotonnes.
- **To what level did SO₂ emissions rise by 2021?**
 - 5.05 thousand kilotonnes.
- **What additional increase in SO₂ emissions was recorded in 2023?**
 - An additional 30% rise.
- **What type of pollutants can SO₂ act as a major precursor for?**
 - Secondary Inorganic Aerosols such as sulphates, nitrates and ammonium.
- **Which three States are projected to experience the highest avoidable mortality due to dense population exposure to pollution?**
 - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

SANTA MARTA CLIMATE CONFERENCE

- **Where was the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels held?**
 - Santa Marta, Colombia.
- **How many countries participated in the Santa Marta Climate Conference?**
 - Representatives from over 50 countries.
- **What proportion of global GDP did the participating countries account for approximately?**
 - Nearly half of global GDP.
- **Which two countries jointly hosted the Santa Marta Climate Conference?**
 - Colombia and the Netherlands.
- **What was the conference envisioned as?**
 - A “coalition of the willing” for countries prepared to undertake concrete measures to transition away from fossil fuels.
- **What was the purpose of creating a “safe harbour” under the initiative?**
 - To provide a platform for countries committed to accelerating climate action and energy transition efforts.
- **What treaty did several countries, particularly Small Island Developing States, support?**
 - Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- **What fossil fuel phase-out roadmap did France announce?**
 - Coal phase-out by 2030, oil phase-out by 2045 and gas phase-out by 2050.

IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON SEA BREEZES

- **How is global warming affecting sea-land breeze systems in coastal cities?**
 - It is weakening them and reducing their natural cooling effect.
- **What is global warming?**
 - The long-term rise in Earth's average surface temperature caused mainly by human-induced greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane.

- **What causes a sea breeze?**
 - Differential heating between land and sea.
- **In which direction does a sea breeze generally blow during the day?**
 - From the sea towards the land.
- **Why does air move from the sea towards the land during the day?**
 - Land heats faster than the sea, creating conditions for cooler air from the sea to move towards the land.
- **When does a land breeze generally occur?**
 - At night or during cooler conditions when land cools faster than the sea.
- **Why are rising ocean temperatures weakening the sea-breeze mechanism?**
 - They reduce the thermal contrast between land and sea.
- **What could happen to sea breezes by 2050 under high-emission scenarios?**
 - They could weaken up to 4.5 times faster.

EFFECTS OF WEAKENING SEA BREEZES

- **What has been the effect of weakening sea breezes on their frequency and intensity in coastal regions?**
 - Both their frequency and intensity have declined.
- **Approximately how much decline in sea-breeze days has been witnessed in around 18 major coastal megacities?**
 - Nearly 3%.
- **Name two coastal megacities mentioned as having experienced a decline in sea-breeze days.**
 - Mumbai and Miami.
- **Which mid-latitude cities have experienced sharper declines in sea-breeze days?**
 - London, New York City, Shanghai and Buenos Aires.
- **How can weakening sea breezes affect urban heat conditions?**
 - By reducing natural cooling in coastal cities, they may intensify urban heat conditions.
- **How can reduced air circulation affect air pollution?**
 - It can worsen air pollution levels.
- **What can be the public health impact of weakening sea breezes?**
 - It can negatively affect public health and urban habitability.
- **What warning does the study give regarding sea breezes by 2050?**
 - Under high-emission scenarios, sea breezes could weaken up to 4.5 times faster.

INDUSTRIAL DISASTERS IN INDIA

- **Which incident in Tamil Nadu highlighted the recurring problem of industrial disasters in India?**
 - A major explosion in a fireworks unit in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu.

- **What major weaknesses do industrial disasters in India highlight?**
 - Weaknesses in safety regulation, compliance and enforcement.
- **What are the major factors driving industrial disasters in India?**
 - Weak regulatory oversight, poor enforcement mechanisms, informal labour practices, outdated infrastructure and inadequate safety culture.
- **What are the major consequences of industrial disasters?**
 - Loss of lives, public health crises, ecological damage, decline in investor confidence and rising financial liabilities.
- **How has the effort to reduce “Inspector Raj” affected industrial monitoring in some cases?**
 - It has often weakened effective industrial monitoring.
- **What problem arises when factory inspector posts remain vacant?**
 - A single inspector may become responsible for monitoring thousands of industrial units.
- **Why does fragmented hazardous-industry regulation weaken enforcement?**
 - Multiple laws and agencies create overlapping jurisdictions, inconsistent standards and weak enforcement.
- **What is the impact of aging industrial infrastructure on industrial safety?**
 - Outdated machinery and weakened infrastructure increase the risk of catastrophic failures.

SELF-CERTIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE GAPS

- **Which Code encourages self-certification and third-party audits to simplify compliance procedures?**
 - Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.
- **What risk can self-certification create in highly competitive MSME sectors?**
 - Opportunities for falsification of safety records and weaker independent oversight.
- **What role can political influence play in industrial safety violations?**
 - Local political patronage may protect industries that violate safety norms.
- **How can industries that were shut down for safety violations escape accountability?**
 - They may resume operations under new shell companies.
- **Which legal doctrine is undermined when hazardous industries escape accountability?**
 - Doctrine of Absolute Liability.
- **Which Supreme Court case established the Doctrine of Absolute Liability mentioned in the document?**
 - M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak Case).
- **What does the Doctrine of Absolute Liability mandate for hazardous industries?**
 - Absolute responsibility for hazardous industries causing harm.
- **Why do informal and unskilled labour practices increase industrial risks?**
 - Hazardous work is often outsourced to contract or daily-wage labourers who lack formal training.

URBAN ENCROACHMENT AND AGING INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **How has rapid and unplanned urbanisation affected industrial safety buffer zones?**
 - It has eroded mandatory safety buffer zones between hazardous industries and residential areas.
- **Which industrial hubs are specifically mentioned in relation to urban encroachment?**
 - Noida and Manesar.
- **What happens when safety buffer zones between hazardous industries and residential areas are lost?**
 - Industrial accidents can increasingly transform into large-scale community disasters.
- **What are “brownfield” plants?**
 - Older industrial plants operating with outdated machinery and weakened infrastructure.
- **Why do aging industrial plants pose greater safety risks?**
 - Their outdated machinery and weakened infrastructure increase the probability of industrial accidents.
- **Why do industries sometimes avoid retrofitting safety systems?**
 - Because of the high cost involved.
- **Which modern safety systems are mentioned as examples of retrofitting requirements?**
 - Automated shutdown mechanisms and modern pressure sensors.
- **What can failure to modernise safety systems lead to?**
 - An increased risk of catastrophic industrial failures.

CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (CWMA)

- **Which authority directed Karnataka to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu for May 2026?**
 - Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).
- **Which State was directed to release Cauvery water?**
 - Karnataka.
- **Which State was to receive the Cauvery water?**
 - Tamil Nadu.
- **For which month was the water release directed?**
 - May 2026.
- **What is the nature of the Cauvery Water Management Authority?**
 - It is a statutory, quasi-judicial body.
- **Where does the Cauvery River originate?**
 - Talakaveri.
- **In which mountain range does the Cauvery River originate?**
 - Brahmagiri range.
- **In which State is the source of the Cauvery River located according to the document?**
 - Karnataka.

ECOCIDE

- **What does the term “ecocide” refer to?**
 - Large-scale destruction or severe damage to ecosystems and the natural environment.
- **What can ecocide affect according to the document?**
 - The peaceful survival of living beings.
- **Why has the term “ecocide” regained global attention?**
 - Following military operations in regions such as the Gaza Strip and Southern Lebanon.
- **When was the term “ecocide” coined?**
 - 1970.
- **Who coined the term “ecocide”?**
 - Prof. Arthur W. Galston.
- **What was Prof. Arthur W. Galston’s field?**
 - Plant biology.
- **Which university was associated with Prof. Arthur W. Galston?**
 - Yale University.
- **What is the central environmental concern represented by the term ecocide?**
 - Large-scale destruction or severe damage to ecosystems and the natural environment.

BARN SWALLOW

- **Which bird has established a permanent breeding population in the Imphal Valley of Manipur?**
 - Barn Swallow.
- **Which organisation conducted the study on the Barn Swallow?**
 - Wildlife Institute of India.
- **What was the traditional status of the Barn Swallow in Northeast India?**
 - It was traditionally a seasonal migratory bird.
- **What major change has been observed in the Barn Swallow population?**
 - It has established a permanent breeding population.
- **Where has the Barn Swallow established a permanent breeding population?**
 - In the Imphal Valley of Manipur.
- **In which part of India was the Barn Swallow traditionally a seasonal migratory bird?**
 - Northeast India.
- **Which species is the focus of the Wildlife Institute of India study mentioned in the document?**
 - Barn Swallow.
- **Which State contains the Imphal Valley where the Barn Swallow has established a permanent breeding population?**
 - Manipur.

INDIA'S GLOBAL RANKING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

- According to Morgan Stanley, what is India's global rank in installed renewable energy capacity?
– Third.
- Which two countries rank ahead of India in installed renewable energy capacity?
– China and the United States.
- Which country did India surpass in installed renewable energy capacity?
– Brazil.
- What was India's installed renewable energy capacity by March 2026?
– 283.5 GW.
- According to which organisation did India become the world's third-largest country in installed renewable energy capacity?
– Morgan Stanley.
- What does India's ranking refer to?
– Installed renewable energy capacity.
- Which country ranks first globally in installed renewable energy capacity according to the document?
– China.
- Which country ranks second globally in installed renewable energy capacity according to the document?
– The United States.

WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL WATER FORWARD INITIATIVE

- Which institution launched the global Water Forward initiative?
– World Bank.
- What major issue does the Water Forward initiative address?
– The growing global water crisis.
- What is the primary objective of the Water Forward initiative?
– To improve water security.
- How many people is the initiative aimed at providing water security for by 2030?
– Over 1 billion people.
- How many people did the World Bank pledge to help provide water security to?
– Nearly 400 million people.
- By which year does the initiative aim to improve water security for over 1 billion people?
– 2030.
- Which global institution is associated with the Water Forward initiative?
– World Bank.
- What is the central focus of the Water Forward initiative?
– Addressing the growing water crisis and improving water security.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & SOCIAL WELFARE

JANANI PLATFORM FOR MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTHCARE

- **Which Ministry launched the JANANI platform?**
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **What does JANANI stand for?**
 - Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care.
- **What is the primary objective of the JANANI platform?**
 - To strengthen maternal and child healthcare through digital integration and real-time monitoring.
- **What type of health records does JANANI maintain?**
 - Longitudinal health records of women during their reproductive years.
- **Which existing portal has been upgraded into the JANANI platform?**
 - Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.
- **Which stages of healthcare does the JANANI platform track?**
 - Antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care and family planning services.
- **What does JANANI aim to ensure?**
 - Seamless monitoring, timely medical interventions and continuity of healthcare services.
- **With which initiatives is the JANANI platform designed to integrate?**
 - U-WIN and POSHAN.

11 YEARS OF JAN SURAKSHA SCHEMES

- **Which flagship Jan Suraksha schemes completed 11 years since their launch?**
 - PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY.
- **In which year were the Jan Suraksha schemes launched?**
 - 2015.
- **What is the primary objective of the Jan Suraksha schemes?**
 - To provide affordable insurance and pension benefits to economically weaker sections of society.
- **Which scheme stands for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana?**
 - PMJJBY.
- **Which scheme stands for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana?**
 - PMSBY.
- **What does APY stand for?**
 - Atal Pension Yojana.
- **Which sections of society have particularly benefited from the Jan Suraksha schemes?**
 - Poor households, women and workers in the unorganised sector.
- **What has been the broader impact of the Jan Suraksha schemes?**
 - They have significantly expanded affordable insurance and pension coverage.

PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

- **What type of insurance scheme is Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)?**
 - A low-cost life insurance scheme providing financial protection against death due to any cause.
- **What is the annual premium under PMJJBY?**
 - Rs. 436.
- **Who is eligible to enrol under PMJJBY?**
 - Individuals aged 18–50 years with a bank or post office account.
- **Through what facility can eligible individuals enrol in PMJJBY?**
 - Auto-debit facility.
- **Can a subscriber enrol in PMJJBY through multiple accounts?**
 - No. A subscriber can enrol through only one account, even if they hold multiple accounts.
- **What is the operational period of PMJJBY?**
 - 1st June to 31st May annually.
- **Which institutions implement PMJJBY?**
 - Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and other life insurers in partnership with banks and post offices.
- **What sum assured is provided to the nominee in case of the subscriber's death?**
 - Rs. 2 lakh.

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

- **What type of insurance scheme is Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)?**
 - An accidental insurance scheme providing financial support in cases of accidental death or disability.
- **What is the annual premium under PMSBY?**
 - Rs. 20.
- **Who is eligible to enrol under PMSBY?**
 - Individuals aged 18–70 years with a bank or post office account.
- **Through which facility can subscribers enrol in PMSBY?**
 - Auto-debit facility.
- **Which institutions implement PMSBY?**
 - Public and private general insurance companies in collaboration with banks and post offices.
- **What compensation is provided in case of accidental death or total disability?**
 - Rs. 2 lakh.
- **What compensation is provided in case of partial disability?**
 - Rs. 1 lakh.
- **What is the major purpose of PMSBY?**
 - To provide financial support in cases of accidental death or disability.

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

- **What is the primary objective of Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?**
 - To provide old-age income security, especially for workers in the unorganised sector.
- **Under which framework is APY administered?**
 - National Pension System (NPS) framework.
- **Which authority administers Atal Pension Yojana?**
 - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- **Who can enrol under APY according to the document?**
 - Bank account holders aged 18–40 years who are not income tax payers.
- **How frequently can subscribers contribute under APY?**
 - Monthly, quarterly or half-yearly, depending on the pension chosen.
- **What is the guaranteed minimum monthly pension provided under APY?**
 - Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 after the age of 60 years.
- **What happens to the pension after the death of the subscriber?**
 - The pension is transferred to the spouse, and subsequently the accumulated corpus goes to the nominee.
- **What provision is available in case of premature death of the subscriber before 60 years?**
 - The spouse can continue contributions under the scheme.

DIVYA BHARAT INITIATIVE

- **Which institution launched the anthology “Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India”?**
 - NITI Aayog.
- **What is the name of the anthology launched under the Divya Bharat Initiative?**
 - “Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India”.
- **What is the primary objective of the Divya Bharat Initiative?**
 - To promote immersive and experiential tourism.
- **What type of destinations does the initiative focus on?**
 - Diverse cultural and heritage destinations.
- **Which organisation is associated with the launch of the Divya Bharat Initiative?**
 - NITI Aayog.
- **What kind of tourism does the initiative seek to promote?**
 - Immersive tourism.
- **What additional form of tourism does the initiative seek to promote?**
 - Experiential tourism.
- **What broader theme does the initiative seek to highlight through tourism?**
 - India’s diverse cultural and heritage destinations.

VAANI SCHEME

- **What does VAANI stand for?**
 - Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages.
- **Which institution launched the third edition of the VAANI scheme?**
 - All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- **When was the third edition of VAANI launched?**
 - April 2026.
- **What is the primary objective of the VAANI scheme?**
 - To promote the use of Indian languages in technical and higher education.
- **Which languages does the VAANI initiative seek to promote?**
 - Indian languages.
- **Which two major education sectors are specifically mentioned under VAANI?**
 - Technical education and higher education.
- **Which edition of VAANI was launched in April 2026?**
 - The third edition.
- **Which organisation is responsible for the VAANI scheme according to the document?**
 - All India Council for Technical Education.

ASHWAGANDHA REGULATION BY FSSAI

- **Which authority issued an advisory regulating the use of Ashwagandha in nutraceuticals and health supplements?**
 - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- **Under which regulations are the permitted plant parts for health supplements specified?**
 - Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2016, under Schedule IV.
- **Which parts of Ashwagandha are permitted for use in food products and supplements?**
 - Ashwagandha roots and their extracts.
- **Which parts of Ashwagandha have been prohibited for use in food products and supplements?**
 - Leaves and leaf extracts.
- **Why have Ashwagandha leaves and leaf extracts been prohibited?**
 - They contain higher concentrations of withanolides such as Withaferin-A, which may raise safety concerns.
- **How is Ashwagandha classified in relation to its medicinal properties?**
 - As an adaptogen.
- **In which traditional medical system is Ashwagandha extensively used?**
 - Ayurveda.
- **Under which Act was FSSAI established and under which Ministry does it function?**
 - It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

HISTORY & CULTURE

BHOJSHALA TEMPLE

- **Where is the disputed Bhojshala–Kamal Maula Mosque complex located?**
– Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Which deity did the Madhya Pradesh High Court declare the Bhojshala complex to be a temple dedicated to?**
– Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- **Which earlier order was set aside by the Madhya Pradesh High Court?**
– The 2003 Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) order permitting shared worship by Hindus and Muslims.
- **Does the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 apply to the Bhojshala complex according to the Court?**
– No.
- **Under which Act is the site protected?**
– Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.
- **Which provision of the Places of Worship Act provides the relevant exemption for protected ancient and historical monuments?**
– Section 4(3).
- **Who is traditionally associated with Bhojshala?**
– Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi), the deity of learning and knowledge.
- **Which ruler is believed to have originally established Bhojshala in the 11th century CE?**
– King Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

- **On which occasion did the Prime Minister pay tribute to Rabindranath Tagore?**
– Pochishe Boishakh.
- **On which date is Pochishe Boishakh celebrated?**
– 9th May.
- **What does Pochishe Boishakh represent in Bengali tradition?**
– The birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.
- **What does “Pochishe Boishakh” literally refer to?**
– The 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh.
- **In which year was Rabindranath Tagore born according to the infographic in the document?**
– 1861.
- **In which year did Rabindranath Tagore die?**
– 1941.

- **Which Nobel Prize did Rabindranath Tagore receive?**
– Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.
- **Which institution did Rabindranath Tagore establish in 1921?**
– Vishwa-Bharati University.

MAHARANA PRATAP

- **When and where was Maharana Pratap born?**
– In 1540 at Kumbhalgarh Fort.
- **Which position did Maharana Pratap hold in the Mewar kingdom?**
– He was the 13th ruler of Mewar.
- **Who was Maharana Pratap's father?**
– Maharana Udai Singh II.
- **Which city is Udai Singh II credited with founding?**
– Udaipur.
- **When was the Battle of Haldighati fought?**
– 18th June 1576.
- **Who led the Mughal forces in the Battle of Haldighati?**
– Raja Man Singh I.
- **Who succeeded Maharana Pratap?**
– His son Amar Singh I.
- **When did Amar Singh I accept Mughal suzerainty under Emperor Jahangir?**
– 1614.

PRE-1857 CIVIL UPRISINGS

- **What was the major cause of the Sanyasi-Fakir Rebellion?**
– Economic distress after the Famine of 1770 and restrictions on pilgrims.
- **What was notable about participation in the Sanyasi-Fakir Rebellion?**
– Hindus and Muslims participated equally.
- **Which literary work famously featured the Sanyasi-Fakir Rebellion?**
– Bankim Chandra's Anandamath.
- **What was the main cause of the Poligar Wars?**
– British attempts to collect direct taxes from military chieftains (Poligars) in the Carnatic region.
- **Who led the Poligar resistance?**
– Veerapandiya Kattabomman and the Maruthu Brothers of Sivagangai.
- **What was the main cause of Velu Thampi's Revolt?**
– Financial burdens of the Subsidiary Alliance and British high-handedness in Travancore.
- **Who led the Paika Rebellion of 1817?**
– Bakshi Jagabandhu.

- **What was a major cause of the Paika Rebellion?**
 - Extortionist land-revenue policies and the loss of rent-free lands held by the Paikas.

PRE-1857 TRIBAL UPRISINGS

- **What were the major causes of the Chuar Uprising?**
 - Aggressive land-revenue demands and famine in the Midnapore district.
- **Who participated in the Chuar Uprising?**
 - Local tribesmen and displaced zamindars such as Durjan Singh.
- **What was the major cause of the Kol Mutiny?**
 - Large-scale transfer of tribal lands to non-tribal outsiders.
- **Who led the Kol Mutiny?**
 - Buddho Bhagat.
- **Where did the Kol Mutiny take place?**
 - Chotanagpur region.
- **What were the major causes of the Santhal Rebellion (Hul)?**
 - Oppression by moneylenders (mahajans) and the East India Company under the Permanent Settlement.
- **Who led the Santhal Rebellion?**
 - Sidhu and Kanhu.
- **What was the cause of the Khondo Uprisings?**
 - British attempts to suppress the custom of human sacrifice known as Meriah.

PEASANT AND SOCIO-RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

- **What was the major cause of the Pagal Panthis movement?**
 - Exploitation of the peasantry by zamindars in East Bengal.
- **Who founded the Pagal Panthis movement?**
 - Karam Shah.
- **Who founded the Faraizi Revolt?**
 - Haji Shariatullah.
- **Who later led the Faraizi movement?**
 - His son Dudu Mian.
- **What was the primary objective of the Faraizi Revolt?**
 - Addressing land-revenue changes and protecting tenant rights against landlords.
- **Who founded the Wahabi Movement mentioned in the document?**
 - Syed Ahmed of Rai Bareilly.
- **What was the main objective of the Wahabi Movement?**
 - A desire to return to pure Islam and resist Western/British political influence.
- **What were the major causes of the Kuka Movement?**
 - Loss of Sikh sovereignty and religious reforms against British influence in Punjab.

EARLY MILITARY SEPOY MUTINIES

- **When did the Vellore Mutiny take place?**
– 1806.
- **What was a major cause of the Vellore Mutiny?**
 - Strict new military dress codes, including restrictions on caste markings and beards and replacement of turbans with a new round hat made of cow/pig hide.
- **What did the sepoys do during the Vellore Mutiny?**
 - They killed several British officers and hoisted the flag of the Mysore ruler.
- **Which Native Infantry was involved in the Barrackpore Mutiny of 1824?**
– 47th Native Infantry.
- **Why did the 47th Native Infantry refuse to travel to Myanmar?**
 - Crossing the ocean (Kala Pani) was forbidden in their religious beliefs.
- **What was the major cause of the Mutiny of the 34th Native Infantry in 1844?**
 - Dispute over the withdrawal of Bhatta, the foreign service allowance, for service in Sindh.
- **What happened to the 47th Native Infantry after the Barrackpore Mutiny?**
 - It was disbanded after the British opened fire on the protesting sepoys.
- **What did several regiments demand during the 34th Native Infantry mutiny?**
 - They refused to move to Sindh unless their financial grievances were addressed.

KOMAGATA MARU INCIDENT

- **What was the Komagata Maru incident associated with?**
 - Racial discrimination against Indian immigrants in Canada.
- **What was the popular name of the Komagata Maru ship?**
– “Guru Nanak Jahaz.”
- **In which year did the Komagata Maru sail from Hong Kong to Vancouver?**
– 1914.
- **How many passengers were aboard the ship?**
 - 376 passengers, mostly Punjabis from British India.
- **Who organised the voyage of the Komagata Maru?**
– Gurdit Singh Sandhu.
- **Which Canadian immigration regulation were the passengers seeking to challenge?**
 - “Continuous Journey Regulation” of 1908.
- **What happened when the ship reached Vancouver in May 1914?**
 - Canadian authorities denied most passengers permission to disembark.
- **What happened during the Budge Budge Riot?**
 - When passengers resisted British attempts to send them directly to Punjab and tried to march towards Calcutta, police opened fire, killing around 20 passengers and arresting many others.

US RETURNS 657 STOLEN ANTIQUITIES TO INDIA

- **How many stolen antiquities did the United States repatriate to India?**
– 657 antiquities.
- **What was the approximate value of the returned antiquities?**
– Nearly USD 14 million.
- **What does the repatriation of these antiquities signify?**
– A major step in combating transnational trafficking of cultural property.
- **Which important bronze artefact was recovered from Sirpur?**
– Bronze Avalokiteshvara.
- **What does the Avalokiteshvara sculpture represent?**
– The Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion in Mahayana Buddhism.
- **Which mudra is displayed by the recovered Red Sandstone Buddha?**
– Abhaya mudra.
- **What does the Abhaya mudra symbolise?**
– Fearlessness, reassurance and protection.
- **Where was the recovered Dancing Ganesha reportedly looted from?**
– A temple in Madhya Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & WORLD AFFAIRS

ROADMAP OF INDIA-NETHERLANDS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (2026–2030)

- **What did India and the Netherlands adopt during the Prime Minister's official visit to the Netherlands?**
– Roadmap of India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership (2026–2030).
- **Which major areas are covered under the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership Roadmap?**
– Water management, semiconductors, defence, green energy, maritime connectivity, Indo-Pacific security, migration and resilient supply chains.
- **Which historic item is being returned to India as part of cultural diplomacy?**
– The historic Anaimangalam (Leiden) Copper Plates.
- **Which committee will expand India-Netherlands trade in sectors such as electronics, telecom, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and steel?**
– Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC).
- **Until when will India and the Netherlands renew their flagship Water Partnership?**
– Until March 2027.
- **What approach will be used for developing Urban River Management Plans?**
– The “Water as Leverage” approach.

- **Which semiconductor initiative will link the India Semiconductor Mission with the Dutch Semicon Competence Centre?**
 - Semiconductor “Brain Bridge”.
- **What type of sea corridor will India and the Netherlands create?**
 - A Green and Digital Sea Corridor for sustainable maritime trade and digital shipping integration.

INDIA-UAE RELATIONS: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UAE

- **Which two countries signed an agreement for storing crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities?**
 - India and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Which two organisations signed the agreement for crude oil storage?**
 - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
- **How much ADNOC crude oil can be stored in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities under the agreement?**
 - Up to 30 million barrels.
- **Which Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities will be used for storing ADNOC crude oil?**
 - Visakhapatnam and the upcoming Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility at Chandikol, Odisha.
- **What framework did India and the UAE establish in the defence sector?**
 - A strategic defence industrial framework.
- **What investment commitments did UAE entities announce in India?**
 - USD 5 billion.
- **Which Indian and UAE organisations signed a term sheet to establish an 8 Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster?**
 - India's Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and UAE-based G42.
- **What is the significance of the India-UAE crude oil storage agreement?**
 - It strengthens cooperation in strategic petroleum reserves by enabling the storage of up to 30 million barrels of ADNOC crude oil in India.

INDIA RE-INCLUDED IN EU'S LIST FOR AQUACULTURE EXPORT

- **In which list has India been re-included by the European Union?**
 - The revised European Union list permitting the continued export of aquaculture products to Europe.
- **Why did India regain EU approval for aquaculture exports?**
 - After complying with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905.
- **Which type of antimicrobials does the EU regulation prohibit?**
 - Antimicrobials used for growth promotion.
- **Which antibiotics are prohibited under the EU regulation?**
 - Antibiotics reserved for human medical treatment.

- **What position does the EU hold as a destination for India's seafood exports?**
 - It is India's third-largest seafood export destination.
- **What is India's leading seafood export commodity to Europe?**
 - Frozen shrimp.
- **What is India's position globally in fish production?**
 - India is the world's second-largest fish producer after China.
- **What enabled India to continue exporting aquaculture products to Europe?**
 - Its re-inclusion in the revised EU list after complying with the relevant EU regulation.

SINGAPORE BECOMES INDIA'S SECOND-LARGEST EXPORT MARKET

- **Which country has become India's second-largest export destination?**
 - Singapore.
- **Which country did Singapore overtake to become India's second-largest export destination?**
 - United Arab Emirates.
- **Which country continues to remain India's largest export market?**
 - United States.
- **By approximately how much did exports to Singapore increase?**
 - Nearly 180%.
- **What factors helped Singapore emerge as India's second-largest export destination?**
 - Singapore's role as a global transshipment hub and existing India-Singapore Free Trade Agreement arrangements.
- **By approximately how much did exports to the UAE decline?**
 - Around 36%.
- **Why did exports to the UAE decline significantly?**
 - Regional instability and logistical disruptions.
- **What are Singapore's positions in India's trade and investment relations mentioned in the document?**
 - Singapore is India's sixth-largest trading partner and remains India's largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS

- **Who concluded a State Visit to India from Vietnam?**
 - Vietnam President To Lam.
- **What anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership coincided with the visit?**
 - The 10th anniversary.
- **When was the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established?**
 - 2016.
- **How did India describe Vietnam in relation to its Act East Policy and Vision SAGAR?**
 - As a key pillar of its Act East Policy and Vision SAGAR.

- **To what level did India and Vietnam upgrade their bilateral relationship?**
 - Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- **What were the two previous major elevations in India–Vietnam bilateral relations?**
 - Strategic Partnership in 2007 and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016.
- **What bilateral trade target have India and Vietnam set for 2030?**
 - USD 25 billion.
- **What did India and Vietnam agree to expand in the defence sector?**
 - Defence procurement and military cooperation.

BRICS REAFFIRMS TWO-STATE SOLUTION IN ISRAEL–PALESTINE CONFLICT

- **Where was the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in May 2026?**
 - New Delhi.
- **What position did BRICS reaffirm regarding the Israel–Palestine conflict?**
 - Support for an independent Palestinian State based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- **What solution to the Israel–Palestine conflict did India reiterate its support for?**
 - A two-state solution.
- **Which international frameworks were cited in support of the two-state solution?**
 - International law, UN Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.
- **How was the Gaza Strip described in the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting?**
 - As an inseparable part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- **What did BRICS call for regarding Gaza and the West Bank?**
 - Their reunification under the Palestinian Authority.
- **Why was a joint declaration not adopted at the meeting?**
 - Sharp disagreements between Iran and the UAE prevented its adoption.
- **What document was issued instead of a joint declaration?**
 - A “Chair’s Statement and Outcome Document.”

BRICS

- **Who coined the term “BRIC” and in which year?**
 - Economist Jim O’Neill in 2001.
- **Which countries were originally represented by the term BRIC?**
 - Brazil, Russia, India and China.
- **When did BRIC emerge formally?**
 - After the leaders of Russia, India and China met during the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- **When was the grouping institutionalised?**
 - During the first BRIC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting at the UN General Assembly in 2006.

- **When and where was the first BRIC Summit held?**
 - In 2009 at Yekaterinburg, Russia.
- **Which country joined BRIC in 2010, transforming it into BRICS?**
 - South Africa.
- **Which countries are included in BRICS+ according to the document?**
 - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, UAE, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Iran.
- **What are the three pillars around which BRICS cooperation is organised?**
 - Political and security; economic and financial; and people-to-people exchanges.

UAE'S EXIT FROM OPEC AND OPEC+

- **Which country announced its withdrawal from both OPEC and OPEC+?**
 - United Arab Emirates.
- **When did the UAE's withdrawal from OPEC and OPEC+ become effective?**
 - 1st May 2026.
- **What broader geopolitical impact is expected from the UAE's withdrawal?**
 - It is expected to weaken the collective bargaining power of the oil cartel.
- **When was OPEC established?**
 - 1960.
- **Where was OPEC established?**
 - During the Baghdad Conference.
- **Which countries were the founding members of OPEC?**
 - Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- **When did the UAE join OPEC?**
 - 1967 through Abu Dhabi.
- **When was OPEC+ formed and why?**
 - It was formed in 2016 to tackle declining oil prices caused by rising US shale oil production.

INDIA–GERMANY DEFENCE TIES STRENGTHENED

- **Where did India and Germany hold high-level bilateral defence talks?**
 - Berlin.
- **What was the objective of the India–Germany defence talks?**
 - To strengthen their strategic defence partnership and deepen military-to-military cooperation.
- **Which roadmap did India and Germany sign and exchange?**
 - Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap.
- **What arrangement was signed for cooperation in UN peacekeeping?**
 - An Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Training.
- **What did Germany welcome regarding the armed forces of both countries?**
 - The institutionalisation of regular service-level staff talks.

- **Which Indian multilateral air exercise is expected to see German Air Force participation?**
– Exercise Tarang Shakti.
- **How many years of diplomatic relations were India and Germany commemorating in 2026?**
– 75 years.
- **How many years of Strategic Partnership were India and Germany commemorating in 2026?**
– 25 years.

INDIA-EGYPT DEFENCE COOPERATION

- **Where was the 11th Joint Defence Committee meeting between India and Egypt held?**
– Cairo.
- **What was the objective of the 11th Joint Defence Committee meeting?**
– To strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and outline a future roadmap for strategic engagement.
- **What is the period of the India-Egypt Defence Cooperation Roadmap?**
– 2026–27.
- **What does the India-Egypt defence cooperation roadmap focus on?**
– Expanding structured military interactions, intensifying joint training programmes, enhancing maritime security cooperation and increasing the scale and complexity of bilateral military exercises.
- **What was India's defence production value mentioned in the document?**
– More than USD 20 billion.
- **What was the approximate value of India's defence exports?**
– Nearly USD 4 billion.
- **To how many countries were India's defence exports being made?**
– More than 100 countries.
- **India-Egypt defence relations are rooted in which agreement?**
– The 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.

INDIA-REPUBLIC OF KOREA STRATEGIC VISION (2026–2030)

- **What is the name of the strategic document unveiled by India and the Republic of Korea?**
– India-ROK Joint Strategic Vision 2026–2030.
- **During whose State Visit to India was the Joint Strategic Vision unveiled?**
– South Korean President Lee Jae Myung.
- **What is the primary objective of the India-ROK Joint Strategic Vision?**
– To deepen the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership.
- **Which major areas are covered under the Joint Strategic Vision?**
– Political, economic, technological, defence, cultural and climate-related domains.

- **What new mechanism will strengthen industry-level cooperation between India and South Korea?**
 - India-ROK Industrial Cooperation Committee.
- **What institutional arrangement will India and South Korea establish at the summit level?**
 - Annual summit-level meetings and expanded ministerial dialogues.
- **What is the objective of the India-ROK Economic Security Dialogue?**
 - To diversify supply chains and reduce excessive dependence on China for critical technologies and resources.
- **What new initiative was launched to promote cooperation in Critical and Emerging Technologies?**
 - India-Korea Digital Bridge.

JAPAN EASES DEFENSE EXPORT RULES

- **What long-standing restriction did Japan end in April 2026?**
 - Its “five-category” restriction on arms exports.
- **What does the revised Japanese policy permit?**
 - Export of lethal weapons to third countries.
- **Which constitutional provision reflects Japan’s pacifist position?**
 - Article 9.
- **Why did Japan adopt a pacifist constitution after World War II?**
 - Following the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan adopted a pacifist constitution under Article 9, renouncing war and limiting military capabilities.
- **Which five categories of non-lethal equipment were previously permitted for export?**
 - Rescue, transport, warning, surveillance and minesweeping.
- **Which lethal military equipment can now be exported under the 2026 policy revision?**
 - Missiles, destroyers and fighter aircraft.
- **What is one major objective of easing Japan’s defence export rules?**
 - To strengthen and revive Japan’s domestic defence industry.
- **Why had Japan’s domestic defence industry faced limited growth?**
 - Because it relied mainly on the Self-Defense Forces market.

OPERATION WINGS OF DAWN

- **What was the name of the operation under which Israel airlifted members of the Bnei Menashe community?**
 - Operation Wings of Dawn.
- **Approximately how many members of the Bnei Menashe community were airlifted by Israel?**
 - Around 240 members.
- **From which Indian State were the Bnei Menashe members airlifted?**
 - Mizoram.

- **Where were the Bnei Menashe members airlifted to?**
– Tel Aviv.
- **Why were the Bnei Menashe members airlifted amid ongoing security concerns?**
– Due to security concerns in West Asia.
- **Who are the Bnei Menashe according to the document?**
– They claim descent from one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.
- **When were the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel exiled according to the document?**
– After the Assyrian conquest around 722 BCE.
- **Which region of India is associated with the Bnei Menashe community mentioned in the document?**
– Mizoram.

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2030

- **Which country's proposal to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 was approved by the ITU Council?**
– India.
- **What is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?**
– It is the specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- **What is the purpose of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 proposal?**
– To host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 in India.
- **Which organisation approved India's proposal to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030?**
– ITU Council.
- **What does ITU primarily deal with?**
– Information and communication technologies (ICTs).

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE SUMMIT (IBCA)

- **When and where will India host the first International Big Cat Alliance Summit?**
– In June 2026 in New Delhi.
- **What is the primary objective of the International Big Cat Alliance Summit?**
– To strengthen global cooperation for the conservation of big cats and their habitats.
- **When was the International Big Cat Alliance launched?**
– In 2023.
- **Who launched the International Big Cat Alliance?**
– India.
- **On which occasion was the International Big Cat Alliance launched?**
– On the sidelines of the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.

KIMBERLEY PROCESS INTERSESSIONAL MEETING 2026

- Which country served as the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2026?
– India.
- Where did India host the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026?
– Mumbai.
- What is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process?
– To strengthen the global regulatory framework governing the natural diamond trade and ensure the integrity of the diamond supply chain.
- What does the Kimberley Process regulate?
– The natural diamond trade.
- What does the Kimberley Process seek to ensure?
– The integrity of the diamond supply chain.

3RD INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT

- Where was the 3rd India-Nordic Summit held?
– Oslo.
- Which Nordic countries participated in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit along with India?
– Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.
- To what level did India and the Nordic countries elevate their ties?
– A Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership.
- What are the key foundations of the India-Nordic Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership?
– Shared democratic values, sustainability and technological cooperation.
- What did India invite Nordic defence companies to invest in?
– Indian Defence Industrial Corridors.
- What level of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in India's defence sector?
– 100% FDI.

REPORTS & INDICES

CRIME IN INDIA 2024

- Which organisation released the "Crime in India 2024" report?
– National Crime Records Bureau.
- What was India's national crime rate in 2024?
– 418.9, the lowest level recorded since 2019.
- Which State continued to record the lowest crime rate in India?
– Nagaland.

- **What happened to the overall incidence of cognisable crimes in India in 2024?**
 - India recorded a decline in cognisable crimes.
- **Which categories of crimes declined in 2024?**
 - Crimes against Scheduled Castes and Tribes, children and women declined.
- **Which category of crime increased in 2024?**
 - Crimes against senior citizens increased.
- **Which metropolitan city recorded the highest levels of violent crimes?**
 - Delhi.
- **Which metropolitan city reported the highest suicide rate?**
 - Bengaluru.

PANCHAYAT ADVANCEMENT INDEX 2.0

- **Which Ministry released the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0?**
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Which State emerged as the best-performing State in the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0?**
 - Tripura.
- **What percentage of Tripura's Gram Panchayats were classified as "Front Runners"?**
 - Nearly 80%.
- **Which two States followed Tripura in the performance under the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0?**
 - Kerala and Odisha.
- **What percentage of Tripura's Gram Panchayats were classified as "Front Runners"?**
 - Nearly 80%.
- **Did any Panchayat qualify for the "Achiever" category?**
 - No, no Panchayat qualified for the "Achiever" category.
- **Which State emerged as the best-performing State in the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0?**
 - Tripura.
- **Which Ministry released the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0?**
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

INDIA NOW WORLD'S 5TH TOP MILITARY SPENDER

- **Which organisation released the report on global military expenditure?**
 - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
- **What percentage of total global military expenditure does India account for?**
 - Nearly 3.2%.
- **Which are the top five military spenders globally?**
 - United States, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and India.

- **What is India's position among the world's top military spenders?**
– Fifth.
- **Which country is the world's largest military spender?**
– United States.
- **Which country ranks second in global military expenditure?**
– China.
- **Which country ranks third in global military expenditure?**
– Russia.
- **Which country ranks fourth among the world's top military spenders?**
– Saudi Arabia.

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

- **Which organisation released the World Migration Report?**
– International Organization for Migration.
- **What position did India retain globally in terms of remittance inflows?**
– First position.
- **How did India's remittance inflows change between 2020 and 2024?**
– They increased significantly from USD 83.15 billion in 2020 to USD 137.67 billion in 2024.
- **What was India's remittance inflow in 2020?**
– USD 83.15 billion.
- **What was India's remittance inflow in 2024?**
– USD 137.67 billion.
- **What position did India retain globally in remittance inflows?**
– The top position.
- **Which organisation released the World Migration Report?**
– International Organization for Migration.
- **What major trend was observed in India's remittance inflows between 2020 and 2024?**
– A significant increase in remittance inflows.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

- **Which organisation released the World Press Freedom Index?**
– Reporters Without Borders.
- **What was India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index?**
– 157th out of 180 countries, dropping six places.
- **Which country ranked first in the World Press Freedom Index for the 10th consecutive year?**
– Norway.

- **How many countries are ranked in the World Press Freedom Index?**
– 180 countries.
- **By how many places did India's ranking decline?**
– Six places.
- **Which country ranked lowest in the World Press Freedom Index?**
– Eritrea.
- **For how many consecutive years did Norway retain the first position?**
– 10th consecutive year.
- **Which organisation releases the World Press Freedom Index?**
– Reporters Without Borders.

AWARDS & HONOURS

NARENDRA MODI

- **Which prestigious civilian honour of Norway was conferred upon Narendra Modi?**
– The “Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.”
- **Who conferred the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit upon Narendra Modi?**
– King Harald V.
- **Which prestigious Swedish honour was received by Narendra Modi?**
– The “Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross.”
- **Which prestigious medal did Narendra Modi receive from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2026?**
– Agricola Medal for 2026.
- **Where was the Agricola Medal for 2026 conferred upon Narendra Modi?**
– At the FAO headquarters in Rome.
- **For which areas of leadership was Narendra Modi awarded the Agricola Medal?**
– Food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development in India and globally.

PARVEEN SHAIKH

- **Which prestigious award did Parveen Shaikh receive in 2026?**
– Whitley Award 2026.
- **For what work did Parveen Shaikh receive the Whitley Award 2026?**
– Community-led conservation of the Indian Skimmer along the Ganga River.
- **What is the Indian Skimmer known for?**
– Its distinctive “skimming” feeding technique.

2026 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE AWARDEES

- **How many women environmental activists received the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize?**
– Six women.
- **Which country was represented by Iroro Tanshi among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– Nigeria.
- **Which country was represented by Borim Kim among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– South Korea.
- **Which country was represented by Sarah Finch among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– United Kingdom.
- **Which country was represented by Theonila Roka Matbob among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– Papua New Guinea.
- **Which country was represented by Alannah Acaq Hurley among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– United States.
- **Which country was represented by Yuvelis Morales Blanco among the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize awardees?**
– Colombia.
- **Why is the Goldman Environmental Prize often referred to as the “Green Nobel”?**
– It recognises grassroots environmental leaders who take significant risks to protect nature and communities.

ANAND RK AND SUPARNA SHARMA

- **In which category did Anand RK and Suparna Sharma win the prestigious Pulitzer Prize?**
– Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.
- **What was the name of the project for which they received the Pulitzer Prize?**
– “trAPPed”, produced with Natalie Obiko Pearson for Bloomberg.
- **What major threats does the “trAPPed” project focus on?**
– Digital surveillance, cyber fraud and “digital arrest” scams in India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

51ST STATEHOOD DAY (16TH MAY)

- **When did Sikkim officially become the 22nd State of India?**
– 16th May 1975.

- **Through which Constitutional Amendment Act did Sikkim become the 22nd State of India?**
– 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975.
- **Where was the 51st Statehood Day celebration of Sikkim held?**
– Gangtok.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY (11TH MAY)

- **When is National Technology Day observed?**
– 11th May.
- **What was the theme of National Technology Day 2026?**
– “Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth”.
- **What does the theme of National Technology Day 2026 emphasise?**
– Responsible innovation for inclusive growth.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY (1ST MAY)

- **When is International Labour Day observed?**
– 1st May.
- **What was the theme of International Labour Day 2026?**
– “Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment”.
- **What does the theme of International Labour Day 2026 focus on?**
– A healthy psychosocial working environment.

WORLD MALARIA DAY (25TH APRIL)

- **When is World Malaria Day observed?**
– 25th April.
- **What was the theme of World Malaria Day 2026?**
– “Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now we must.”
- **What disease is the focus of World Malaria Day?**
– Malaria.

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY (24TH APRIL)

- **When is National Panchayati Raj Day observed?**
– 24th April.
- **What did the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provide to Panchayati Raj Institutions?**
– Constitutional status.
- **What did the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 strengthen in India?**
– Grassroots democracy.

WORLD EARTH DAY 2026 (22ND APRIL)

- When is World Earth Day observed?
– 22nd April.
- What was the theme of World Earth Day 2026?
– “Our Power, Our Planet.”
- What does the World Earth Day 2026 theme highlight?
– “Our Power, Our Planet.”

PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

KAMI RITA SHERPA

- How many times did Kami Rita Sherpa scale Mount Everest in May 2026?
– 32nd time.
- What world record did Kami Rita Sherpa set in May 2026?
– A new world record for the highest number of Everest ascents.
- What is Kami Rita Sherpa popularly known as?
– The “Everest Man.”

GENERAL NS RAJA SUBRAMANI

- Who was appointed as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?
– General NS Raja Subramani.
- Whom did General NS Raja Subramani succeed as Chief of Defence Staff?
– Anil Chauhan.
- When was the post of Chief of Defence Staff created?
– In 2019, following the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee.

C. JOSEPH VIJAY

- Who took oath as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?
– C. Joseph Vijay.
- Which political party does C. Joseph Vijay represent?
– Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam.
- Where was the swearing-in ceremony held, and who administered the oath?
– It was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, and the oath was administered by Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

SHASHI SHEKHAR VEMPATI

- Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)?
– Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
- For how long will Shashi Shekhar Vempati serve as the Chairperson of the CBFC?
– Three years from the date he assumes office.
- Which organisation is headed by Shashi Shekhar Vempati following his appointment?
– Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

ROHIT JAIN

- Who has been appointed as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?
– Rohit Jain.
- Which institution appointed Rohit Jain as Deputy Governor?
– Government of India.
- Rohit Jain has been appointed to which position?
– Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

DR. REVATHI MANNEPALLI

- Who has been nominated for the post of Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)?
– Dr. Revathi Mannepalli.
- Which organisation is India seeking re-election to in connection with this nomination?
– ITU Council.
- For which post has India nominated Dr. Revathi Mannepalli?
– Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR).

PRASOON JOSHI

- Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati?
– Shri Prasoon Joshi.
- Which Ministry appointed Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of Prasar Bharati?
– Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- What is Prasoon Joshi's professional background mentioned in the document?
– He is a noted lyricist, writer and communications expert.

DR. R. BALASUBRAMANIAM AND JORAM ANIYA

- Who have been appointed as full-time members of NITI Aayog?
– Dr. R. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Joram Aniya.

- What is significant about Dr. Joram Aniya's appointment?
 - She is the first woman from Northeast India to be appointed as a full-time member of NITI Aayog.
- To which institution have Dr. R. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Joram Aniya been appointed as full-time members?
 - NITI Aayog.

JUSTICE LISA GILL

- Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court?
 - Justice Lisa Gill.
- What is significant about Justice Lisa Gill's appointment?
 - She became the first woman to hold the post in the court's history.
- Which High Court does Justice Lisa Gill head following her appointment?
 - Andhra Pradesh High Court.

ARTHUR LAW

- Who was selected as a 2026 Young Global Leader (YGL) by the World Economic Forum?
 - Arthur Law.
- What position does Arthur Law hold at Storefriendly Asia?
 - Co-founder and Managing Principal.
- Where does Storefriendly Asia operate?
 - Across major Asian cities.

ASHUTOSH GOWARIKER

- Who has been appointed as the Festival Director for the 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?
 - Ashutosh Gowariker.
- Which Ministry appointed Ashutosh Gowariker as the Festival Director of IFFI?
 - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Where will the 57th edition of IFFI be held?
 - Goa.

RAGHU RAI

- Who was widely regarded as the "Father of Indian Photography"?
 - Raghu Rai.
- In which year did Raghu Rai become the first Indian photographer nominated to Magnum Photos?
 - 1977.

- For which major event was Raghu Rai internationally known for his documentation?
 - The Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

SAANYA

- Who became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to earn the Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor qualification?
 - Saanya.
- What qualification did Saanya earn?
 - Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor (CAT-A QFI).
- What was significant about Saanya's achievement?
 - She became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to earn the prestigious CAT-A QFI qualification.

PLACES IN NEWS

LIBYA

- Which Indian company announced a fresh oil and gas discovery in Libya's onshore exploration block?
 - Oil India Limited.
- In which basin was the fresh oil and gas discovery made?
 - Ghadames Basin.
- Which countries share borders with Libya?
 - Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Algeria and Tunisia.

MAYON VOLCANO (PHILIPPINES)

- Where is Mayon Volcano located?
 - Philippines.
- What type of volcano is Mayon Volcano?
 - A classic stratovolcano (composite volcano).
- What is Mayon Volcano known for worldwide?
 - Its near-perfect cone shape and symmetrical structure.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

- Which country reiterated that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands rests with it?
 - United Kingdom.
- Where are the Falkland Islands located?
 - In the South Atlantic Ocean.

- Approximately how far are the Falkland Islands from the southern coast of South America?
 - About 300 miles east of the southern coast of South America.

SWEDEN

- Which country formally joined India's upcoming Venus exploration mission through a collaboration agreement?
 - Sweden.
- What is India's upcoming Venus mission popularly known as?
 - "Shukrayaan".
- When is Shukrayaan expected to be launched?
 - 2028.

TUTI ISLAND

- Tuti Island has emerged as a major flashpoint in which ongoing conflict?
 - The Sudan conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.
- Where is Tuti Island located?
 - At the confluence of the White Nile and Blue Nile in Khartoum.
- Which three cities surround Tuti Island?
 - Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum North (Bahri).

CHABAHAR PORT

- When did the U.S. sanctions waiver for Chabahar Port expire?
 - 26th April 2026.
- Which countries and region are linked with India through Chabahar Port?
 - Afghanistan and Central Asia through Iran.
- Where is Chabahar Port located?
 - In Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province on the Makran Coast along the Gulf of Oman.

SHEKHA JHEEL BIRD SANCTUARY

- What status was granted to Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change?
 - Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance).
- What is India's Ramsar site number after the inclusion of Shekha Jheel?
 - 99th Ramsar site.
- What is the area and origin of Shekha Jheel?
 - It is a 25-hectare perennial freshwater wetland formed in 1852 after the construction of the Upper Ganga Canal.

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

- In which State is Bandipur Tiger Reserve located?
– Karnataka.
- When was Bandipur Tiger Reserve declared a National Park?
– 1974.
- Under which major conservation programme was Bandipur Tiger Reserve later included?
– Project Tiger.

KANHA TIGER RESERVE

- What disease is suspected to have caused the deaths of a tigress and her four cubs in Kanha Tiger Reserve?
– Canine Distemper, linked to severe lung infection.
- What is Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)?
– A highly contagious viral disease that primarily affects carnivorous animals.
- Where is Kanha Tiger Reserve located?
– In Madhya Pradesh, in the Maikal range of the Satpura Hills, forming part of the Central Indian Highlands.

KERALA

- What programme has Kerala launched for the conservation of Sacred Groves (Kavus)?
– A pilot programme for their restoration and conservation.
- What does the Kerala programme combine with scientific biodiversity management?
– Traditional cultural practices and community participation.
- What are Sacred Groves locally known as in Kerala?
– Kavus.

NILGIRI (TAMIL NADU)

- Which organisation rediscovered the prehistoric rock art site “Oor Pare”?
– Yaakai Heritage Trust.
- Where is the prehistoric rock art site “Oor Pare” located?
– In the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.
- Which communities traditionally use the rock shelter during honey collection?
– Irula and Kurumba communities.

DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY (GUJARAT)

- Which invasive shrub will be used as feedstock for India’s first green methanol production plant?
– Prosopis juliflora.

- Which grasslands are threatened by *Prosopis juliflora*?
– The Banni Grasslands of Kutch.
- Where will India's first green methanol production plant be established?
– At the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.

SOMNATH TEMPLE (GUJARAT)

- When did the Prime Minister visit the Somnath Temple to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its reopening?
– 11th May 2026.
- What is being observed as Somnath Swabhiman Parv in 2026?
– The 1,000th anniversary of the 1026 attack on the temple.
- What anniversary of the reopening of Somnath Temple was commemorated in 2026?
– The 75th anniversary.

GUJARAT

- What is India's first barrier-less toll collection system based on?
– Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) technology.
- In which State has India introduced its first barrier-less toll collection system?
– Gujarat.
- What does the introduction of MLFF technology represent for highway infrastructure?
– A significant advancement in highway infrastructure and digital tolling.

KARNATAKA

- What is the first grievance redressal system launched by Karnataka?
– India's First Grievance Redressal System for Gig Workers.
- Who is a gig worker according to the given description?
– A person engaged in income-generating work outside the traditional employer-employee relationship.
- Which category of workers is the grievance redressal system specifically designed for?
– Gig Workers.

SIKKIM

- Which Indian State became the first to adopt a fully paperless judiciary?
– Sikkim.
- Who declared Sikkim's judiciary fully paperless?
– Justice Surya Kant.
- Where was the declaration made?

- During the National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education held in Gangtok.

THOOTHUKUDI (TAMIL NADU)

- What is being established at Thoothukudi under the signed MoU?
 - India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard.
- Which vision does the Mega Greenfield Shipyard support?
 - Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- What is the expected broader impact of the shipyard?
 - Boosting India's shipbuilding capacity.

UMIAM LAKE

- What is Umiam Lake popularly known as?
 - Barapani.
- What is Umiam Lake locally called?
 - Dam Sait.
- Where is Umiam Lake located?
 - Around 15 km north of Shillong.

LADAKH – SACRED RELICS EXPOSITION

- Where was the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of Gautama Buddha organised?
 - Ladakh.
- What was the theme of the exposition?
 - “Peace in Times of Conflict”.
- What are the sacred relics of Gautama Buddha known as?
 - Sarira-Dhatu.

WARANGAL (TELANGANA)

- What did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate in Warangal?
 - PM MITRA Park.
- What is the objective of the “5F Formula”?
 - To transform India into a global textile hub.
- What are the five components of the “5F Formula”?
 - Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion and Foreign.

VISAKHAPATNAM (ANDHRA PRADESH)

- Who laid the foundation stone for Google's AI data centre hub in Visakhapatnam?
 - Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

- How is the Google AI data centre project described in terms of investment?
 - One of the largest single Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects in India's history.
- What transformation does the project aim to bring to Visakhapatnam?
 - To transform it from a traditional "Steel City" into a global "AI-patnam" or "Data City".

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

- Where were the two underwater Guinness World Record attempts held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?
 - Swaraj Dweep.
- What was the size of the Indian national flag displayed underwater near Radhanagar Beach?
 - 60 m × 40 m.
- What is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands geographically?
 - A Union Territory of India comprising around 836 islands, islets and rocky outcrops in the Bay of Bengal.

LADAKH – PETROGLYPH CONSERVATION PARK

- Who laid the foundation stone for India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park?
 - Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- Where is India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park being established?
 - Sindhu Ghat, Ladakh.
- What is the primary objective of the Petroglyph Conservation Park?
 - To preserve Ladakh's ancient rock art heritage.

SPORTS

INDIA TO HOST FIRST WORLD YOGASANA CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

- Where will the first World Yogasana Championship 2026 be held?
 - Ahmedabad.
- What does Yogasana involve?
 - The practice of yoga postures (asanas) that emphasise strength, flexibility, balance, endurance and coordination.
- What is India working towards regarding Yogasana?
 - Institutionalising Yogasana as a competitive discipline with standardised rules, scoring systems and judging criteria.

SOURAV KOTHARI WINS IBSF WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

- Who won the IBSF World Billiards Championship?
– Indian cueist Sourav Kothari.
- Whom did Sourav Kothari defeat in the final?
– Pankaj Advani.
- Where was the final of the IBSF World Billiards Championship held?
– Carlow, Ireland.

BWF THOMAS & UBER CUP 2026

- Which country won the Uber Cup 2026 title?
– South Korea.
- Which country did South Korea defeat in the Uber Cup 2026 final?
– China.
- Which country won the Thomas Cup 2026 title, and whom did it defeat in the final?
– China won the title by defeating France.

MADRID OPEN 2026

- Who won the Madrid Open 2026 men's singles title?
– Italy's Jannik Sinner.
- Whom did Jannik Sinner defeat in the Madrid Open 2026 men's singles final?
– Alexander Zverev.
- What historic record did Jannik Sinner set?
– He became the first player in history to win five consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles.

RITHIKA SRI BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST TRANSGENDER UMPIRE

- Who became India's first transgender cricket umpire?
– Rithika Sri.
- Which State is Rithika Sri from?
– Tamil Nadu.
- What milestone did Rithika Sri achieve in Indian sports?
– She became India's first transgender cricket umpire, marking a significant milestone for inclusivity and diversity.

ARONYAK GHOSH BECOMES INDIA'S 95TH CHESS GRANDMASTER

- Who became India's 95th Chess Grandmaster?
– Aronyak Ghosh.

- Where did Aronyak Ghosh secure his final Grandmaster norm?
 - Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026 in Thailand.
- What title did Aronyak Ghosh achieve after securing his final GM norm?
 - Grandmaster (GM).

UTTAR PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

NDRF CONFERRED PRESIDENT'S COLOUR AWARD IN GHAZIABAD

- Which prestigious award was conferred upon the NDRF?
 - President's Colour Award, also known as the 'Nishaan'.
- Where was the President's Colour Award conferred upon the NDRF?
 - Ghaziabad.
- Who attended the President's Colour Award Ceremony of the NDRF?
 - Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- What is the President's Colour Award?
 - It is one of the highest honours awarded to military and paramilitary forces for distinguished service to the nation.
- Under which provision was the NDRF established?
 - Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- When was the NDRF raised?
 - 19th January 2006.
- Under which Ministry does the NDRF function?
 - Ministry of Home Affairs.
- How many operational zones does the NDRF operate through and where is its headquarters located?
 - It operates through four operational zones and its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

UTTAR PRADESH LAUNCHES 'VISIT MY STATE' TOURISM CAMPAIGN

- What is the name of the tourism campaign launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government?
 - 'Visit My State' campaign.
- What is the primary objective of the 'Visit My State' campaign?
 - To promote domestic tourism and encourage travellers to explore Uttar Pradesh's cultural, religious, heritage and eco-tourism destinations.
- Which department introduced the 'Visit My State' campaign?
 - Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department.
- What facility will state-run museums provide under the 'Visit My State' campaign?
 - Free entry to children and families for a period of two months.
- Which major tourist hubs are planned to be connected through destination-based tourism packages?
 - Ayodhya, Varanasi, Agra, Mathura, Prayagraj, Lucknow and Mirzapur.

- **Which historic landmarks are being developed as venues for weddings, cultural programmes and tourism-related activities?**
 - Chunar Fort and Chhattar Manzil.
- **Which major tourism areas are covered under the campaign?**
 - Rural Tourism, Temple Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Gaushala Tourism.
- **What is the economic objective of the ‘Visit My State’ campaign?**
 - To strengthen domestic tourism and boost local economic activity.

MEJA THERMAL POWER EXPANSION PROJECT

- **Which thermal power expansion project was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Government?**
 - Meja Stage-II Thermal Power Expansion Project.
- **What is the estimated cost of the Meja Stage-II project?**
 - ₹33,000 crore.
- **In which district will the Meja Stage-II Thermal Power Expansion Project be developed?**
 - Prayagraj district.
- **How much additional power generation capacity will be added under the Meja Stage-II project?**
 - 2,400 MW.
- **How many units will be established under the Meja Stage-II project?**
 - Three units.
- **What will be the capacity of each unit under the Meja Stage-II project?**
 - 800 MW each.
- **Which two entities are partners in the 50:50 joint venture for the Meja Stage-II project?**
 - NTPC Limited and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUN).
- **How many units are currently operational at the existing Meja Stage-I Thermal Power Plant and what is their capacity?**
 - Two units of 660 MW each.

CONSULTATION FOR AERONAUTICS COE AT NSTI KANPUR UNDER PM-SETU

- **For which field is a National Centre of Excellence proposed at NSTI Kanpur?**
 - Aeronautics and Allied Programmes.
- **Under which initiative will the proposed CoE at NSTI Kanpur be established?**
 - PM-SETU initiative.
- **What is the primary objective of PM-SETU?**
 - To promote advanced technical skills, industry-oriented training and employability among youth.
- **Which emerging sectors will the proposed CoE focus on for developing a future-ready workforce?**
 - Aerospace, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Advanced Manufacturing.

- **Which courses will be offered at the proposed CoE?**
 - Aircraft Maintenance, Avionics, Aerostructures and Drone Technologies.
- **What modern facilities will be included in the proposed CoE?**
 - Modern laboratories, simulators and advanced training facilities.
- **Who will be consulted for designing market-relevant curricula and training programmes?**
 - Aviation and aerospace companies.
- **Which sectors are expected to generate employment opportunities through the proposed CoE?**
 - Aircraft maintenance, MRO services and the drone industry.

NORTH TECH SYMPOSIUM HELD IN PRAYAGRAJ

- **Where was the North Tech Symposium held?**
 - Prayagraj.
- **Who attended the North Tech Symposium as Chief of Army Staff (COAS)?**
 - Upendra Dwivedi.
- **What was the theme of the North Tech Symposium?**
 - “Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge.”
- **What was the primary objective of the North Tech Symposium?**
 - To enhance coordination among stakeholders.
- **Which areas of defence coordination were emphasised at the symposium?**
 - Faster procurement processes, defence innovation and efficient deployment of advanced military technologies.
- **Which emerging technologies in warfare were discussed at the symposium?**
 - Artificial Intelligence, Drones, Robotics and Advanced Surveillance Systems.
- **What major objective of defence policy was reinforced by the symposium?**
 - Indigenous defence manufacturing and technological modernisation.
- **With which broader national vision was the symposium associated?**
 - The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

SATHI FACILITY AT BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

- **Who visited the SATHI facility at Banaras Hindu University?**
 - Union Minister Jitendra Singh.
- **What is the full form of SATHI?**
 - Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute.
- **With the support of which department was the SATHI facility established at BHU?**
 - Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **What is the primary objective of the SATHI facility?**
 - To provide shared access to advanced scientific instruments, analytical services and technical expertise.

- **Which groups are intended to benefit from the SATHI facility?**
 - Researchers, Industries, MSMEs and Startups.
- **How much financial support did the Department of Science and Technology provide for establishing SATHI-BHU?**
 - Nearly ₹72 crore.
- **When was Banaras Hindu University established?**
 - 1916.
- **When was the Institute of Technology at BHU converted into IIT (BHU)?**
 - 2012.

FRUIT HORIZON 2026 AND FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

- **Where was Fruit Horizon 2026 held?**
 - Lucknow.
- **Which Union Minister participated in Fruit Horizon 2026?**
 - Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- **In which month was Fruit Horizon 2026 held?**
 - May 2026.
- **What were the major focus areas of Fruit Horizon 2026?**
 - Fruit production, quality enhancement, food processing and agricultural exports.
- **Which issues were discussed during Fruit Horizon 2026?**
 - Quality improvement, value addition, fruit processing, export promotion, zero rejection standards and adoption of innovation and technology in horticulture.
- **Which organisations were highlighted for strengthening India's horticulture sector?**
 - Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **What is a Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)?**
 - It is a producer-based organisation in which farmers are members and shareholders.
- **Under which laws can FPOs be registered?**
 - The Companies Act, 2013; the Societies Registration Act, 1860; and as Public Trusts under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

COCA-COLA INDIA AND INVEST UP PARTNERSHIP

- **With which organisation did Coca-Cola India sign an MoU in Uttar Pradesh?**
 - Invest UP.
- **What is the duration of the MoU between Coca-Cola India and Invest UP?**
 - Three years.
- **What is the primary objective of the Coca-Cola India–Invest UP partnership?**
 - To promote community development and environmental sustainability initiatives.
- **What initiative will be undertaken in the water sector under the partnership?**
 - Expansion of water access infrastructure.

- **What is the focus of the partnership regarding waste management?**
 - Strengthening waste collection and recycling systems.
- **What opportunities will be generated for local communities under the partnership?**
 - Livelihood and skill development opportunities.
- **What was the former name of Invest UP?**
 - Udyog Bandhu.
- **What are the major functions of Invest UP?**
 - Attracting new investments, supporting existing and upcoming industries, and resolving industrial and business-related challenges in Uttar Pradesh.

INDIA'S FIRST BASMATI ORGANIC DEMO FARM IN PILIBHIT

- **Where is India's first integrated Basmati and organic training-cum-demonstration farm being established?**
 - Pilibhit district.
- **Which organisation signed the 70-year lease agreement for establishing the facility?**
 - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- **In which village will the Basmati organic demonstration farm be established?**
 - Tanda Bijaisi village in Pilibhit district.
- **In collaboration with which department did APEDA sign the agreement?**
 - Department of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- **What is the primary objective of the Basmati organic demonstration farm?**
 - To promote sustainable agriculture and integrate Basmati cultivation with organic farming practices.
- **What will the project focus on in terms of farmers?**
 - Enhancing farmer awareness and skill development.
- **What training activities will be conducted for farmers?**
 - Hands-on training programmes, workshops and exposure to advanced cultivation techniques.
- **Under which Act was APEDA established and under which Ministry does it function?**
 - It was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, and functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

MAHILA SAMMELAN AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN VARANASI

- **In which city did Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in the Mahila Sammelan?**
 - Varanasi.
- **What was the approximate value of the development projects inaugurated and whose foundation stones were laid during the Mahila Sammelan?**
 - Around ₹6,350 crore.
- **How many projects worth over ₹1,050 crore were inaugurated?**
 - 48 projects.

- **What was the approximate value of the 112 projects whose foundation stones were laid?**
– Around ₹5,300 crore.
- **How many projects had their foundation stones laid?**
– 112 projects.
- **How many new Amrit Bharat Express trains were flagged off during the event?**
– Two.
- **Which railway line construction was initiated during the event?**
– Varanasi-PDUJ rail line.
- **Which major infrastructure works were highlighted during the Mahila Sammelan?**
– Construction of the Varanasi-PDUJ rail line along with a Ganga bridge and upgrading of local road infrastructure.

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS)

- **Which Ministry introduced the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)?**
– Ministry of Railways.
- **When was the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme introduced?**
– December 2022.
- **What is the primary objective of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme?**
– To redevelop 1,309 railway stations into modern integrated transport hubs across India.
- **What approach is followed for redevelopment under the ABSS?**
– Location-specific plans combining modern amenities with regional architectural themes.
- **Which passenger amenities are included under the ABSS?**
– Modern waiting halls, clean toilets, roofed platforms, Wi-Fi, escalators, lifts, executive lounges, business areas and improved signage.
- **Which features are included under the inclusive and accessible design of ABSS?**
– Ramps, lifts, Braille signage, tactile paths, accessible toilets and lift-equipped subways/FOBs.
- **Which examples of culturally integrated station architecture are mentioned in the document?**
– Dwarka, Ahmedabad, Kumbakonam and Gurugram.
- **How does ABSS contribute to urban development?**
– Stations are developed as multimodal city centres integrating bus and metro systems and connecting both sides of cities.

GANGA EXPRESSWAY IN UTTAR PRADESH

- **Where was the Ganga Expressway inaugurated?**
– Hardoi.
- **Which authority developed the Ganga Expressway?**
– Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- **What is the total length of the Ganga Expressway?**
– 594 km.

- **What type of expressway is the Ganga Expressway?**
 - A six-lane access-controlled greenfield expressway.
- **Up to how many lanes can the Ganga Expressway be expanded in the future?**
 - Eight lanes.
- **Which two major cities does the Ganga Expressway connect?**
 - Meerut and Prayagraj.
- **Through how many districts does the Ganga Expressway pass?**
 - 12 districts.
- **Which major economic sectors are expected to benefit from the Ganga Expressway?**
 - Industrial development, agriculture, trade and commerce, and tourism; it is also expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities.

NAUSENA SHAURYA VATIKA IN LUCKNOW

- **Where was the Nausena Shaurya Vatika inaugurated?**
 - Lucknow.
- **Who inaugurated the Nausena Shaurya Vatika?**
 - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- **What is the purpose of the Nausena Shaurya Vatika?**
 - It has been developed as a memorial and educational centre showcasing the bravery, sacrifice, technological excellence and maritime legacy of the Indian Navy.
- **Where is the Nausena Shaurya Vatika located?**
 - Near Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.
- **What is the centrepiece of the Nausena Shaurya Vatika?**
 - The decommissioned Indian Navy warship INS Gomti.
- **After which river is INS Gomti named?**
 - Gomti River.
- **When was INS Gomti commissioned into the Indian Navy?**
 - 1988.
- **At which shipyard was INS Gomti commissioned?**
 - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Bombay.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY AND RARE EARTH RECYCLING FACILITY

- **Who established an integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling facility in Uttar Pradesh?**
 - Rocklink India.
- **Where was India's first integrated recycling plant established?**
 - Sikandrabad Industrial Area in Bulandshahr.
- **What is the primary objective of the recycling facility?**

- To strengthen domestic recovery of critical minerals and support the circular economy in the clean-energy sector.
- **Which materials is the facility designed to process?**
 - Lithium-ion batteries, rare earth magnets and metal-bearing industrial waste.
- **What is the lithium-ion battery recycling capacity of the facility?**
 - 10,000 tonnes per year.
- **What is the rare earth magnet dismantling and processing capacity?**
 - 60 tonnes per month.
- **What is the name of the self-developed lithium-ion recycling technology used by the facility?**
 - R2 technology.
- **What are the key features of R2 technology?**
 - It converts battery scrap into reusable materials and components, removes hazardous volatile compounds and supports environmentally sustainable resource recovery.

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REES)

- **How many metallic elements are included in Rare Earth Elements (REEs)?**
 - 17 metallic elements.
- **How many of these are lanthanides?**
 - 15 lanthanides.
- **Which two elements, apart from the 15 lanthanides, are included in REEs?**
 - Scandium and Yttrium.
- **Why is the term “rare earth” considered somewhat misleading?**
 - Because these elements are relatively abundant in the Earth’s crust but are rarely found in economically viable concentrations or easy-to-extract deposits.
- **Which countries have very large REE reserves according to the document?**
 - China and Brazil.
- **How much rare earth oxide (REO) equivalent does China possess according to the USGS?**
 - Around 44 million metric tons.
- **What percentage of the world’s total rare earth reserves does China account for according to the document?**
 - Approximately 48%.
- **Which Indian states have significant potential for REE mining and processing?**
 - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLAUDE MYTHOS

- **What is Claude Mythos?**
 - An advanced AI model developed by Anthropic.

- **Under which broader AI framework is Claude Mythos developed?**
 - The Claude AI framework.
- **For which major application has Claude Mythos been specifically designed?**
 - General-purpose advanced AI model
- **Which department advised Indian banks to strengthen their cybersecurity systems?**
 - Department of Financial Services.
- **What did the Department of Financial Services advise Indian banks to strengthen?**
 - Their cybersecurity systems and operational resilience.
- **Against what type of risks were Indian banks advised to strengthen their cybersecurity systems?**
 - Emerging risks posed by advanced AI technologies.
- **What type of resilience were Indian banks advised to improve?**
 - Operational resilience.
- **Which company developed Claude Mythos?**
 - Anthropic.

HANTAVIRUS

- **What rare disease outbreak was suspected aboard the Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius?**
 - Hantavirus.
- **Approximately how many passengers and crew were stranded aboard MV Hondius?**
 - Nearly 150.
- **Where was the MV Hondius located during the suspected outbreak?**
 - Near the coast of Cape Verde.
- **What type of disease is Hantavirus infection?**
 - A zoonotic disease.
- **What does zoonotic disease mean?**
 - A disease that spreads from animals to humans.
- **What animals primarily carry Hantaviruses according to the document?**
 - Infected rodents.
- **What can Hantaviruses cause in humans?**
 - Serious diseases.
- **Which cruise ship was affected by the suspected Hantavirus outbreak?**
 - MV Hondius.