

AIR1

UP-PSC2026

Prelims Facts Drill

Current Affairs *through* Q&A

**Monthly Compilation- 08
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UTTAR PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS

- **Which two organisations signed an MoU to strengthen the pharmaceutical and medical device ecosystem?**
 - Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC)
- **Where was the MoU between IPC and UPPPC signed?**
 - India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, during the YEIDA MedTech Investors Meet & Site Visit 2026
- **What is the primary objective of the IPC–UPPPC MoU?**
 - To promote quality standards, regulatory excellence, innovation, and capacity building in the pharmaceutical and medical device ecosystem.
- **Which practices will be promoted through the IPC–UPPPC collaboration?**
 - Indian Pharmacopoeia, pharmacovigilance, and materiovigilance practices
- **How will the IPC–UPPPC partnership help MSMEs?**
 - By promoting digital tools for adverse-event reporting, improving regulatory compliance and product safety.

MY BHARAT NATIONAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (NYVS) CONVENTION

- **Where was the MY Bharat National Youth Volunteers (NYVs) Convention organised?**
 - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- **Which Ministry organised the MY Bharat National Youth Volunteers (NYVs) Convention?**
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- **What is the focus of training provided to National Youth Volunteers (NYVs)?**
 - MY Bharat Portal, leadership, community mobilisation, and flagship initiatives such as Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat and Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.
- **What were the themes of the Chintan Shivir held alongside the NYVs Convention?**
 - “Samvaad Se Samadhaan” and “Samadhaan Se Sankalp”

HERITAGE PLACE - JHANSI FORT

- **Where is the historic well associated with the era of Rani Lakshmibai located?**
 - Jhansi Fort, Uttar Pradesh
- **What was the primary historical function of the well inside Jhansi Fort?**
 - It served as a major source of water for the royal family, soldiers, officials, and residents of the fort.
- **With which major historical event is the well inside Jhansi Fort closely associated?**
 - The Revolt of 1857 and the legacy of Rani Lakshmibai

- **What does the historic well inside Jhansi Fort symbolise?**
 - Jhansi's history, courage, and architectural heritage.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **Which anti-cybercrime campaign was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Police to curb cyber fraud?**
 - Operation CyVajra
- **Who launched Operation CyVajra?**
 - DGP Rajeev Krishna
- **What are the key objectives of Operation CyVajra?**
 - Arrest cybercriminals, recover defrauded money, and enhance public awareness about cybercrime prevention and digital safety.
- **Which modules are being used under Operation CyVajra to expedite the restoration of funds to cybercrime victims?**
 - Money Restoration Module (MRM) and Grievance Redressal Module (GRM)
- **How much money can cybercrime victims recover through the Money Restoration Module (MRM) without registering an FIR?**
 - Up to ₹50,000
- **When is an FIR required for recovery of money under the Money Restoration Module (MRM)?**
 - When the claim exceeds ₹50,000.
- **Which scheme was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide cashless healthcare to teachers and non-teaching staff?**
 - Chief Minister's Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme
- **Where was the Chief Minister's Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme launched?**
 - Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- **How much cashless medical treatment is provided per beneficiary family under the scheme?**
 - Up to ₹5 lakh
- **How many teachers and non-teaching staff are covered under the Chief Minister's Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme?**
 - More than 15 lakh beneficiaries
- **Which categories of education personnel are covered under the scheme?**
 - Regular teachers, Shiksha Mitras, instructors, cooks, and eligible staff of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs).
- **Which bank signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide additional social security benefits under the scheme?**
 - State Bank of India (SBI)

STATE'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

- **Which policy was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet to strengthen the state's startup ecosystem?**
 - Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026

- **What is the main objective of the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026?**
 - To promote innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and employment while strengthening the startup ecosystem.
- **Under the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026, what is the enhanced monthly Sustenance Allowance for startups?**
 - ₹20,000 per month for two years
- **How much Prototype Grant is provided under the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026?**
 - Up to ₹10 lakh
- **What is the enhanced Seed Funding support under the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026?**
 - Up to ₹15 lakh, extendable to ₹50 lakh in exceptional cases
- **Which emerging technology sectors receive special support under the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026?**
 - AI, Robotics, Quantum Technology and Space Technology, among others
- **What is the maximum patient capital support available to eligible startups in emerging technology sectors?**
 - Up to ₹100 crore
- **Which new institutional body will be established under the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026?**
 - Startup Mission Directorate under the Department of IT & Electronics, Uttar Pradesh

RAM TEMPLE, AYODHYA, UTTAR PRADESH

- **Where are around 40 donation boxes (Dan Patras) installed for collecting devotees' cash donations?**
 - Ram Temple, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
- **Which agency is investigating alleged procedural lapses in the management and security of donation boxes at the Ayodhya Ram Temple?**
 - Special Investigation Team (SIT)
- **What security system was found to be missing from some donation boxes during the SIT inspection?**
 - Prescribed double-lock security system
- **What key-management issue has been raised during the SIT inquiry into the temple's donation system?**
 - Concerns over the custody and storage of donation-box keys not following prescribed procedures.
- **What aspects of donation management are being examined by the SIT?**
 - Collection, custody, key management, operational control, supervision, and accountability of donations.

KAUSHAL SETU PORTAL & KAUSHAL SARATHI PORTAL

- **Which two portals were launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government to make the skill development ecosystem paperless and technology-driven?**
 - Kaushal Setu and Kaushal Sarathi

- **What is the primary function of the Kaushal Setu portal?**
 - Online registration and empanelment of Training Partners under the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM).
- **What information is provided through the Kaushal Sarathi portal?**
 - District-wise information on training centres, courses, and Training Partners under UPSDM.
- **Which organisation signed MoUs with KLK Private Limited and Winsome Textile Industries Limited for training and placement opportunities?**
 - Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)
- **Which sectors are covered under the training and placement MoUs signed by UPSDM?**
 - Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and textiles
- **What is the title of the coffee table book released during the World Youth Skills Day 2026 celebrations in Lucknow?**
 - “Skilling the Future Uttar Pradesh: Journey from Training to Transformation”
Sports – KGBV Students in Cricket
- **Which former KGBV student represented India in the ICC Under-19 Women’s T20 World Cup 2023?**
 - Archana Devi
- **Which former KGBV student represented the Uttar Pradesh Under-19 Women’s Cricket Team in the BCCI Under-19 Women’s Domestic Tournament?**
 - Nisha Verma
- **Which Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) did Archana Devi and Nisha Verma attend?**
 - KGBV, Auras, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh
- **Which country won the ICC Under-19 Women’s T20 World Cup 2023?**
 - India

HERITAGE PLACE - SULTANPUR

- **On the banks of which river is the ancient riverfront structure, believed locally to have been a medieval river port, located?**
 - Gomti River, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- **What material was used in the construction of the ancient riverfront structure in Sultanpur?**
 - Lakhori bricks
- **What was the suspected historical function of the ancient structure near the Gomti River?**
 - A river port or landing point for unloading, storing, and transporting goods.
- **Approximately how far is the ancient riverfront structure located from the old fort in Sultanpur?**
 - About 300 metres
- **Which river’s historical importance as a route for transportation, trade, and communication is highlighted by the surviving ruins?**
 - Gomti River

TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Which railway zone will introduce AI-based cameras at railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh?**
 - North Eastern Railway (NER)
- **How many railway crossings in the Lucknow Division will be covered under the pilot project?**
 - 21 railway crossings
- **What is the primary purpose of AI-based cameras at railway crossings?**
 - To collect accurate, real-time traffic data for scientific planning of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs).
- **What will AI-enabled cameras automatically record and classify at railway crossings?**
 - Vehicles crossing railway gates

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Where is India's first and the world's fifth Night Safari being developed?**
 - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- **What is the name of the Night Safari and Zoological Park project approved by the Supreme Court?**
 - Kukrail Night Safari and Zoological Park
- **What is the estimated cost of the Kukrail Night Safari and Zoological Park project?**
 - ₹1,500 crore
- **Which authorities' recommendations must be complied with for the Kukrail Night Safari project?**
 - Central Empowered Committee (CEC), Central Zoo Authority (CZA), and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

- **Which road in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been approved for widening into a four-lane corridor?**
 - Maldepur–Phephna road
- **What is the length of the Maldepur–Phephna road being upgraded into a four-lane corridor?**
 - 12.5 km
- **Which Union Ministry approved the four-laning of the Maldepur–Phephna road?**
 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- **What broader connectivity plan does the Maldepur–Phephna four-laning form part of?**
 - Strengthening road connectivity between Ghazipur and Manjhi, improving access to eastern Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring Bihar.
- **What are the major expected benefits of the Maldepur–Phephna four-laning project?**
 - Reduced traffic congestion, improved connectivity with Bihar, promotion of trade and investment, and regional economic development.

DIGI ROVER SPECIAL LAND SURVEY CAMPAIGN

- Which campaign was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to ensure accurate and transparent land surveys in Uttar Pradesh?
 - Digi Rover Special Land Survey Campaign
- From which district was the Digi Rover Special Land Survey Campaign launched?
 - Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Until when will the Digi Rover Special Land Survey Campaign be implemented across Uttar Pradesh?
 - 15 August 2026
- Which technology is used by Digi Rover devices for precise land measurement?
 - Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technology
- What is the primary objective of the Digi Rover Special Land Survey Campaign?
 - To ensure accurate land surveys, resolve demarcation cases, minimise land disputes, prevent encroachments, and improve transparency in land records.

ARA-BALLIA FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROJECT

- Which two cities will be connected by the new four-lane highway proposed via Bairia?
 - Ara (Bihar) and Ballia (Uttar Pradesh)
- What is the estimated cost of the Ara-Ballia four-lane highway project?
 - ₹1,564.19 crore
- Which organisation invited tenders for the Ara-Ballia four-lane highway project?
 - National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- Under which model will the Ara-Ballia highway project be executed?
 - Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model
- What is the scheduled construction period for the Ara-Ballia highway project?
 - Four years, followed by a five-year maintenance period.

VARANASI HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- How many elevated highway projects worth over ₹25,500 crore were approved for Varanasi by the Union Cabinet?
 - Two
- What is the length and capacity of the Greenfield Elevated Corridor connecting NH19 with the Varanasi Ring Road?
 - 46 km, six-lane
- Which model will be used to implement the 46-km Greenfield Elevated Corridor in Varanasi?
 - Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)
- Along which river will the second elevated corridor in Varanasi be developed?
 - Varuna River

- **How much time is expected to be taken to travel from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport to Kashi Vishwanath Temple after completion of the projects?**
 - About 15 minutes
- **How much time is expected to be taken to travel from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport to BHU after completion?**
 - Around 20 minutes

POLITY, GOVERNANCE & JUDICIARY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORISATION FRAMEWORK

- **Under which Act has the Department of Telecommunications notified the new telecom authorisation framework?**
 - Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- **Which earlier licensing regime has been replaced by the new telecom authorisation framework?**
 - The licensing regime established under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
- **What are the key objectives of the new telecom authorisation framework?**
 - To simplify approvals, reduce multiple licensing requirements, improve ease of doing business and support emerging telecom technologies.
- **Which platform will serve as the official portal for telecom authorisations?**
 - Telecom e-Services Portal.
- **Which specialised telecom services have distinct rules under the framework?**
 - M2M services, PM-WANI, enterprise communication services, in-flight and maritime connectivity, and captive/private telecom networks.

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR LADAKH

- **Which ministry has proposed a special governance framework for Ladakh under Article 371?**
 - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **What is the main objective of the proposed governance framework for Ladakh?**
 - To provide constitutional safeguards for Ladakh's tribal identity, land rights, employment and local governance.
- **Which constitutional provision is proposed as the basis for Ladakh's special governance framework?**
 - Article 371.
- **What type of governance model has been proposed for Ladakh?**
 - A customised sui generis governance model under Article 371.
- **Which states are cited as examples of constitutional safeguards for tribal culture, land and employment?**
 - Nagaland and Mizoram.

INDIAN PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP

- **What is the primary legal purpose of an Indian passport?**
 - It is primarily a travel document and is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship.
- **Which ministry clarified the status of an Indian passport in relation to citizenship?**
 - Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- **Which Supreme Court case recognised a passport as strong evidence of nationality?**
 - Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978).
- **What did the Supreme Court recognise regarding a passport in the Maneka Gandhi case?**
 - A passport was recognised as strong evidence of nationality, though it is not conclusive proof of citizenship.

PCPNDT ACT, 1994

- **What does PCPNDT stand for?**
 - Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques.
- **When was the PCPNDT Act enacted?**
 - 1994.
- **What are the primary objectives of the PCPNDT Act?**
 - To prevent sex selection, curb female foeticide and improve the Child Sex Ratio.
- **When was the PCPNDT Act amended to include pre-conception sex selection technologies?**
 - 2003.
- **Why has the PCPNDT Act gained renewed attention in rural India?**
 - Due to the growing burden of cancer and increasing use of portable ultrasound technology.
- **Which organisation included a chapter on the 1975–77 Emergency in its Class 9 Social Science textbook?**
 - National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- **What is the name of the NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook containing the chapter?**
 - Understanding Society: India and Beyond.
- **When was the National Emergency of 1975 proclaimed?**
 - 25 June 1975.
- **On what ground was the 1975 National Emergency proclaimed?**
 - Internal disturbance.

LEGAL STATUS OF RSS

- **When and where was the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founded?**
 - It was founded in 1925 at Nagpur by Dr. K. B. Hedgewar.
- **What was the RSS originally conceived as?**
 - A decentralised socio-cultural movement focused on character-building and strengthening social unity.

- **How is the RSS recognised for income-tax purposes?**
 - As a Body of Individuals (BOI) under Section 2(31) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- **Which Fundamental Right enables citizens to form associations or unions?**
 - Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution.
- **What is the primary source of funding for the RSS?**
 - Guru Dakshina, voluntary annual contributions made by its swayamsevak (volunteers).

VIKSIT BHARAT SHIKSHA ADHISHTHAN (VBSA) BILL, 2025

- **What is the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025?**
 - A proposed legislation seeking to establish a single, unified regulatory framework for higher education in India.
- **Why has the VBSA Bill, 2025 faced criticism from States and higher educational institutions?**
 - Due to concerns over institutional autonomy, excessive centralisation and the proposed regulatory framework.
- **Which parliamentary body is currently examining the VBSA Bill, 2025?**
 - Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).
- **What is the key institutional reform proposed by the VBSA Bill?**
 - Replacing the UGC, AICTE and NCTE with a single apex higher education regulatory body.
- **Which apex body would be established under the Bill?**
 - Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA).
- **Which areas of education would fall under the VBSA framework?**
 - Higher education, including technical education, teacher education and architecture education.
- **Which professional disciplines would remain outside the ambit of the VBSA?**
 - Medicine and law.
Grounds of Arrest – Supreme Court
- **What issue has the Supreme Court indicated may be referred to a larger Bench?**
 - Whether investigating agencies are mandatorily required to provide the grounds of arrest in writing to an accused.
- **What triggered the recent legal controversy over written grounds of arrest?**
 - The Meghalaya High Court granted bail after an incorrect Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) provision was mentioned in the arrest memo.
- **What was the State's argument regarding the incorrect provision in the arrest memo?**
 - A clerical error should not invalidate an arrest if the accused was otherwise informed of the reasons for arrest.
- **Why may the Supreme Court refer the matter to a larger Bench?**
 - Due to conflicting Supreme Court judgments regarding whether the grounds of arrest must necessarily be communicated in writing.
- **What did Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India (2023) hold regarding grounds of arrest?**
 - The Enforcement Directorate (ED) must provide the grounds of arrest in writing under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

- **What did Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra (2025) rule?**
 - Written grounds of arrest should be provided in all criminal cases, including cases under the BNS/IPC.
- **What did Dr. Rajinder Rajan v. Union of India (2026) reaffirm?**
 - The requirement of furnishing written grounds of arrest.
- **What was the ruling in Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)?**
 - Communication of the grounds of arrest is mandatory, but oral communication may suffice where providing written grounds is not practicable.

FCRA AMENDMENT RULES, 2026

- **Which ministry notified the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026?**
 - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Which earlier rules have been amended by the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026?**
 - Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.
- **What are the main objectives of the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026?**
 - To enhance transparency, strengthen compliance and prevent misuse of foreign contributions by NGOs and associations.
- **What details must NGOs specify under the amended Rules?**
 - Exact objectives and State/UT-wise areas of operation.
- **What time limit has been given to existing FCRA-registered organisations to update their details?**
 - One year.
- **For which activities can foreign contributions be used under the amended Rules?**
 - Worship, religious education, heritage preservation and community kitchens, subject to FCRA provisions.
- **Which Supreme Court judgment held that the right to propagate religion does not include the right to convert others?**
 - Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh (1977).
- **Who are included among the key functionaries covered by this restriction?**
 - Directors, partners, trustees, office-bearers and the Karta of a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF).
- **What minimum proportion of previously received foreign funds must an NGO utilise before receiving additional instalments?**
 - At least 75%.
- **What minimum expenditure is required for renewal eligibility?**
 - At least ₹10 lakh on approved activities over two years.

RIGHT TO WALK A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

- **Which Supreme Court judgment recognised the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths as a Fundamental Right?**
 - Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors. (2026).

- **From which Fundamental Right does the right to walk primarily flow?**
 - Article 19(1)(d), which guarantees freedom of movement throughout India.
- **Which other constitutional provisions reinforce the right to walk safely on footpaths?**
 - Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), 19(1)(c) and Article 21.
- **Which Fundamental Right under Article 21 reinforces the right to safe walking infrastructure?**
 - The right to life and personal liberty.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

DEFENCE EXERCISES & MILITARY INITIATIVES

- **What is Exercise RIMPAC 2026?**
 - Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) is the world's largest multinational naval exercise, hosted biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Pacific region.
- **Which Indian aircraft participated in Exercise RIMPAC 2026?**
 - The Indian Navy's **P-8I maritime patrol aircraft**.
- **Where was Exercise RIMPAC 2026 held?**
 - Hawaii, USA.
- **What is Exercise Khaan Quest 2026?**
 - A multilateral peacekeeping exercise aimed at enhancing preparedness for UN peace support operations.
- **Where was Exercise Khaan Quest 2026 held?**
 - Mongolia.
- **Which Indian service participated in Khaan Quest 2026?**
 - The Indian Army.
- **What is the 'VIJAY' Roadmap?**
 - A roadmap unveiled for the modernisation of the Indian Army, focusing on strengthening its operational capabilities and preparedness.
- **Who unveiled the 'VIJAY' Roadmap?**
 - General Dhiraj Seth, the 31st Chief of the Army Staff.
- **With which broader defence initiative is the VIJAY Roadmap aligned?**
 - The Ministry of Defence's Decade of Transformation (2023–2032).
- **What is Project BRAHMANK?**
 - A Border Roads Organisation (BRO) initiative aimed at strengthening border connectivity and defence preparedness while promoting socio-economic development in remote areas.
- **Where did Project BRAHMANK celebrate its 16th Raising Day?**
 - Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **What are Baaz Battalions?**
 - Specialised Indian Army drone warfare units dedicated to operating, managing and maintaining drones and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) systems.

- **What is the primary objective of Baaz Battalions?**
 - To strengthen the Army's drone warfare and unmanned aerial capabilities.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY & MARITIME SECURITY

- **What is Netra?**
 - Netra is India's indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system.
- **Which organisation developed Netra?**
 - The Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) under the DRDO.
- **What clearance has Netra received?**
 - Final Operational Clearance (FOC).
- **Why is Netra significant for India?**
 - It strengthens India's indigenous airborne surveillance, early-warning and command-and-control capabilities.
- **Which countries have developed indigenous AEW&C capabilities?**
 - The United States, Russia, Israel, China and India.
- **Which Indian Navy ship helped foil the piracy attempt on MV Golden Arsenal?**
 - INS Trikand, supported by MARCOS (Marine Commandos).
- **Where was the piracy attempt on MV Golden Arsenal foiled?**
 - In the Gulf of Aden.
- **Approximately how far from Djibouti did the incident occur?**
 - About 300 nautical miles east-northeast of Djibouti.
- **What is the significance of the operation?**
 - It highlights the Indian Navy's role in ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security and protection of commercial shipping in the strategically important Gulf of Aden.
- **What is the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)?**
 - An **indigenously developed precision-guided artillery rocket** designed for long-range engagement of enemy artillery positions, bunkers, logistics hubs and other strategic targets.
- **Where was the Pinaka LRGR successfully tested?**
 - At the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- **What is the operational range of the Pinaka LRGR?**
 - Approximately 60–120 km.
- **What is the Garudastra system?**
 - An indigenous 120 mm vehicle-mounted mortar system designed to provide highly mobile and accurate indirect fire support.
- **Where was Garudastra tested?**
 - Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- **What are the key capabilities of Garudastra?**
 - Rapid deployment, high rate of fire, **shoot-and-scoot capability**, **Multiple Rounds Simultaneous Impact (MRSI)**, support for precision-guided munitions and integration with command-and-control networks.

- **Which three indigenously built naval ships were commissioned?**
 - INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray.
- **Where were these three naval ships commissioned?**
 - Kolkata.
- **Which shipyard built these three vessels?**
 - Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- **What is the indigenous content of these naval ships?**
 - More than 75% indigenous content.
- **What type of warship is INS Dunagiri?**
 - A Project 17A stealth guided-missile frigate designed for blue-water operations.
- **What are the major systems/weapons associated with INS Dunagiri?**
 - BrahMos missiles, MR-SAM, MF-STAR radar, sonar, electronic warfare systems and anti-submarine weapons.
- **What is INS Sanshodhak designed for?**
 - It is a Survey Vessel Large (SVL) designed for hydrographic surveys, seabed mapping, navigation support, port development and oceanographic research.
- **Which advanced systems are used by INS Sanshodhak?**
 - Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and multibeam echo sounders.
- **What is INS Agray?**
 - An Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) designed primarily for coastal operations.

ECONOMY, INDUSTRY & FINANCE

EMICON 2.0

- **What is Semicon 2.0?**
 - The next phase of India's semiconductor programme aimed at expanding the semiconductor ecosystem and advancing technological capabilities.
- **Which organisation approved Semicon 2.0?**
 - Union Cabinet.
- **Which earlier programme does Semicon 2.0 build upon?**
 - India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0, launched in 2021.
- **What does Semicon 2.0 represent in India's semiconductor journey?**
 - A transition from ecosystem creation under ISM 1.0 to ecosystem expansion and technological advancement.
- **What is the total financial outlay of Semicon 2.0?**
 - ₹1,27,500 crore.
- **What are the major pillars of Semicon 2.0?**
 - Chip design, machines and materials, semiconductor fabs, and the ATMP/OSAT ecosystem.

NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (NIIF)

- **Which body approved the additional investment commitment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)?**
 - Union Cabinet.
- **How much additional investment has the Government of India approved for NIIF?**
 - ₹30,000 crore.
- **What will be the Government of India's total commitment to NIIF after the additional investment?**
 - ₹60,000 crore.
- **Which NIIF fund will primarily receive the additional investment?**
 - NIIF Infrastructure Fund II.
- **What target corpus is NIIF Infrastructure Fund II expected to achieve?**
 - Around ₹30,000 crore.
- **Which major infrastructure sectors will receive investment through the fund?**
 - Transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure and electric mobility (e-mobility).
- **What is the significance of GST 2.0 in India's indirect tax system?**
 - It represents the next generation of GST reforms aimed at simplifying tax rates, easing compliance and strengthening the tax system.
- **How many central and state taxes and cesses were replaced by GST?**
 - 17 taxes and 13 cesses.
- **What type of tax system is GST?**
 - A unified, destination-based indirect tax system.
- **How many GST taxpayers were registered in May 2026?**
 - About 1.65 crore, compared with 66.5 lakh in 2017.
- **How did gross GST collections change between 2017–18 and 2025–26?**
 - They increased from ₹7.4 lakh crore to ₹22.27 lakh crore.
- **How has technology strengthened GST transparency and compliance?**
 - Through GSTN, e-invoicing, pre-filled returns, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics.
- **Which GST measures have particularly benefited MSMEs?**
 - Higher exemption limits, the Composition Scheme, quarterly returns, SMS-based NIL returns and faster registration.
- **Which organisation released the Country Income Classification for FY 2027?**
 - World Bank.
- **How has the World Bank classified India for FY 2027?**
 - As a Lower-Middle-Income Economy.
- **Since when has India remained in the Lower-Middle-Income category?**
 - Since 2009.

- **What was India's GNI per capita in 2025 according to the World Bank classification?**
– USD 2,760.
- **Which economies moved from Lower-Middle-Income to Upper-Middle-Income status?**
– Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Philippines, Jordan and Micronesia.
- **Which country moved from the Low-Income to Lower-Middle-Income category?**
– Togo.
- **How has the share of low-income economies changed since 1987?**
– It declined from about 30% in 1987 to around 11% in 2026.

CHINA'S HELIUM EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

- **Why has China imposed a temporary ban on helium exports?**
– To conserve domestic helium supplies for strategic industries such as AI chip manufacturing and quantum computing.
- **Why is China's helium export restriction a global concern?**
– It could tighten global helium supply and affect medical, semiconductor, aerospace and high-technology sectors.
- **What percentage of its helium requirements does China import?**
– Over 80%.
- **What percentage of global helium does China produce?**
– About 1.6%.
- **Why is helium important for cryogenic applications?**
– Its extremely low boiling point allows it to remain liquid at very low temperatures.
- **Which countries are major global helium producers?**
– United States, Qatar and Russia, with Canada and Algeria also being significant producers.
- **What is India's level of dependence on imported helium?**
– India is 100% dependent on helium imports.
- **Which country supplies more than half of India's helium imports?**
– Qatar.
- **Which healthcare technology is highly dependent on helium?**
– Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines.

MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME (MPMS)

- **What is the budgetary outlay approved for the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)?**
– ₹62,500 crore.
- **What is the primary objective of the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme?**
– To scale up mobile phone manufacturing, increase domestic value addition, strengthen supply-chain resilience and enhance India's global competitiveness.
- **What is the implementation period of the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme?**
– FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

- **What is the range of incentive rates under the MPMS?**
 - 2.25% to 5%, depending on the category of manufacturer and performance criteria.
- **What additional incentive is available for manufacturers sourcing key components and subassemblies domestically?**
 - Up to 1.5%.

SEMAGLUTIDE PATENT EXPIRY & INDIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

- **Which company developed Semaglutide?**
 - Novo Nordisk of Denmark.
- **What type of drug is Semaglutide?**
 - A **GLP-1 receptor agonist** used in the treatment of Type-2 diabetes and obesity.
- **What are the major therapeutic benefits of Semaglutide?**
 - It improves blood glucose control, promotes weight loss and reduces cardiovascular risks.
- **Which countries have also witnessed Semaglutide patent expiry, creating export opportunities for India?**
 - China, Brazil, Canada, South Africa and Turkey.
- **How can generic Semaglutide strengthen India's pharmaceutical industry?**
 - It can help Indian companies transition from conventional small-molecule generics towards complex **peptide therapeutics** and advanced drug-delivery technologies.
- **Which government initiative can support investment in Semaglutide manufacturing?**
 - The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**.

TEXTILES

- **What was the focus of the Textiles Summit 2026 held in New Delhi?**
 - **Sustainability, exports and innovation**, with the goal of achieving India's **USD 100 billion textile export target by 2030**.
- **What is the approximate value of India's textile and apparel industry?**
 - Around **USD 179 billion**.
- **What is India's global position in textile and apparel exports?**
 - India is the **6th largest exporter**, accounting for around **4% of global exports**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & SOCIAL WELFARE

VB-G RAM G ACT, 2025

- **What is the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025?**
 - A rural employment and development law that replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

- **When did the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 come into force?**
– 1 July 2026.
- **What is the primary objective of the VB-G RAM G Act?**
– To provide statutory wage employment to rural households while promoting sustainable livelihoods, durable infrastructure and the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.
- **How many days of guaranteed employment are provided under the VB-G RAM G Act?**
– 125 days per financial year, compared with 100 days under MGNREGA.
- **What special provision has been introduced during peak agricultural seasons?**
– A 60-day no-work period during peak sowing and harvesting seasons to protect the availability of agricultural labour.
- **What is the nationwide minimum wage floor under the Act?**
– ₹300 per day.
- **Within what period must wages be paid to workers?**
– Weekly or within 14 days of completion of work.
- **What is the funding pattern for normal States?**
– 60:40 between the Centre and State.
- **What is the funding pattern for Northeastern and Himalayan States and UTs with legislatures?**
– 90:10 between the Centre and State/UT.
- **Who bears the entire expenditure for UTs without legislatures?**
– The Central Government.
- **What are the four priority sectors under the Act?**
– Water conservation and management; core rural infrastructure; livelihood infrastructure; and climate resilience and disaster mitigation works.

NIPUN BHARAT MISSION

- **What does NIPUN Bharat stand for?**
– National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- **When was the NIPUN Bharat Mission launched?**
– July 2021.
- **Which Ministry launched the NIPUN Bharat Mission?**
– Ministry of Education.
- **Under which scheme is the NIPUN Bharat Mission implemented?**
– Samagra Shiksha.
- **Which policy framework provides the foundation for the NIPUN Bharat Mission?**
– National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **What is the primary objective of the NIPUN Bharat Mission?**
– To achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).
- **What did the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 identify as the highest priority in school education?**
– Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).

- **Approximately how many elementary school children were estimated to lack basic reading and numeracy skills when NEP 2020 was formulated?**
 - Over five crore children.
- **What age group is covered under the NIPUN Bharat Mission?**
 - Children aged 3–9 years.
- **Which educational stages are covered under the NIPUN Bharat Mission?**
 - Balvatika to Grade 3.
- **What are ‘Lakshyas’ under NIPUN Bharat?**
 - Grade-wise learning outcomes and foundational literacy and numeracy targets.

PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY)

- **What is the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)?**
 - A Centrally Sponsored Core Scheme aimed at promoting irrigation-led agricultural transformation.
- **When was PMKSY launched?**
 - 2015.
- **What are the key objectives of PMKSY?**
 - Expanding assured irrigation, improving water-use efficiency, conserving water and enhancing agricultural productivity.
- **What is the funding pattern under PMKSY?**
 - 60:40 between Centre and States; 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States; and 100% Central funding for Union Territories.
- **Which major programmes were merged to form PMKSY?**
 - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and On-Farm Water Management (OFWM).
- **What are the two core approaches emphasised under PMKSY?**
 - “Jal Sanchay” for water conservation and “Jal Sinchan” for efficient irrigation.
- **What was the PMKSY outlay for 2021–26?**
 - ₹93,068.56 crore.
- **What allocation was made for PMKSY in the Union Budget 2026–27?**
 - ₹6,587 crore.
- **How many farmers have benefited from AIBP according to the given data?**
 - 17.3 million farmers.
- **How much central assistance was provided under AIBP according to the given data?**
 - ₹21,023 crore.
- **What does the “Har Khet Ko Pani” component of PMKSY aim to achieve?**
 - To expand irrigation coverage through surface and groundwater-based irrigation projects.
- **How many minor irrigation projects have been completed under Har Khet Ko Pani?**
 - 3,462 projects.

- **How much additional irrigation potential has been created through completed minor irrigation projects?**
– 5.93 lakh hectares.
- **How much financial assistance has been provided for Watershed Development?**
– ₹12,432 crore.
- **How many farmers have benefited from the Watershed Development component?**
– About 1.34 million farmers.
- **What is the objective of the “Per Drop More Crop” component?**
– To promote efficient water use through micro-irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- **What percentage of financial assistance under micro-irrigation is provided to small and marginal farmers?**
– 55%.
- **What percentage of financial assistance under micro-irrigation is provided to other farmers?**
– 45%.
- **How much area is currently covered under micro-irrigation according to the given data?**
– 110.92 lakh hectares.
- **Approximately what share of India’s net sown area is covered under micro-irrigation?**
– About 8%.

SUMAN ROADMAP 2030

- **What is the SUMAN Roadmap 2030?**
– A comprehensive strategic framework developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare in India.
- **Who launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030?**
– The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- **During which event was the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 launched?**
– The 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).
- **What is the primary objective of the SUMAN Roadmap 2030?**
– To strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare through evidence-based and equity-focused interventions.
- **Which global development framework does the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 support?**
– The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to maternal and newborn health by 2030.
- **What framework anchors the SUMAN Roadmap 2030?**
– The RMNCHA+N framework.
- **What does RMNCHA+N stand for?**
– Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition.
- **In how many districts will time-bound interventions under the roadmap be implemented?**
– 130 districts.

- **Across how many high-focus States will the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 implement targeted interventions?**
 - 13 high-focus States.
- **What is the target for India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) under the SUMAN Roadmap 2030?**
 - To reduce it to below 70 per 100,000 live births.
- **What is Viksit UDAN?**
 - The revamped next phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) aimed at strengthening regional air connectivity and supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- **Where was Viksit UDAN launched?**
 - Rajasthan.
- **When was the original UDAN scheme launched?**
 - October 2016.
- **What does UDAN stand for?**
 - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik.
- **When was the Modified UDAN Scheme approved by the Union Cabinet?**
 - March 2026.
- **What is the implementation period of Viksit UDAN?**
 - FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36.
- **What is the total budgetary allocation for Viksit UDAN?**
 - ₹28,840 crore.
- **Which areas are primarily targeted under Viksit UDAN?**
 - Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, remote and hilly areas, islands and aspirational districts.
- **How many airports are proposed to be developed or revived under Viksit UDAN?**
 - Around 100 airports.
- **How much investment is proposed for developing or reviving around 100 airports?**
 - ₹12,159 crore over eight years.
- **What is Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under Viksit UDAN?**
 - Financial support provided to airline operators to make regional air routes commercially viable.

ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS (ABC) AND APAAR ID

- **What is the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)?**
 - A digital repository that enables students to store, manage, transfer and redeem academic credits earned from recognised higher education institutions.
- **Which Ministry established the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)?**
 - Ministry of Education.
- **Which organisation regulates the Academic Bank of Credits?**
 - University Grants Commission (UGC).

- **Under which national education policy framework are ABC and APAAR ID key initiatives?**
 - National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **What is the primary objective of the Academic Bank of Credits?**
 - To create a flexible, portable and learner-centric education system by enabling academic credit transfer and redemption.
- **What does APAAR stand for?**
 - Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry.
- **What is APAAR ID?**
 - A unique 12-digit student identification number providing a lifelong academic identity.
- **Under which initiative is APAAR ID promoted?**
 - “One Nation, One Student ID.”

BHAVYA INDUSTRIAL PARKS SCHEME

- **What does BHAVYA stand for?**
 - Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana.
- **Which department implements the BHAVYA Industrial Parks Scheme?**
 - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **What type of scheme is BHAVYA?**
 - A Central Sector Scheme.
- **What is the primary objective of the BHAVYA Industrial Parks Scheme?**
 - To develop 100 investment-ready, world-class industrial parks across India.
- **Which major national initiatives does BHAVYA support?**
 - Make in India and PM Gati Shakti.
- **What is the minimum land requirement for industrial parks under the BHAVYA Industrial Parks Scheme in non-hilly States?**
 - 100 acres.
- **What is the minimum land requirement for industrial parks under BHAVYA in hilly States, Northeastern States, Union Territories and smaller States?**
 - 25 acres.

KISAN SARATHI

- **What is Kisan Sarathi?**
 - An integrated digital agroadvisory platform aimed at providing farmers with timely and accessible agricultural information and advisory services.
- **When was Kisan Sarathi launched?**
 - July 2021.
- **Which ministries jointly launched Kisan Sarathi?**
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

GITCHAK NAKANA

- **What is Gitchak Nakana?**
 - A newly discovered genus and species of blind, aquifer-dwelling fish.
- **Where was Gitchak Nakana discovered?**
 - In a dug-out well in Assam.
- **Who discovered Gitchak Nakana?**
 - An international team of taxonomists.
- **What is the significance of Gitchak Nakana?**
 - It is the first recorded blind groundwater fish from Northeast India and the Eastern Himalayan region.

SHE-LEAPS

- **What is the objective of the SHE-LEAPS platform?**
 - To strengthen women-led rural enterprises under the vision of “Viksit Gram–Viksit Bharat.”
- **Where was the SHE-LEAPS platform launched?**
 - At the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan in New Delhi.

MANAS

- **What does MANAS stand for?**
 - Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra.
- **What is MANAS?**
 - India’s National Narcotics Helpline and a technology-enabled platform for reporting and counselling related to drug abuse and trafficking.
- **When was the MANAS platform launched?**
 - 18 July 2024.
- **Which organisation operates the MANAS platform?**
 - Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **What is the primary purpose of MANAS?**
 - To strengthen citizen participation in combating drug abuse and trafficking through reporting and counselling services.

SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)

- **When was the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) launched?**
 - 2014–15.
- **Under which scheme was SMAM launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme?**
 - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- **What principle guides the implementation of SMAM?**
 - The principle of “Reach the Unreached.”

- **Which categories of farmers and groups are specifically targeted under SMAM?**
 - Small and marginal farmers, women farmers, SCs, STs, FPOs, SHGs and rural entrepreneurs.
- **What are Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) under SMAM?**
 - Centres where farmers can rent agricultural machinery and equipment at affordable rates.
- **What technological interventions are promoted under SMAM?**
 - Agricultural machinery, Hi-Tech Hubs, modern farm equipment and precision farming technologies.
- **Which regions receive special emphasis under SMAM?**
 - North-Eastern and other underserved States.

ESARAS PLATFORMS

- **What is eSARAS?**
 - An official e-commerce platform connecting products made by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) directly with consumers across India.
- **Which Ministry developed the eSARAS platform?**
 - Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Under which mission does eSARAS operate?**
 - Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **What is the primary objective of eSARAS?**
 - To promote women-led entrepreneurship, rural livelihoods and market access for SHG products.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES & PORTALS

- **Which app was launched as a Personal Health Record (PHR) and digital gateway under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)?**
 - Aarogya Setu 2.0
- **Which ministry launched Aarogya Setu 2.0?**
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Which AI-enabled portal was launched to enhance transparency and accountability in rural development programmes?**
 - Rural Internal Audit Portal
- **Which ministry launched the AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal?**
 - Ministry of Rural Development
- **What is the key objective of the Rural Internal Audit Portal?**
 - End-to-end digital management of risk-based and compliance audits of rural development programmes.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

VIKRAM-1 – INDIA'S PRIVATE ORBITAL LAUNCH VEHICLE

- Which company successfully launched Vikram-1?
 - Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace**.
- What is Vikram-1?
 - India's first privately developed **orbital launch vehicle**, designed to place satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- What was the significance of Mission Aagaman?
 - It marked the **first successful orbital mission by an Indian private space company**.
- Which countries had previously demonstrated private orbital launch capability before India?
 - The United States and China.
- Why is Skyroot Aerospace significant for India's space sector?
 - It is India's first **space-sector unicorn** and represents the growing role of private enterprises in space activities.
- After whom is the Vikram series of launch vehicles named?
 - Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, regarded as the father of India's space programme.
- Which earlier Skyroot mission preceded Vikram-1?
 - The **Vikram-S** suborbital demonstration mission in 2022.
- What payload capacity is Vikram-1 designed for?
 - Approximately **300–480 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- Which market does Vikram-1 primarily target?
 - The rapidly expanding **small-satellite launch market**.
- Which engine powers Vikram-1?
 - The **Raman liquid-fuel engine**.
- What is notable about the Raman engine's manufacturing?
 - It is manufactured using **3D-printing technology**.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

- What is Gaganyaan?
 - India's first indigenous human spaceflight programme.
- When was the Gaganyaan programme announced?
 - 2018.
- How many astronauts will Gaganyaan carry?
 - Three astronauts.
- To what altitude will the Gaganyaan mission send astronauts?
 - Approximately 400 km into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

- **What is the planned duration of the Gaganyaan crewed mission?**
 - Three days.
- **How will the Gaganyaan crew return to Earth?**
 - Through a sea splashdown in Indian waters.
- **Which countries have independently conducted human spaceflight missions before India?**
 - United States, Russia and China.
- **Which launch vehicle will be used for the Gaganyaan mission?**
 - Human-rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3).
- **What will the HLVM3 place into orbit during Gaganyaan?**
 - The Orbital Module (OM).
- **What major systems are being tested through uncrewed Gaganyaan missions?**
 - Crew Module, Crew Escape System and HLVM3.
- **Who are the four astronauts designated for the Gaganyaan programme?**
 - Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla.
- **Which future Indian space programme is Gaganyaan expected to support by 2035?**
 - Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
- **What long-term human spaceflight goal is planned for 2040?**
 - A crewed lunar mission.

MISSION DRISHTI – OPTOSAR SATELLITE

- **What happened to Mission Drishti after its launch?**
 - It lost communication after an onboard anomaly triggered by a geomagnetic solar storm.
- **What is the suspected cause of the anomaly on Mission Drishti?**
 - Radiation from the geomagnetic solar storm is suspected to have affected a critical onboard system during the Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP).
- **What was unique about Mission Drishti?**
 - It was designed to simultaneously capture optical multispectral and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) images of the same location.
- **What is an OptoSAR satellite?**
 - A satellite combining optical imaging with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging for comprehensive Earth observation.
- **How does the SAR sensor help in Earth observation?**
 - It can penetrate cloud cover and operate during both day and night.
- **Which other sectors could benefit from Mission Drishti's imagery?**
 - Infrastructure planning and insurance assessment.
- **What does LEOP stand for in satellite missions?**
 - Launch and Early Orbit Phase.

SPUDCELL – SYNTHETIC CELL

- **What is SpudCell?**
 - A laboratory-made synthetic cell constructed entirely from non-living chemical components.
- **What makes SpudCell significant in synthetic biology?**
 - It can grow, replicate its DNA, divide and undergo Darwinian evolution without being derived from an existing living cell.
- **What forms the cell membrane of SpudCell?**
 - A liposome, an artificial lipid vesicle.
- **Which cell-free protein synthesis system is used in SpudCell?**
 - The PURE system.
- **What does the PURE system enable SpudCell to do?**
 - It translates the custom-designed DNA genome into functional proteins without using a living cell.
- **Approximately how large is the DNA genome of SpudCell?**
 - About 90,000 base pairs.
- **Which protein is encoded by SpudCell's DNA and what is its function?**
 - Alpha-hemolysin, which forms molecular pores or “hooks” on the cell surface.
- **What is produced when SpudCell undergoes division?**
 - Two daughter cells.
- **What major biological capabilities does SpudCell demonstrate?**
 - Growth, genome replication, cell division and Darwinian evolution.

ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

KHARIF 2026 CONTINGENCY STRATEGY & EL NIÑO

- **Why has the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare introduced a contingency strategy for Kharif 2026?**
 - Due to a significantly delayed southwest monsoon and a 43% rainfall deficit, with concerns over possible El Niño impacts.
- **How many vulnerable districts have been identified under the Kharif contingency strategy?**
 - 315 districts across 12 States.
- **Which major States are among those identified as vulnerable?**
 - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- **How have the vulnerable districts been prioritised?**
 - On the basis of irrigation coverage.
- **How many districts have less than 25% irrigation coverage?**
 - 111 high-priority districts.

- **How many districts have 25–50% irrigation coverage?**
 - 76 medium-priority districts.
- **How many districts have more than 50% irrigation coverage?**
 - 128 low-priority districts.
- **Which organisation prepared the District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs)?**
 - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **What do the District Agriculture Contingency Plans aim to address?**
 - Crop planning, water management, risk mitigation and weather-related contingencies.
- **What types of crops have States been advised to promote?**
 - Short-duration, low water-requiring and drought-tolerant crop varieties.
- **Which crops have received special emphasis for improving resilience in rainfed regions?**
 - Pulses, oilseeds and Shree Anna (millets).
- **Which scheme will provide crop insurance support to farmers?**
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

UNFCCC SB64 & CLIMATE TIPPING POINTS

- **Where were the 64th Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) under the UNFCCC held?**
 - Bonn, Germany.
- **What major issue did India raise at SB64 regarding climate negotiations?**
 - India called for greater scientific clarity before incorporating the concept of **climate tipping points** into international climate negotiations.
- **Which upcoming UN climate conference was SB64 a preparatory meeting for?**
 - COP31, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye.
- **What does the term “climate tipping point” refer to?**
 - A critical threshold beyond which small changes can trigger rapid, self-reinforcing and potentially irreversible changes in the Earth’s climate system.
- **What did India clarify about the 1.5°C and 2°C goals under the Paris Agreement?**
 - They are **politically agreed temperature targets**, not scientifically established climate tipping points.
- **Which major principle did India invoke regarding the impact of climate policies on developing countries?**
 - Equity and **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**.
- **What trade-related climate measure did India oppose?**
 - The European Union’s **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**.

SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT – ONE-TIME SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- **Which States signed a one-time settlement agreement to resolve financial disputes related to the Sardar Sarovar Project?**
 - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

- **What principle of governance does the agreement highlight?**
 - Cooperative federalism.
- **Which major projects are covered under the settlement?**
 - The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) and the Indira Sagar Project.
- **What does the agreement provide regarding Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R)?**
 - It addresses the financial liabilities associated with the rehabilitation of families displaced by the projects.
- **What change has Gujarat agreed to make in its share of project costs?**
 - Gujarat will increase its share from **50% to 75%**.

DELHI EV POLICY 2.0

- **When will the Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0 remain in effect?**
 - From 1st July 2026 to 31st March 2030.
- **What is the target of Delhi EV Policy 2.0 for 2030?**
 - To achieve 30% electrification of Delhi's total vehicle fleet.
- **What was the approximate EV penetration in Delhi in 2025?**
 - Around 14%.

INDIA'S FIRST NIGHT SAFARI

- **Where is India's first Night Safari and Zoological Park proposed to be developed?**
 - Kukrail Reserve Forest, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Which government has been permitted to develop India's first Night Safari?**
 - The Uttar Pradesh Government, with permission from the Supreme Court.
- **After which countries will India have the world's fifth Night Safari?**
 - Singapore, Thailand, China and Indonesia.

PARAQUAT DICHLORIDE

- **Which herbicide has the Central Government proposed to ban nationwide?**
 - Paraquat Dichloride.
- **Under which law has the proposed ban on Paraquat Dichloride been issued?**
 - Section 27 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.
- **Why has the government proposed a ban on Paraquat Dichloride?**
 - Due to serious risks to human and animal health.
- **What type of herbicide is Paraquat Dichloride?**
 - A non-selective, fast-acting herbicide (weedicide).
- **For what purposes is Paraquat Dichloride used?**
 - Weed control and crop desiccation before harvest.

- Which crops commonly use Paraquat Dichloride?
 - Tea, cotton and coffee, among others.

PARROT BORNAVIRUS 4 (PABV-4)

- What significant development has India reported regarding Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4)?
 - India's first confirmed detection and genetic characterisation of PaBV-4.
- Which genus does Parrot Bornavirus 4 belong to?
 - Orthobornavirus.
- Which family does PaBV-4 belong to?
 - Bornaviridae.
- Which group of birds is primarily infected by PaBV-4?
 - Psittacine birds.
- Which birds are included among the hosts of PaBV-4?
 - Parrots, parakeets, macaws, cockatoos, cockatiels, budgerigars and lovebirds..

HEALTH & MEDICINE

DRAFT NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH POLICY, 2026

- Which department released the Draft National Health Research Policy, 2026 for public consultation?
 - Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- What is the primary objective of the Draft National Health Research Policy, 2026?
 - To establish India's first comprehensive framework integrating biomedical research, clinical medicine, public health, epidemiology, digital health and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- What factors will guide the periodically updated national health research agenda?
 - India's disease burden, health equity, pandemic preparedness and national strategic priorities.
- Which body is proposed for strategic oversight of health research?
 - National Health Research Stewardship Committee.
- What target has been proposed for public expenditure on health research by 2037?
 - 0.072%.
- What target has been proposed for public expenditure on health research by 2047?
 - 0.15%.

NEOSEP1 INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIAL

- Which Indian institution became the first centre in India to enrol a newborn in the NeoSep1 clinical trial?
 - Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry.

- **What is NeoSep1?**
 - A multicentre international clinical trial focused on improving treatment of neonatal sepsis.
- **Which organisation sponsors the NeoSep1 clinical trial?**
 - Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP).
- **What type of organisation is GARDP?**
 - A not-for-profit organisation working to combat drug-resistant infections.
- **What is the target enrolment for the NeoSep1 trial?**
 - 3,000 newborns across Asia and Africa by 2028.
- **Which countries are currently participating in the NeoSep1 clinical trial?**
 - Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, India, Vietnam and Pakistan.
- **Which countries are planned to be added to the NeoSep1 trial?**
 - Malaysia, Bangladesh and Uganda.
- **What is the primary objective of the NeoSep1 clinical trial?**
 - To identify the most effective antibiotic combinations for treating neonatal sepsis.

SECONDARY INFERTILITY IN INDIA

- **What is secondary infertility?**
 - Difficulty in achieving a subsequent pregnancy after having previously conceived.
- **What has been the trend in the prevalence of secondary infertility in India according to NFHS data?**
 - It increased from about 19.5% in the early 1990s to 28.6% in 2015–16.
- **What are the major factors contributing to the rise in secondary infertility in India?**
 - Delayed parenthood, age-related decline in fertility, lifestyle disorders, reproductive health complications and increasing male infertility.
- **How does the World Health Organization (WHO) define infertility?**
 - Failure to achieve pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse.
- **What proportion of people of reproductive age globally experience infertility during their lifetime, according to WHO?**
 - About one in six.
- **What are the major categories of factors responsible for infertility?**
 - Male factors, female factors, combined male and female factors, and unexplained causes.
- **What is the significance of fallopian-tube blockage in infertility?**
 - It can prevent the sperm and egg from meeting, thereby hindering natural conception.

CYCLOSPORIASIS OUTBREAK

- **What disease has recently caused a widespread outbreak in the United States?**
 - Cyclosporiasis, a gastrointestinal illness.
- **What causes cyclosporiasis?**
 - It is caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayentanensis*.

- **How is cyclosporiasis primarily transmitted?**
 - Through consumption of food or water contaminated with Cyclospora parasites.
- **What type of illness does cyclosporiasis cause?**
 - A gastrointestinal infection affecting the digestive system.
- **What are the common symptoms of cyclosporiasis?**
 - Prolonged watery diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, bloating, nausea, fatigue and loss of appetite.
- **Why have US health authorities issued advisories?**
 - To reduce exposure to potentially contaminated food and water and prevent further transmission.

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)

- **What is the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)?**
 - An international food standards body that develops global standards, guidelines and codes of practice for food safety and quality.
- **Where was the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held?**
 - Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Which commodities received global standards at the 49th Session of the CAC?**
 - Large cardamom, coriander and vanilla.
- **What is the significance of the Codex standards for these commodities?**
 - They promote uniform quality and food safety and facilitate international trade.
- **Which organisation is associated with the Codex Alimentarius Commission?**
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) ANNOUNCED MANDATORY ANNUAL TESTOSTERONE SCREENING

- **What has the US Department of Defense announced regarding testosterone screening for active-duty personnel?**
 - Mandatory annual testosterone screening for active-duty personnel aged 30 years and above, while it is voluntary for those below 30.
- **What is the primary objective of the annual testosterone screening policy?**
 - To improve troop health and operational readiness.
- **Which physiological functions are associated with testosterone?**
 - Muscle and bone development, fertility, red blood cell production, sexual function and mood regulation.

ICMR

- **Which ICMR initiative received the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026?**
 - ICMR-MINDS.

- **Under which category did ICMR-MINDS receive the Gold Award?**
 - “Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services.”
- **Where is the headquarters of ICMR located?**
 - New Delhi.
- **Under which Ministry does ICMR function?**
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **When was ICMR established?**
 - It was established in **1911** as the **Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA)**.
- **When was IRFA renamed as ICMR?**
 - 1949.

PMRBP

- **What is the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)?**
 - India’s **highest civilian honour for children**, recognising exceptional achievements by children aged **5–18 years**.
- **When was PMRBP instituted?**
 - 2019.
- **When and by whom is PMRBP conferred?**
 - It is conferred annually by the President of India in New Delhi on Veer Bal Diwas (26 December).
- **What does Veer Bal Diwas commemorate?**
 - The martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh.

SPORTS

SPORTS

- **Who won the FIFA World Cup 2026?**
 - Spain, defeating Argentina 1-0 after extra time.
- **Where was the FIFA World Cup 2026 final held?**
 - MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA
- **Who scored the decisive goal in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final?**
 - Ferran Torres
- **Which country became the first to simultaneously hold both the Men’s and Women’s FIFA World Cup titles?**
 - Spain
- **Who won the Golden Ball at the FIFA World Cup 2026?**
 - Rodri (Spain)

- **Who won the Golden Boot at the FIFA World Cup 2026?**
– Kylian Mbappé (France)
- **Who became the first player to win consecutive FIFA World Cup Golden Boots?**
– Kylian Mbappé (2022 and 2026)
- **Who became the No. 1 batter in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings?**
– Ishan Kishan
- **Who became the youngest Indian cricketer to make an international debut?**
– Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, at 15 years and 99 days.
- **Against which team did Vaibhav Sooryavanshi make his T20I debut?**
– England, at Old Trafford, Manchester.
- **Which country won its maiden bronze medal at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026?**
– India
- **Which team did India defeat to win the bronze medal at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026?**
– Bahrain, by 3–1
- **Where was the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026 held?**
– Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Who won the Wimbledon 2026 Men's Singles title?**
– Jannik Sinner (Italy)
- **Whom did Jannik Sinner defeat in the Wimbledon 2026 final?**
– Alexander Zverev (Germany)
- **How many Grand Slam singles titles has Jannik Sinner won after his Wimbledon 2026 victory?**
– Five
- **Which three cricketers were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame Class of 2026?**
– Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra and Kevin Pietersen
- **Where was the ICC Hall of Fame Class of 2026 induction ceremony held?**
– Edinburgh, Scotland

AWARDS & HONOURS

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

- **Which film won Best Feature Film at the 72nd National Film Awards?**
– Article 370 (Hindi).
- **Who won the Best Actress (Leading Role) award at the 72nd National Film Awards?**
– Yami Gautam for Article 370.
- **Who shared the Best Actor (Leading Role) award at the 72nd National Film Awards?**
– Mammooty for Bramayugam and Kartik Aaryan for Chandu Champion.

- **Who won the Best Debut Director award?**
– Randeep Hooda for Swatantrya Veer Savarkar.
- **Which film won Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment?**
– Kalki 2898 AD.
- **Who won the Best Direction award?**
– Rajkumar Periasamy for Amaran.
- **Which film won the award for promoting National, Social and Environmental Values?**
– Captain Miller.
- **Which film won the Best Children's Film award?**
– 35 – Chinna Katha Kaadu.
- **Which film won the Best Non-Feature Film award?**
– Bhangaar.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

- **What is the name of Seychelles' highest environmental honour conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**
– “The Guardian of the Blue Horizon.”
- **Who conferred Seychelles' highest environmental honour on Prime Minister Modi?**
– President Dr. Patrick Herminie of Seychelles.
- **Which is Indonesia's highest civilian honour conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**
– Bintang Adipurna.
- **Who conferred the Bintang Adipurna on Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**
– Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.
- **Which Indian Prime Minister was the first to receive Indonesia's Bintang Adipurna before Narendra Modi?**
– Jawaharlal Nehru.
- **Why was Prime Minister Modi awarded Indonesia's Bintang Adipurna?**
– For his contribution to strengthening the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

JNANPITH AWARD

- **Who has been conferred the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025)?**
– R. Vairamuthu, renowned Tamil poet and lyricist.
- **Who were the earlier Tamil recipients of the Jnanpith Award?**
– Akilan and Jayakanthan.
- **What is the significance of R. Vairamuthu receiving the Jnanpith Award?**
– He became the **third Tamil literary figure** to receive the award, ending a **24-year gap** for Tamil literature.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & TOURISM

K. KAMARAJ – FREEDOM FIGHTER AND NATION-BUILDER

- On which occasion did Prime Minister Narendra Modi pay tribute to K. Kamaraj?
– His birth anniversary on 15 July.
- When and where was K. Kamaraj born?
– He was born in 1903 in present-day Tamil Nadu.
- Which event inspired K. Kamaraj to join the Indian freedom movement?
– The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919.
- In which movement did K. Kamaraj participate in 1930?
– Salt Satyagraha.
- When did K. Kamaraj serve as Chief Minister of the erstwhile Madras State?
– 1954–1963.
- When did K. Kamaraj become President of the Indian National Congress?
– 1963.
- Why is K. Kamaraj popularly known as the “Kingmaker”?
– Because of his influential role in national leadership transitions within the Congress.
- Which highest civilian award was conferred on K. Kamaraj posthumously?
– Bharat Ratna.
- In which year was K. Kamaraj awarded the Bharat Ratna?
– 1976.

DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

- On which occasion did the Prime Minister pay tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee?
– His birth anniversary on 6 July.
- Where was Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee born?
– Calcutta (present-day Kolkata).
- Who was the father of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee?
– Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, a noted educationist and former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.
- At what age did Syama Prasad Mookerjee become the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University?
– 33 years, in 1934.
- Which international academic conference did Syama Prasad Mookerjee attend as a representative of Calcutta University?
– Conference of the Universities of the British Empire in England.
- Which Bengali journal was founded by Syama Prasad Mookerjee in 1922?
– Bang Wani.

- **Which newspaper did Syama Prasad Mookerjee later launch?**
– The Nationalist.
- **Which political party was founded by Syama Prasad Mookerjee in 1951?**
– Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- **What is the Bharatiya Jana Sangh regarded as the precursor to?**
– Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- **Which constitutional provision did Syama Prasad Mookerjee strongly oppose?**
– Article 370.
- **When did Syama Prasad Mookerjee die?**
– 1953, while in custody under controversial circumstances.
- **By what title is Syama Prasad Mookerjee remembered for his parliamentary contributions?**
– The “Lion of Parliament.”
Swami Vivekananda – Spiritual Leader and Nationalist Thinker
- **On which occasion did the Prime Minister pay tribute to Swami Vivekananda?**
– His Nirvana Day on 4 July.
- **What was the original name of Swami Vivekananda?**
– Narendra Nath Datta.
- **When was Swami Vivekananda born?**
– 12 January 1863.
- **Who was Swami Vivekananda’s spiritual master?**
– Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- **Who requested Narendra Nath Datta to adopt the name ‘Vivekananda’?**
– Maharaja Ajit Singh of Khetri, in 1893.
- **Where did Swami Vivekananda meditate for three days in 1892?**
– On the rock off Kanyakumari, now known as the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.
- **What major philosophical tradition did Swami Vivekananda popularise globally?**
– Vedanta and Yoga.
- **What principle did Swami Vivekananda emphasise regarding service to humanity?**
– “Service to Jiva is Service to Shiva.”
- **What are the four paths to liberation explained by Swami Vivekananda?**
– Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga.
- **Where did Swami Vivekananda represent Hinduism in 1893?**
– The Parliament of Religions in Chicago.
- **Which organisation did Swami Vivekananda address in London in 1896?**
– London Hindu Association.
- **When and where did Swami Vivekananda pass away?**
– 4 July 1902 at Belur Math while meditating.
- **Why is 4 July observed as Nirvana Day in connection with Swami Vivekananda?**
– It marks the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY – LITERARY PIONEER AND NATIONALIST

- **On which occasion did the Prime Minister pay tribute to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay?**
 - His birth anniversary on 27 June.
- **When and where was Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay born?**
 - 27 June 1838 at Naihati, Bengal Presidency, present-day West Bengal.
- **What was Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's profession besides writing?**
 - He served as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector from 1858.
- **Why is Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay known as the “Father of the Modern Bengali Novel”?**
 - For pioneering modern Bengali prose fiction and shaping the Bengali novel tradition.
- **Which novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was inspired by the Sannyasi Rebellion?**
 - Anandamath (1882).
- **Which song from Anandamath became a rallying cry of the Swadeshi Movement?**
 - Vande Mataram.
- **Where was Vande Mataram first published?**
 - In Bangadarshan in 1875.
- **Which concept did Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay popularise through his writings?**
 - The concept of Bharat Mata.
- **What title is associated with Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay?**
 - “Sahitya Samrat” or “Emperor of Literature.”
- **When did Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay pass away?**
 - 8 April 1894.

NADAPRABHU SRI KEMPE GOWDA

- **On which occasion did the Vice-President of India pay tribute to Nadaprabhu Sri Kempe Gowda?**
 - His 517th birth anniversary on 27 June.
- **Who was Kempe Gowda I?**
 - A prominent chieftain of the Vijayanagara Empire and a descendant of the Morasu Gowda lineage.
- **With whose approval did Kempe Gowda establish Bengaluru?**
 - Emperor Achyuta Deva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- **Which major structures were built by Kempe Gowda I while establishing Bengaluru?**
 - Bengaluru Fort and Bengaluru Pete (market area).
- **From where did Kempe Gowda shift his capital after founding Bengaluru?**
 - Yelahanka.
- **What identity has Bengaluru acquired due to Kempe Gowda's inclusive vision?**
 - “Mini Bharat.”

- **What is the “Statue of Prosperity” associated with Kempe Gowda?**
 - A 108-foot statue in Bengaluru commemorating Kempe Gowda.

GI-TAGGED PRODUCTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **How many traditional products of Himachal Pradesh were recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) status?**
 - Eight traditional products.
- **How many GI-tagged products does Himachal Pradesh now have?**
 - 17 GI-tagged products.
- **Which Himachali product is also known as Chharma?**
 - Spiti’s Seabuckthorn.
- **What is Spiti’s Seabuckthorn known for?**
 - Its rich nutritional value and use in health products.
- **What is Chamba Metal Art known for?**
 - Intricate metalwork, often used in religious and ceremonial objects.
- **Which traditional woollen headgear of Himachal Pradesh has received GI status?**
 - Kinnauri Topi.
- **Which Himachali fruit variety has received GI status?**
 - Kinnauri Apple.
- **Which corn variety from Himachal Pradesh has received GI status?**
 - Salooni Safed Makka.
- **What is Sirmauri Loiya?**
 - A traditional woollen blanket from Sirmaur.
- **Which traditional Himachali dish has received GI status?**
 - Sepu Vadi.
- **What is Kinnauri Jewellery known for?**
 - Handcrafted silver and gemstone jewellery.
- **Which iconic fruit of Mandu, Madhya Pradesh, has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?**
 - Khurasani Imli.
- **What is Khurasani Imli?**
 - The fruit of the Baobab tree, known for its sweet-sour, tangy taste and nutritional, medicinal and cultural significance.
- **Where is Khurasani Imli primarily associated with?**
 - Mandu in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Which tree produces Khurasani Imli?**
 - The Baobab tree.
- **How long ago is the Baobab tree believed to have been introduced to Mandu?**
 - Nearly 600 years ago.

- **Who is believed to have introduced Baobab trees to Mandu?**
 - Afghan and Arab traders.
- **Where is India's largest natural population of Baobab trees found?**
 - Mandu region of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Which parts of the Baobab tree are traditionally used by tribal communities?**
 - Fruit pulp, juice, seeds and bark.
- **For which ailments have tribal communities traditionally used Khurasani Imli?**
 - Diabetes, digestive disorders, fever and fatigue.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF US INDEPENDENCE

- **When is Independence Day celebrated in the United States?**
 - 4th July every year.
- **What event does US Independence Day commemorate?**
 - The adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.
- **In which year did the United States adopt its Declaration of Independence?**
 - 1776.
- **What anniversary of US Independence was commemorated in 2026?**
 - The 250th anniversary.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & WORLD AFFAIRS

Mombasa Declaration – Our Ocean Conference

- **At which conference was the Mombasa Declaration adopted?**
 - The 11th Our Ocean Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- **What is the primary objective of the Mombasa Declaration?**
 - To strengthen global action against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by improving fisheries transparency and accountability.
- **Which regions are represented by countries supporting the Mombasa Declaration?**
 - Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and the Pacific.
- **What does the Mombasa Declaration seek to improve in fisheries governance?**
 - Collection, sharing and public accessibility of information on fishing vessels and fishing activities.
- **Which organisation supported the development of the Mombasa Declaration?**
 - Coalition for Fisheries Transparency.
- **How many civil society organisations are part of the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency?**
 - More than 60 organisations.
- **Which global framework does the Mombasa Declaration endorse?**
 - Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency.
- **How many policy principles are contained in the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency?**
 - 10 low-cost policy principles for transparent and sustainable fisheries management.

- **What is Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing?**
 - Fishing activities that violate applicable laws, are not properly reported or recorded, or occur outside effective regulatory and management frameworks.

INDIA-UK CETA AND DOUBLE CONTRIBUTION CONVENTION (DCC)

- **When did the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) come into effect?**
 - 15 July 2026.
- **What percentage of India's exports has the UK granted duty-free access under CETA?**
 - Nearly 99% of India's exports, covering almost 100% of bilateral trade value.
- **What percentage of tariff lines will India reduce tariffs on under CETA?**
 - 89.5% of tariff lines, covering about 91% of UK exports, through a phased approach.
- **Which sectors have been excluded from India's tariff concessions?**
 - Dairy, agriculture, millets, apples, edible oils and gold.
- **How many major service sectors has the UK opened under CETA?**
 - 12 major service sectors and 137 sub-sectors.
- **Which Indian sectors are expected to benefit from the UK's services commitments?**
 - IT, healthcare, finance and engineering services.
- **What is the tariff reduction timeline for sensitive sectors covered under PLI and Make in India?**
 - Phased tariff reductions over 5-10 years.

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: ROADMAP TO 2030

- **When did India and New Zealand elevate their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership?**
 - During the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades.
- **What is the name of the framework adopted by India and New Zealand for their Strategic Partnership?**
 - India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030.
- **What is the primary objective of the Roadmap to 2030?**
 - To establish a long-term framework for cooperation in trade, defence, technology, education, clean energy and the Indo-Pacific.
- **What areas of defence and maritime security cooperation are envisaged?**
 - Expanded military exchanges and naval exercises, along with cooperation in maritime affairs, hydrography, nautical cartography and mutual logistics support.
- **What trade target has India and New Zealand set for 2030?**
 - To double bilateral trade to NZ\$7 billion.
- **What mechanism will promote trusted trade between the two countries?**
 - Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AEO-MRA).

- **What initiative has been launched for New Zealand's kiwifruit sector?**
 - A Kiwifruit Action Plan and Centres of Excellence in Nagaland and Uttarakhand.
- **Which agreement focuses on disaster resilience and emergency response?**
 - An MoU between India's NDMA and New Zealand's NEMA.

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY, 2023 – FORCED LABOUR IMPORTS

- **Which organisation amended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023 to prohibit imports produced through forced labour?**
 - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- **What has been prohibited under the amended Foreign Trade Policy, 2023?**
 - Import of goods produced wholly or partly through forced labour.
- **Which new provision has been inserted into FTP, 2023?**
 - Paragraph 2.20B.
- **What does Paragraph 2.20B provide for?**
 - It enables prohibition of imports of goods manufactured using forced labour.
- **Who has the power to prohibit specific imports based on DGFT enquiries?**
 - The Central Government, through separate notifications.
- **Where will the detailed procedures for implementing the forced-labour import prohibition be specified?**
 - In the Handbook of Procedures (HBP), 2023.

INDIA-INDONESIA COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- **When was the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established?**
 - 2018.
- **What major defence deal did Indonesia sign with India during the Prime Minister's State Visit?**
 - A USD 200 million deal to procure BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- **Which Indian air-to-air missile received its first export order from Indonesia?**
 - Astra air-to-air missile.
- **What agreement was extended to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and Indonesia?**
 - The agreement on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation.
- **Which Indonesian port will India and Indonesia jointly develop?**
 - Sabang Port, located near the Strait of Malacca.
- **Which bilateral security dialogue did the two countries agree to convene?**
 - The 3rd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD).
- **What industrial investment was announced by SAIL in Indonesia?**
 - Establishment of a stainless-steel slab manufacturing facility.
- **Which strategic sectors were covered under new MoUs between India and Indonesia?**
 - Rare earth magnets, steel and critical mineral supply chains.

- **Which Indian authority signed an MoU with Indonesian authorities on medical products?**
 - Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- **What was the focus of the agreement between India's NDMA and Indonesia's disaster management agency?**
 - Disaster preparedness and response.
- **What agricultural assistance did India announce for Indonesia?**
 - Supply of 100 tonnes of DWR-162 wheat seeds.
- **How will India contribute to Indonesia's cultural heritage conservation?**
 - India will assist in the restoration of the Prambanan Temple.
- **What has been declared as the Tagore–Dewantara Year?**
 - 2026–27 has been declared the Tagore–Dewantara Year of Cultural and Educational Diplomacy.
- **Which Indian institution will establish a branch campus in Indonesia?**
 - Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM Bangalore) at Singhasari SEZ in East Java.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA ANNUAL LEADERS' SUMMIT

- **Which summit was held during the Prime Minister of India's visit to Australia?**
 - The 3rd India–Australia Annual Leaders' Summit.
- **What key areas were the focus of the India–Australia summit?**
 - Indo-Pacific cooperation, defence, energy security, critical technologies, resilient supply chains and economic partnership.
- **What framework did India and Australia adopt for defence and security cooperation?**
 - The Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC), replacing the 2009 framework.
- **Which areas are covered under the Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation?**
 - Interoperability, cybersecurity, defence industrial collaboration and maritime security.
- **Which international and regional frameworks did India and Australia reaffirm their commitment to?**
 - UNCLOS, ASEAN-led mechanisms and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- **What is the Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap (MSCR)?**
 - A framework to strengthen maritime domain awareness, information sharing and operational coordination between India and Australia.
- **Which Indian and Australian agencies signed an MoU on maritime security?**
 - The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Australia's Maritime Border Command (MBC).
- **Where was the Rooftop Solar Training Academy launched?**
 - At Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), Gandhinagar.
- **What is the objective of the Rooftop Solar Training Academy?**
 - To train 2,000 women and youth as solar technicians under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana.
- **How much additional investment did AustralianSuper announce in India's NIIF?**
 - AUD 500 million.

- **Which Australian universities received approval to establish campuses in India?**
 - Flinders University in Bengaluru and Victoria University in Gurugram.

INDIA'S UNSC NON-PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN 2028–29

- **For which term has India launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC)?**
 - 2028–29.
- **Which country is also contesting for the Asia-Pacific seat against India?**
 - Tajikistan.
- **Which countries and regional groups is India seeking to engage for support?**
 - Global South countries, African nations, OIC members, SCO countries, island states and Western partners.
- **What major issues will India champion during its UNSC campaign?**
 - Energy security, food and fertiliser security, sustainable development and equitable global governance.
- **Why is India undertaking high-level diplomatic outreach across different regions?**
 - To build wider international support ahead of the 2028–29 UNSC election.
- **Which regions are specifically being targeted for diplomatic outreach?**
 - The Gulf, Caribbean, Africa and other regions.
- **Which country's recent victory illustrates the growing competition for UNSC seats?**
 - Kyrgyzstan.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS, 1949 & “HUMMUS TRAIL” CONTROVERSY

- **What are the Geneva Conventions, 1949?**
 - A set of four international treaties forming the core of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), aimed at protecting victims of armed conflicts.
- **What recent controversy brought the Geneva Conventions into focus in India?**
 - The “Hummus Trail” controversy, involving a petition seeking the arrest of an Israeli soldier in Himachal Pradesh over alleged war crimes in Gaza.
- **Which organisation filed the petition seeking the arrest of the Israeli soldier?**
 - The Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF).
- **What legal issues have emerged from the controversy?**
 - Questions concerning International Humanitarian Law, India's legal obligations and the sovereign administrative powers of the Indian authorities.
- **What is the “Hummus Trail”?**
 - A popular travel route in India frequented particularly by young Israeli travellers after completing their mandatory military service.
- **Why is it called the “Hummus Trail”?**
 - The term is inspired by the Hippie/Hashish Trail of the 1970s–80s.

- **Which are the major destinations along the Hummus Trail?**
 - Kasol, Dharamkot, Rishikesh, Pushkar, Goa, Hampi, Gokarna, Kodaikanal and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **What is “Tiul Gadol”?**
 - A post-military-service journey undertaken by many Israeli veterans, generally lasting around 6–12 months and often financed through post-service benefits.
- **Approximately how many Israeli tourists visit India annually?**
 - Around 80,000.
- **How much did Israel allocate in 2026 to strengthen tourism cooperation with India?**
 - 4 million NIS.

INDIA-SEYCHELLES RELATIONS & PRIME MINISTER’S STATE VISIT

- **Why did the Prime Minister of India visit Seychelles?**
 - As the Guest of Honour for Seychelles’ 50th National Day celebrations, marking the Golden Jubilee of Independence.
- **What major bilateral milestone was marked during the visit?**
 - 50 years of India-Seychelles diplomatic relations, commemorated through a special bilateral logo.
- **Which digital payment system will be introduced in Seychelles with India’s support?**
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- **Which Indian organisation signed the agreement for introducing UPI in Seychelles?**
 - NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) with the Central Bank of Seychelles.
- **What financial assistance did India extend to Seychelles?**
 - A ₹1,250 crore Line of Credit in Indian Rupees for priority development projects.
- **Which Indian company will supply medicines and medical equipment to Seychelles?**
 - HLL Lifecare Limited.
- **Which Indian institution will cooperate with Seychelles on diplomatic training?**
 - Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS).
- **What is the objective of the ICAR-Seychelles Agricultural Work Plan (2026–2031)?**
 - To strengthen agricultural research, technology transfer and food-security initiatives.
- **Which maritime security asset did India hand over to Seychelles?**
 - The Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) PS LESPWAR, built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- **What is the highest civilian honour of Seychelles conferred on the Indian Prime Minister?**
 - ‘Guardian of the Blue Horizon’.

INDIA-ISRAEL DEFENCE COOPERATION

- **Under which framework were the recent India-Israel high-level defence talks held?**
 - The India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership.
- **Who visited India for the recent high-level defence discussions?**
 - The Director General of Israel’s Ministry of Defense.

- **What were the major areas of focus during the India–Israel defence talks?**
 - Defence manufacturing, advanced military technologies, joint R&D and strategic defence projects.
- **Which Israeli UAV systems are supplied to India?**
 - Heron and Searcher Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
- **Which Israeli airborne surveillance system is operated by India?**
 - Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).
- **Which Israeli air defence system is used by India?**
 - SPYDER Air Defence System.
- **Which flagship missile system has India jointly developed with Israel?**
 - Barak-8, also known as the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM).
- **Which organisations jointly developed the Barak-8/MRSAM system?**
 - India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- **Which multinational air exercise involving Israel is regularly attended by the Indian Air Force?**
 - Blue Flag exercise.
- **How do Indian naval forces contribute to India–Israel maritime cooperation?**
 - Indian Navy ships frequently undertake goodwill visits to the Port of Haifa.

BRICS

- **Where was the 16th BRICS National Security Advisers’ (NSA) Meeting held?**
 - New Delhi.
- **Who chaired the 16th BRICS NSA Meeting?**
 - National Security Adviser **Ajit Doval**.
- **What was the theme of the 16th BRICS NSA Meeting?**
 - “Non-traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today.”
- **Which organisation hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting 2026 in Bengaluru?**
 - ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).
- **What new concept did India propose at the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting?**
 - A “**BRICS Space Economy**” to promote innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and sustainable development through space cooperation.

INDIA–JAPAN SUMMITS

- **Where was the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit 2026 held?**
 - New Delhi.
- **Which areas were prioritised at the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit?**
 - Defence co-development, economic security, clean energy, artificial intelligence and Indo-Pacific cooperation.

- **What is UNICORN in the India–Japan defence cooperation context?**
 - Unified Complex Radio Antenna, marking India and Japan’s first-ever defence co-development programme.

UN AI GOVERNANCE

- **Where was the first UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance held?**
 - Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Under which UN General Assembly resolution was the Global Dialogue on AI Governance established?**
 - UNGA Resolution 79/325.
- **Which major UN framework preceded the establishment of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance?**
 - The Global Digital Compact (2024).
- **What is the primary objective of the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance?**
 - To strengthen international cooperation, scientific understanding, accountability and capacity-building in AI governance.

INDIA–MALI

- **Where was the first India–Mali Forum for Promotion of Exports held?**
 - Bamako, Mali.
- **What was the theme of the first India–Mali Forum for Promotion of Exports?**
 - “Reinforcing Trade and Strategic Partnerships.”
- **By how much did India–Mali bilateral trade grow year-on-year in FY 2025–26?**
 - 55%, crossing **USD 326.61 million**.
- **Which Indian trade scheme has helped strengthen India–Mali bilateral trade?**
 - Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme.

FATF

- **For which period will India assume the Vice-Presidency of FATF?**
 - July 2026 to June 2027.
- **Who will serve as India’s first FATF Vice-President?**
 - Vivek Aggarwal.
- **Why is India’s FATF Vice-Presidency significant?**
 - It marks the **first time India will hold the Vice-Presidency of FATF**, strengthening its role in global efforts against money laundering and terrorist financing.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

- **When did the Antarctic Treaty enter into force?**
 - 23rd June 1961.

- **How many years did the Antarctic Treaty complete in 2026?**
– 65 years.
- **What is the primary purpose of the Antarctic Treaty?**
– To preserve Antarctica for peaceful purposes and scientific research.
- **What does the Antarctic Treaty prohibit in Antarctica?**
– Military activities and the use of Antarctica for purposes other than peaceful and scientific activities..

REPORTS & INDICES

INVESTMENT FRIENDLINESS INDEX (IFI) 2026

- **Which organisation released the first Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026?**
– NITI Aayog.
- **Which state ranked first among Large States in the Investment Friendliness Index 2026?**
– Gujarat, with a score of 56.6 out of 100.
- **Which states secured the top three positions among Large States in IFI 2026?**
– Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- **Which states were the bottom performers among Large States in IFI 2026?**
– Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

QS WORLD FUTURE SKILLS INDEX 2027

- **Which organisation released the QS World Future Skills Index 2027?**
– Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- **What position did India secure in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027?**
– 13th globally.
- **Which country ranked first in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027?**
– United States.
- **Which countries followed the United States in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027?**
– Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada.
- **Which country was the highest-ranked among South Asian and lower-middle-income economies in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027?**
– India.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026

- **Which organisation released the UN Sustainable Development Report 2026?**
– UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

- **What position did India secure in the SDG Index 2026?**
– 94th among 167 countries.
- **What was India's score in the SDG Index 2026?**
– 68.3 out of 100, its highest-ever score.
- **Which country ranked first in the SDG Index 2026?**
– Finland.
- **Which countries followed Finland in the SDG Index 2026?**
– Sweden and Denmark.

UDISE+ 2025–26

- **Which Ministry released the UDISE+ 2025–26 Report?**
– Ministry of Education.
- **What was the secondary-level dropout rate in India according to UDISE+ 2025–26?**
– 7.0% for Classes 9–12.
- **What was the dropout rate at the preparatory level according to UDISE+ 2025–26?**
– 1.8% for Classes 3–5.
- **How did the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the secondary level change according to UDISE+ 2025–26?**
– It increased from 68.5% to 71.7%.
- **What benchmark for Pupil–Teacher Ratio (PTR) is prescribed under NEP 2020?**
– 30:1.
- **Which State/UT emerged as the highest-performing region in PGI 2.0 (2025–26)?**
– Chandigarh.
- **Which grade did Chandigarh achieve in PGI 2.0 (2025–26)?**
– Uttam-3.
- **Did any State or UT secure the top three PGI categories—Utkarsh, Uttam-1 or Uttam-2?**
– No.
- **What was the lowest performance category attained by any State/UT in PGI 2.0 (2025–26)?**
– Akanshi-1, indicating that all States and UTs achieved at least a moderate level of performance.
- **What did the absence of States/UTs in Akanshi-2 and Akanshi-3 indicate?**
– That no State or UT was placed in the bottom two performance categories.

DIGITAL THREAT REPORT 2025–26

- **Which organisations collaborated to release the Digital Threat Report 2025–26?**
– Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin and SISA.
- **What is identified as the most significant cybersecurity risk in the Digital Threat Report 2025–26?**
– AI Asymmetry.

- **What does “AI Asymmetry” refer to in cybersecurity?**
 - The growing imbalance where AI-powered attackers evolve and launch cyberattacks faster than organisations can detect, respond to or regulate them.
- **How is Artificial Intelligence changing the cyber threat landscape?**
 - It enables even low-resource threat actors to conduct sophisticated attacks at machine speed.
- **Which sector faces significant risks from AI-powered cyber threats according to the report?**
 - Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector.
- **What does the Digital Threat Report 2025–26 propose to strengthen cybersecurity?**
 - An 18-month roadmap to enhance cyber resilience.

SUB-SECTORAL INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION (ISP)

- **Which Ministry introduced India’s first Sub-Sectoral Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)?**
 - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **What is the base year of the trial Sub-Sectoral Index of Services Production?**
 - 2024–25.
- **Which classification system is used for the Sub-Sectoral ISP?**
 - National Industrial Classification (NIC), 2025.
- **What is the significance of the Sub-Sectoral Index of Services Production?**
 - It is India’s first monthly indicator measuring the short-term performance of the formal services sector.
- **What share of India’s GDP is contributed by the formal services sector covered by the ISP?**
 - Over 50%.
- **Which sectors are excluded from the current Sub-Sectoral ISP?**
 - Government services, non-market activities and the informal sector.
- **How many of the 19 service sub-sectors recorded double-digit year-on-year growth in the trial ISP?**
 - 14 sub-sectors.
- **Which service sub-sector recorded the highest growth in the trial ISP?**
 - Accommodation and Food Services, with 37.2% growth.
- **What was the growth rate of Retail Trade in the trial ISP?**
 - 30.8%.
- **What was the growth rate of Administrative and Support Services in the trial ISP?**
 - 28.7%.
- **What was the growth rate of Real Estate in the trial ISP?**
 - 27.7%.
- **Which service sub-sectors recorded negative growth in the trial ISP?**
 - Air Transport (-13.9%) and Railway Transport (-0.4%).

INTERNET BLACKOUT PREPAREDNESS

- Which country ranked 9th globally in preparedness to withstand a major internet disruption?
– India.
- What score did India secure in cybersecurity readiness for internet blackout preparedness?
– 98.5 out of 100.
- Which country ranked first in Internet Blackout Preparedness?
– United States.
- Which countries followed the United States in Internet Blackout Preparedness?
– Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2026

- Which organisation released the Global Unicorn Index 2026?
– Hurun Research Institute.
- What position did India retain in the Global Unicorn Index 2026?
– 4th position globally.
- How many unicorn startups did India have according to the Global Unicorn Index 2026?
– 61 unicorns.
- Which city remained India's unicorn capital in 2026?
– Bengaluru, with 25 unicorns.
- Which Indian city ranked second in the number of unicorns?
– Mumbai, with 13 unicorns.
- Which country topped the Global Unicorn Index 2026?
– United States, with 806 unicorns.
- Which countries followed the United States in the Global Unicorn Index 2026?
– China and the United Kingdom.

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX (ETI) 2026

- Which organisation released the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026?
– World Economic Forum (WEF).
- What position did India secure in the Energy Transition Index 2026?
– 70th.
- By how much did India's overall ETI score improve compared with the previous year?
– 1.9%.
- Which countries occupied the top three positions in the Energy Transition Index 2026?
– Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

AISHE REPORTS 2022-23 & 2023-24

- Which Ministry releases the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report?
– Ministry of Education.
- What was India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education for the 18-23 age group in 2023-24?
– 30.0.
- What was the female GER in higher education in 2023-24?
– 31.2.
- What was the GER for Scheduled Caste (SC) students in 2023-24?
– 27.8.
- What was the GER for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in 2023-24?
– 22.8.
- What was India's Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education in 2023-24?
– 1.08.
- What does a GPI above 1.0 indicate in higher education?
– Higher female participation compared with male participation.
- For how many consecutive years has India's higher education GPI remained above 1.0?
– Seven years.
- What was the total higher education enrolment in India in 2023-24?
– 4.50 crore students.
- By how much did total higher education enrolment increase?
– 31.5%.
- How much did female enrolment increase in higher education?
– 42.2%, reaching 2.24 crore students.

PLACES IN NEWS

IMPORTANT PLACES

- Which island, known as the "Pearl Island", is Vietnam's largest island?
– Phu Quoc Island, located in the Gulf of Thailand near Cambodia.
- Which city in Scotland is associated with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, which unveiled a bronze statue of Maharishi Sushruta?
– Edinburgh, Scotland
- Where was the bronze statue of Maharishi Sushruta crafted?
– Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu
- Which ancient Indian surgeon is regarded as the "Father of Surgery" and "Father of Plastic Surgery"?
– Maharishi Sushruta

- **Which supercomputer has topped the latest TOP500 rankings, replacing the US's El Capitan?**
– LineShine (China)
- **Which port in Bangladesh is being developed as an Economic Zone through a Chinese state-owned company?**
– Mongla Port, Bangladesh
- **Where is Mongla Port located?**
– Near the Sundarbans, about 188 km from Kolkata.
- **Which country became the 27th member of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?**
– Bangladesh
- **Where is the headquarters of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) located?**
– India
- **Which country declared a nationwide state of emergency after two powerful earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 struck its north-central coast?**
– Venezuela
- **What is a “doublet earthquake”?**
– Two earthquakes of similar magnitude occurring close together in time and location.
- **Which country granted the first overseas regulatory approval to the Indian cross-border payments platform Skydo?**
– Canada
- **Which Arab country became the first to introduce a legal minimum age of 15 for social media access?**
– United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- **Where is the world's largest curd manufacturing plant under the Amul Bengal Dairy Project being established?**
– Sankrail Food Park, Howrah, West Bengal
- **Which mountain range is set to have its Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) finalised and notified by the Union Government?**
– Western Ghats
- **In which district of Tamil Nadu did an ammonia gas leak at a seafood export unit result in multiple deaths?**
– Tiruvallur district
- **Where was Uttarakhand's first dedicated Geographical Indication (GI) Products Gallery inaugurated?**
– Forest Training Academy (FTA), Haldwani
- **Where has Punjab established its first dedicated Amritsari Kulcha Chole Training Centre?**
– Amritsar
- **Which state has been notified as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002?**
– Mizoram

- In which city is the Shri Ambabai Mahalaxmi Temple, where Pradakshina Marg and conservation works are being developed?
– Karveer (Kolhapur), Maharashtra
- Which Indian city was ranked 18th globally in Time Out's Best Cities for Art and Culture 2026?
– Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Which city topped Time Out's Best Cities for Art and Culture 2026 ranking?
– London, United Kingdom

IMPORTANT DAYS

IMPORTANT DAYS & THEMES 2026

- When is World Population Day observed?
– 11 July
Theme: "Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future"
- When is World Zoonoses Day observed?
– 6 July

THEME: "ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH: PREVENT ZOO NOSES"

- When is National Statistics Day observed in India?
– 29 June

THEME: "UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA"

- When is MSME Day observed?
– 27 June

THEME: "BUILDING A RESILIENT, TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN, AND FUTURE-READY MSME ECOSYSTEM."

- When is Olympic Day observed?
– 23 June

THEME: "YOU CAN DO THIS! LET'S MOVE"

- When is International Day of Yoga observed?
– 21 June

MISCELLANEOUS

IMPORTANT FACTS

- Which initiative has been launched by the Delhi Government to modernise infrastructure in government schools?
– Mission Kayakalp
- Which campaigns were launched by Mysuru City and District Police to support Karnataka's goal of becoming drug-free by 2028?
– Operation RISE and Beda Bro Campaign
- What does RISE stand for under Operation RISE?
– Refuse, Inform, Support, Empower
- Where was India's first Made-in-India EXIM shipping container unveiled?
– Maersk-CONCOR Inland Container Depot, Dadri, Uttar Pradesh
- On which railway section was India's first hydrogen-powered train, "NaMo Green Rail", flagged off?
– 89-km Jind-Sonipat section, Haryana
- In which district of Jammu & Kashmir is Manasbal Lake located?
– Ganderbal district
- Which lake is known as the "Supreme Gem of Kashmir Lakes" and is India's deepest freshwater lake?
– Manasbal Lake, Jammu & Kashmir
- Where will India's first 3D-printed artificial reef modules be deployed?
– Off the Ramanathapuram coast, Tamil Nadu
- Which three States are involved in the Tungabhadra basin water-sharing dispute?
– Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- The Tungabhadra River is a major right-bank tributary of which river?
– Krishna River
- Where do the Tunga and Bhadra rivers, which form the Tungabhadra, meet?
– Kudli, Shivamogga, Karnataka
- Where was the Hemis Festival 2026 held?
– Hemis Monastery, Leh district, Ladakh
- On which day of the Tibetan lunar calendar is the Hemis Festival celebrated annually?
– 10th day of the Tse-Chu month
- Which State has declared cancer a notifiable disease, making reporting of every diagnosed case mandatory?
– Telangana
- Which campaign was launched by Gujarat Police to enhance online safety for women and children?
– Operation Surakshit Cyberspace

- **Where was the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility inaugurated?**
– Sanand, Gujarat
- **Where was the PM Family Care Tracker pilot project inaugurated?**
– Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **In which State is Rakhigarhi, one of the largest Harappan Civilization sites, located?**
– Haryana
- **Which mound at Rakhigarhi is a major cemetery where 56 human skeletons have been discovered?**
– Mound 7
- **In which forest were three 16th-century inscriptions of Vijayanagara ruler Sadasivaraya discovered?**
– Seshachalam Forest, Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh
- **In which three languages are the Sadasivaraya inscriptions discovered in Seshachalam Forest written?**
– Telugu, Tamil and Kannada
- **Which State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Mekedatu Dam Project?**
– Tamil Nadu
- **Across which river is the proposed Mekedatu Project located?**
– Kaveri River
- **Where was the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the Copper–Chlorine (Cu–Cl) Thermochemical Cycle inaugurated?**
– Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
- **Which reactor provides nuclear process heat for the Cu–Cl thermochemical hydrogen production facility at Kalpakkam?**
– Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at IGCAR
- **Who has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026–2035 term?**
– Bimal N. Patel
- **Where is the headquarters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) located?**
– Hamburg, Germany
- **Who has been reappointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for an additional six months?**
– Ravi Agrawal
- **Who has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), succeeding Tapan Kumar Deka?**
– Mahesh Dixit

