

AIR1

UP-PSC2026

Prelims Facts Drill

Current Affairs *through* Q&A

**Monthly Compilation- 04
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POLITY, GOVERNANCE & JUDICIARY

MANIPUR ETHNIC VIOLENCE – COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

- **Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry into the Manipur ethnic violence?**
 - Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan.
- **Why was Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan appointed as the new chairperson?**
 - The appointment followed the resignation of retired **Justice Ajai Lamba**, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- **When did the ethnic violence in Manipur break out?**
 - May 2023.
- **Which ministry constituted the Commission of Inquiry into the Manipur violence?**
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **What issues are examined by the Commission of Inquiry?**
 - Human rights violations, displacement, property damage and communal tensions.
- **Which major communities were involved in the ethnic clashes in Manipur?**
 - The Meitei community and tribal Kuki communities.
- **What is the significance of reconstituting the Commission of Inquiry?**
 - It aims to strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of the investigation and contribute to accountability and restoration of peace.

NIDHI CHHIBBER – NITI AAYOG CEO (ADDITIONAL CHARGE)

- **Who has assumed additional charge as the CEO of NITI Aayog?**
 - Nidhi Chhibber.
- **Who was Nidhi Chhibber's predecessor as NITI Aayog CEO?**
 - BVR Subrahmanyam.
- **Which department assigned the additional charge of NITI Aayog CEO to Nidhi Chhibber?**
 - The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **What position was Nidhi Chhibber holding before assuming additional charge as NITI Aayog CEO?**
 - She was the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) in NITI Aayog.
- **When did BVR Subrahmanyam complete his extended tenure as NITI Aayog CEO?**
 - February 2026.
- **What is the significance of Nidhi Chhibber's appointment as NITI Aayog CEO (additional charge)?**
 - It ensures leadership continuity at a key policy institution and highlights the increasing representation of women in senior government leadership.

- **Which major programmes can come under the CEO's monitoring and coordination role?**
 - PM GatiShakti, National Nutrition Mission, NIPUN Bharat, and AI/technology-driven projects.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES – 2026

- **Who nominated 15 Members of Parliament to the Committee of Privileges in 2026?**
 - Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- **From which date did the newly constituted Committee of Privileges become effective?**
 - 3 March 2026.
- **Who was appointed Chairperson of the Committee of Privileges in 2026?**
 - Ravi Shankar Prasad, Lok Sabha MP from Patna Sahib.
- **What is the primary function of the Committee of Privileges?**
 - To examine cases involving breach of parliamentary privileges or contempt of the House and recommend appropriate action.
- **Which Article of the Constitution provides for parliamentary privileges of Parliament and its members?**
 - Article 105.

GOVERNORS & LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS RESHUFFLE – 2026

- **Who approved the major reshuffle of Governors and Lieutenant Governors in 2026?**
 - President of India, Droupadi Murmu.
- **Across how many States and Union Territories were changes announced?**
 - Nine States and Union Territories.
- **Whose resignation as Governor of West Bengal was accepted before the new appointments?**
 - C. V. Ananda Bose.
- **Who was appointed the new Governor of West Bengal?**
 - R. N. Ravi, earlier Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- **Who was appointed Governor of Telangana?**
 - Shiv Pratap Shukla.
- **Who was appointed Governor of Maharashtra?**
 - Jishnu Dev Varma.
- **Who was appointed Governor of Nagaland?**
 - Nand Kishore Yadav.
- **Who was appointed Governor of Bihar?**
 - Syed Ata Hasnain, Retd. Lieutenant General.
- **Who was given additional charge as Governor of Tamil Nadu?**
 - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala.
- **Who was appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh?**
 - Kavinder Gupta, earlier Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

- **Who was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh?**
 - Vinai Kumar Saxena, earlier Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- **Who was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi?**
 - Taranjit Singh Sandhu, former diplomat.

CENSUS 2027 – MASCOTS & DIGITAL CENSUS

- **What are the official mascots of Census 2027?**
 - “Pragati” (female) and “Vikas” (male).
- **Who unveiled the official mascots of Census 2027?**
 - Amit Shah.
- **What do the mascots Pragati and Vikas symbolize?**
 - They symbolize the equal participation of women and men in nation-building.
- **What is the objective of the Census 2027 mascots?**
 - To act as friendly public ambassadors and make the census exercise more relatable and citizen-centric.
- **What is significant about Census 2027 in terms of technology?**
 - It will be India’s first fully digital census.
- **What is Self-Enumeration (SE) in Census 2027?**
 - It allows citizens to submit their household information online through the Self-Enumeration portal.
- **What is provided to households after completing Self-Enumeration?**
 - A Self-Enumeration ID, which will be verified by enumerators during field visits.
- **What major demographic feature will be included in Census 2027?**
 - Comprehensive caste enumeration across all communities.
- **After how long will caste enumeration be conducted in the decennial Census?**
 - For the first time since **1931**.
- **Under which laws will Census 2027 be conducted?**
 - The Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.

PASSIVE EUTHANASIA – SUPREME COURT ORDER, 2026

- **Which Supreme Court bench permitted the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana?**
 - A bench comprising Justice J. B. Pardiwala and Justice K. V. Viswanathan.
- **Who is Harish Rana and what was his medical condition?**
 - 32-year-old Harish Rana, who had been in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) for over 13 years.
- **What did the Supreme Court permit in the Harish Rana case?**
 - The withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, including Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH).
- **Where was Harish Rana directed to be shifted?**
 - To the Palliative Care Centre at AIIMS, New Delhi, for a humane and dignified end.

- **What is passive euthanasia?**
 - It involves **withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining medical treatment** when continued treatment is futile, allowing the underlying condition to take its natural course.
- **Which 2011 case first recognised passive euthanasia in principle in India?**
 - The Aruna Shanbaug case.
- **What was the significance of the Common Cause v. Union of India case, 2018?**
 - The Supreme Court recognised the “Right to Die with Dignity” as a fundamental right under Article 21 and upheld the legality of Living Wills/Advance Medical Directives.
- **What principle did the Supreme Court apply in the Harish Rana case?**
 - The “**Best Interests**” principle, under which futile medical treatment that offers no reasonable hope of recovery should not be continued merely to prolong life.

CENSUS 2027 – BRAND AMBASSADOR

- **Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027?**
 - Sudarsan Pattnaik, internationally acclaimed sand artist.
- **Which ministry appointed Sudarsan Pattnaik as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027?**
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **What is the role of Sudarsan Pattnaik as Brand Ambassador for Census 2027?**
 - To use sand art to create awareness, educate citizens and encourage public participation in the census exercise.
- **In which year did Sudarsan Pattnaik receive the Padma Shri?**
 - 2014.
- **Which Guinness World Record is associated with Sudarsan Pattnaik?**
 - He created the world’s tallest sandcastle, measuring 48 feet 8 inches, at Puri Beach in 2017.

STUTI PRADHAN – WORLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2026

- **Who has been selected to represent India at the World Youth Parliament 2026?**
 - Stuti Pradhan from Sikkim.
- **What is the World Youth Parliament?**
 - An international platform that brings together young leaders from different countries to discuss major global challenges and propose innovative policy solutions.
- **What does the World Youth Parliament promote?**
 - Cross-cultural dialogue and preparation of young people for future roles in governance and diplomacy.
- **Which youth parliament did Stuti Pradhan win at the state level in 2025?**
 - Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025.
- **Why was Stuti Pradhan invited to Lok Bhawan during Republic Day celebrations in 2026?**
 - In recognition of her achievements as the state-level winner of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (NCBC)

- **Who has assumed charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?**
– Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti.
- **What positions did Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti previously hold in the Union Government?**
– Member of Parliament and Union Minister of State in the Ministries of Rural Development and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- **Who has assumed charge as a new Member of the NCBC?**
– Kiran Umesh Mahalle.
- **What position did Kiran Umesh Mahalle previously hold?**
– Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Amravati.
- **What is the primary role of the National Commission for Backward Classes?**
– To safeguard the interests and welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in India.
- **Under which Union Ministry does the NCBC function?**
– Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MPLADS – OUT-OF-STATE FUNDING

- **What is the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)?**
– A scheme under which MPs can recommend development works for the creation of durable community assets in accordance with prescribed guidelines.
- **Which category of MPs can recommend MPLADS projects outside their elected State?**
– Rajya Sabha members and nominated MPs, subject to procedural guidelines.
- **What percentage of out-of-State MPLADS funds was directed towards Uttar Pradesh according to recent data?**
– Over 84%.
- **How many MPs accounted for the entirety of out-of-State spending among the 530 MPs analysed?**
– 21 MPs.
- **What share of total completed MPLADS works is accounted for by Uttar Pradesh?**
– About 26%.
- **What share of all utilised MPLADS funds is accounted for by Uttar Pradesh?**
– About 20%.
- **Which regions have reportedly seen funds flow out towards Uttar Pradesh despite having lower per-capita incomes?**
– Regions such as Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **What percentage of utilised MPLADS funds was received by Jammu & Kashmir?**
– About 0.6%.
- **What constitutional concern is raised by MPs becoming involved in executive functions under MPLADS?**
– It raises questions concerning the Doctrine of Separation of Powers.

- Which portal was launched to improve transparency and monitoring of MPLADS?
– e-SAKSHI.

SC ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACES – NCRB CRIME IN INDIA 2023

- According to the NCRB's Crime in India 2023 report, how many cases were registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for denying SCs access to public spaces?
– 180 cases.
- How many of these cases were reported from Uttar Pradesh?
– 173 cases.
- What percentage of cases involving denial of public-space access to SCs were reported from Uttar Pradesh?
– Over 96%.
- Since which year has the trend of cases involving denial of SC access to public spaces been rising?
– Since 2017.
- What types of places are covered under cases involving denial of access to public spaces?
– Community areas, common lands and social venues.
- Which State recorded the highest number of cases involving denial of SC access to public spaces in 2023?
– Uttar Pradesh.
- Which other forms of caste-based exclusion constitute a significant share of complaints to the National Helpline Against Atrocities?
– Denial of access to public spaces, social boycotts and caste-based abuse.
- Since when have complaints related to denial of public access and caste-based exclusion formed a significant portion of National Helpline Against Atrocities calls?
– Since 2021.
- Which Act prohibits discriminatory denial of access and other atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?
– Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- What broader social issue is highlighted by the continued denial of public-space access to SCs?
– Persistent caste-based social exclusion despite constitutional and legal safeguards.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

LOW-COST DRONES AND DEEP-STRIKE SYSTEMS

- Which Indian drone is considered the closest equivalent to Iran's Shahed-136?
– Sheshnaag-150, developed by Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research and Technologies (NRT).

- **What is the range and payload capacity of Sheshnaag-150?**
 - It has a range of over 1,000 km and carries a 25–40 kg warhead.
 - **What is the key technological feature of Sheshnaag-150?**
 - It uses AI-powered swarm technology to coordinate multiple drones autonomously.
 - **What is Project KAL?**
 - A classified long-range kamikaze drone project developed by Noida-based IG Drones.
 - **What is the range and endurance of Project KAL?**
 - It is designed for a range of up to 1,000 km with an endurance of 3–5 hours.
 - **Which is India's first indigenous man-portable suicide drone?**
 - Nagastra-1, developed by Solar Industries (EEL).
 - **What are the key capabilities of Nagastra-1?**
 - It has a range of up to 30 km and can conduct precision strikes with around 2-metre accuracy.
 - **What is SkyStriker?**
 - A loitering munition developed by Alpha Design Technologies (ADTL) in collaboration with Israel's Elbit Systems, with a range of about 100 km.
- What is ALFA-S (Air Launched Flexible Asset – Swarm)?**
- A swarm-drone system developed by HAL and NewSpace Research, designed to be launched from fighter aircraft such as the Su-30MKI and Jaguar.

EXERCISE AMOGH JWALA 2026

- **Which command of the Indian Army conducted Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026?**
 - Southern Command of the Indian Army.
- **Where was Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026 conducted?**
 - At the Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh.
- **When was Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026 conducted?**
 - From 6 to 18 March 2026, over a period of 13 days.
- **What was the primary objective of Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026?**
 - To validate technology-driven mechanised warfare capabilities in a multi-domain operational environment.
- **Which platforms and systems were integrated during Exercise Amogh Jwala?**
 - Mechanised forces, attack helicopters, fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial systems, counter-drone systems and network-enabled battlefield platforms.
- **What key operational capability was demonstrated during the exercise?**
 - Integrated multi-domain operations under a robust command and control architecture.

EXERCISE KAKADU 2026 & INS NILGIRI

- **Which Indian Navy warship participated in Exercise Kakadu 2026 in Australia?**
 - INS Nilgiri.
- **Which country hosts Exercise Kakadu?**
 - Australia.

- **Which navy organises Exercise Kakadu?**
 - The Royal Australian Navy.
- **What is the primary objective of Exercise Kakadu?**
 - To enhance maritime security cooperation, improve interoperability and strengthen partnerships among Indo-Pacific maritime forces.
- **Which indigenous project does INS Nilgiri belong to?**
 - Project 17A (P-17A).
- **What are the major operational roles of INS Nilgiri?**
 - Surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and air defence.
- **What are the names of the six remaining Project 17A frigates?**
 - Himgiri, Udaygiri, Taragiri, Dunagiri, Vindhyagiri and Mahendragiri.
- **Which shipyards are constructing the Project 17A frigates?**
 - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

INDIAN ARMY CENTRAL COMMAND – STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION CONCLAVE

- **When and where did the Indian Army's Central Command conduct its inaugural Strategic Communication Conclave?**
 - On 7 March 2026 at Surya Auditorium, Lucknow Cantonment.
- **Approximately how many participants attended the Strategic Communication Conclave?**
 - Nearly 500 participants, including senior military officers, diplomats and media professionals.
- **What was the theme of the expert policy-level session at the conclave?**
 - “Institutionalising Strategic Communication as a Capability for Future Preparedness in the Emerging Information Space.”
- **What was the theme of the special interactive session at the conclave?**
 - “Strategic Communication in Emerging Multi-Domain Operations: Strategies, Structures, Processes and Preparedness.”
- **Who is the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Indian Army's Central Command who addressed the conclave?**
 - Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta.
- **Which former Indian diplomats and military officer addressed the Strategic Communication Conclave?**
 - Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj (Retd), Ambassador Yashvardhan Sinha (Retd) and Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd).
- **What emerging security challenge related to information was discussed at the conclave?**
 - The weaponisation of narratives and conflicts occurring below the threshold of traditional warfare.

ECONOMY, INDUSTRY & FINANCE

MICRON SEMICONDUCTOR ATMP FACILITY – SANAND, GUJARAT

- **Who inaugurated the Micron Technology semiconductor ATMP facility at Sanand, Gujarat?**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **What does ATMP stand for in semiconductor manufacturing?**
 - Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging.
- **Where is Micron Technology's semiconductor ATMP facility located?**
 - Sanand, Gujarat.
- **What is the approximate investment in the Micron ATMP facility?**
 - Around ₹22,516 crore.
- **Which major semiconductor products will the Sanand facility manufacture?**
 - DRAM, NAND and SSD products.
- **Which sectors will benefit from the memory components produced at the Sanand facility?**
 - AI systems, data centres, smartphones and digital infrastructure.
- **What is a notable feature of the Sanand semiconductor facility?**
 - It features one of the world's largest single-storey cleanrooms dedicated to chip packaging and testing.
- **Which national initiative does the Micron Sanand facility align with?**
 - The Semicon India Mission.

BHARAT TEX 2026

- **Who launched Bharat Tex 2026, India's flagship global textile event?**
 - Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh.
- **Where is Bharat Tex 2026 scheduled to be held?**
 - Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, in July 2026.
- **What is the primary focus of Bharat Tex 2026?**
 - To provide a comprehensive global platform covering the entire textile value chain.
- **Which sectors will be showcased at Bharat Tex 2026?**
 - Fibres and yarns, fabrics, apparel and fashion, home textiles, technical textiles, handlooms, handicrafts, and intelligent manufacturing technologies.
- **What are the key focus areas of Bharat Tex 2026?**
 - Sustainable and circular textiles, technical textiles, MSME integration, innovation, and global market access.
- **Which organisation will organise Bharat Tex 2026?**
 - The Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF), an umbrella body of textile Export Promotion Councils and industry organisations.

- **Who are the major beneficiaries targeted by Bharat Tex 2026?**
 - MSMEs, start-ups, designers, and academia, providing them opportunities to showcase innovations and connect with global buyers.

COCONUT PROMOTION SCHEME 2026–27

- **Which country is the world's largest producer of coconuts, accounting for about 30.37% of global production?**
 - India.
- **Which scheme was announced in Union Budget 2026–27 to boost coconut production and productivity?**
 - Coconut Promotion Scheme.
- **Which are the major coconut-producing states in India?**
 - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.
- **How much coconut-growing area does India account for globally?**
 - About 2,165.20 thousand hectares out of the global 12,390 thousand hectares.
- **Approximately how many coconut nuts does India produce annually?**
 - Around 21,373.62 million nuts.
- **What is the broader budgetary allocation associated with the Coconut Promotion Scheme?**
 - It is part of a ₹350 crore allocation for high-value agriculture, covering coconut, cashew and cocoa.
- **What is the significance of the Coconut Promotion Scheme?**
 - It aims to enhance productivity, improve farmer incomes, strengthen India's global competitiveness and promote sustainability in the coconut sector.

INDIA'S FIRST LPG ATM

- **Which company launched India's first 24x7 LPG ATM?**
 - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- **Where was India's first 24x7 LPG ATM launched?**
 - Gurugram, Haryana.
- **What type of cylinders are dispensed through the LPG ATM?**
 - 10 kg composite LPG cylinders.
- **What is the major advantage of the composite cylinders used in the LPG ATM?**
 - They are about half the weight of traditional iron cylinders, making them easier to handle.
- **How quickly can the LPG ATM dispense a cylinder?**
 - Within approximately 2–3 minutes.
- **How many cylinders can the LPG ATM store at a time?**
 - Around 10 cylinders.
- **How does the LPG ATM ensure timely replenishment of cylinders?**
 - Sensors alert the nearest gas agency when the stock level is low.

- **Who can initially use the LPG ATM service?**
 - BPCL customers in Gurugram.
- **What is the main objective of the LPG ATM initiative?**
 - To provide 24×7 access to LPG cylinders, reduce dependence on delivery waiting times and improve customer convenience.

BANK OF BARODA – UPI CREDIT LINE FOR WOMEN SHG MEMBERS

- **Which bank launched an overdraft facility on Credit Line via UPI for women SHG members?**
 - Bank of Baroda.
- **What is the main objective of the UPI-based overdraft facility launched by Bank of Baroda?**
 - To promote digital financial inclusion and expand access to formal credit for rural women.
- **Who are the beneficiaries of this overdraft facility?**
 - Eligible women Self-Help Group (SHG) members holding PMJDY accounts.
- **What is the overdraft amount available under the facility?**
 - ₹5,000.
- **Through which digital payment platform can beneficiaries access the overdraft facility?**
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- **Which organisations collaborated with Bank of Baroda for this initiative?**
 - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Indian Banks' Association (IBA), and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **What type of credit does the facility provide to women SHG members?**
 - Instant digital overdraft/credit access through UPI.
- **How does the initiative contribute to women's economic empowerment?**
 - By improving access to formal credit and supporting women-led economic activities and small financial needs.
- **Which major national programmes does the initiative align with?**
 - Digital India, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), and DAY-NRLM.

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT & AVIATION

MADURAI AIRPORT DECLARED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – 2026

- **Which airport was approved to be declared an international airport in 2026?**
 - Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- **Who chaired the Union Cabinet meeting that approved the declaration?**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Where is Madurai Airport located?**
 - In Madurai, Tamil Nadu, serving as an important gateway to southern Tamil Nadu.

- **What type of travellers are expected to benefit significantly from the upgrade?**
 - **International tourists and pilgrims** visiting southern Tamil Nadu.
- **How does the decision contribute to balanced regional development?**
 - By improving global connectivity for **southern Tamil Nadu**, it can reduce dependence on major metro airports and promote more balanced regional growth.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION 2.0 – 2026

- **Until when has the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) been extended?**
 - December 2028.
- **What is the new phase of the Jal Jeevan Mission called?**
 - JJM 2.0.
- **What is the main focus of JJM 2.0?**
 - Shifting from an infrastructure-centric approach to sustainable, citizen-centric and utility-based service delivery.
- **What is the target of JJM 2.0?**
 - Achieving 100% saturation of tap-water connections across all 19.36 crore rural households.
- **What is the total financial outlay of the extended Jal Jeevan Mission?**
 - ₹8.69 lakh crore.
- **How much Central Assistance has been allocated under the restructured JJM?**
 - ₹3.59 lakh crore.
- **What is the Sujalam Bharat Digital Framework?**
 - A national digital platform that will assign every village a unique Sujal Gaon/Service Area ID and map the water supply chain from the source to individual household taps.
- **What is the Jal Arpan initiative under JJM 2.0?**
 - It formally involves Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) in the commissioning and handover of water supply schemes to promote community ownership.
- **What is Jal Utsav?**
 - An annual community-led event to review the functioning of village water systems and promote water sustainability.
- **What was the rural household tap-water coverage when JJM was launched in 2019?**
 - Around **17%**, covering approximately **3.23 crore rural households**.
- **What was the rural household tap-water coverage as of March 2026?**
 - Approximately **81.6%**, covering around **15.80 crore rural households**.
- **Which ministry implements the Jal Jeevan Mission?**
 - The Ministry of Jal Shakti.

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT – DIGITAL TWIN INITIATIVE

- **Which Indian major port has become the first to implement a Digital Twin platform for port management?**
 - V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tamil Nadu.

- **Who inaugurated the Digital Twin platform at V.O. Chidambaranar Port?**
 - Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **What is a Digital Twin in port management?**
 - A real-time virtual replica of the port's physical infrastructure and operations.
- **Which technologies are integrated into the Digital Twin platform?**
 - IoT sensors, GPS tracking, LiDAR mapping, drone imaging and CCTV networks.
- **By how much is the Digital Twin initiative expected to reduce vessel turnaround time?**
 - By up to 25%.
- **Which national maritime visions does the initiative align with?**
 - Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- **What is the broader significance of the Digital Twin initiative?**
 - It promotes digitalisation, technological modernisation, operational efficiency and global competitiveness of Indian ports.

INDIA'S METRO RAIL NETWORK

- **What is India's global position in terms of metro rail network size?**
 - Third-largest metro rail network in the world.
- **How long is India's operational metro rail network?**
 - Over 1,143 km across 29 cities.
- **Which country has the world's largest metro rail network?**
 - China.
- **Which country ranks second in terms of metro rail network size?**
 - The United States.
- **How many kilometres of metro rail lines are currently under construction in India?**
 - Approximately 936 km.
- **Which government initiatives support the expansion of metro rail systems in India?**
 - The Smart Cities Mission and the Urban Transport Policy.
- **What does the Metro Rail Policy 2017 require cities to prepare for metro development?**
 - Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMPs).
- **Which authority is recommended under the Metro Rail Policy 2017 to guide integrated urban transport?**
 - Urban Metropolitan Transport Authorities (UMTAs).
- **What are some modern technologies incorporated into India's metro systems?**
 - Driverless trains, automated signalling, energy-efficient operations and integrated ticketing systems.

INDIA'S FIRST PORT OF REFUGE (POR)

- **Which company operationalised India's first Port of Refuge (PoR) mechanism?**
 - Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

- **What is a Port of Refuge (PoR)?**
 - A designated location where vessels facing difficulties can seek shelter to stabilise their situation, safeguard human life and minimise environmental damage.
- **Which organisation defines a Port of Refuge?**
 - International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- **Which ports will initially operate under India's first Port of Refuge framework?**
 - Dighi Port on the west coast and Gopalpur Port on the east coast.
- **What is the significance of the two-port model under the PoR mechanism?**
 - It provides strategic coverage across India's coastline for responding to maritime emergencies.
- **Which organisations are collaborating with APSEZ under the tripartite MoU for the PoR initiative?**
 - SMIT Salvage and Marine Emergency Response Centre (MERC).
- **What emergency services will be provided under the Port of Refuge mechanism?**
 - Salvage operations, firefighting, wreck removal, pollution containment and cargo stabilisation.
- **What is the primary objective of India's first Port of Refuge mechanism?**
 - To strengthen maritime safety by providing a coordinated framework for assisting vessels in distress and managing maritime emergencies.

INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED TRAINSET

- **What major milestone has India's first hydrogen-powered trainset achieved?**
 - It has successfully completed its oscillation trial as part of the safety and performance evaluation process.
- **Which organisation conducted the oscillation trial of India's first hydrogen-powered trainset?**
 - Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
- **What is the role of RDSO in Indian Railways?**
 - It is the technical arm of Indian Railways responsible for testing and certification.
- **How many coaches does India's hydrogen-powered trainset have?**
 - 10 coaches.
- **What is the power output of the hydrogen-powered trainset?**
 - 2,400 kW.
- **Where was India's first hydrogen-powered trainset developed?**
 - Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- **On which route is the hydrogen-powered train expected to operate?**
 - Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana.
- **Where has a dedicated hydrogen production plant been established for the train?**
 - Jind, Haryana.
- **What is the major environmental advantage of hydrogen-powered trains?**
 - They produce zero carbon dioxide emissions during operation and emit mainly water vapour.

- Which countries already operate hydrogen-powered trains along with India joining the group?

– Germany, Japan, China and the United States

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

TRIPURA STATE INNOVATION MISSION (SIM)

- Under whose umbrella has Tripura launched its first State Innovation Mission (SIM)?
 - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog.
- Which sectors are primarily targeted under Tripura's SIM?
 - Science, technology and digital innovation.
- What are the major focus areas of Tripura's State Innovation Mission?
 - Empowering young innovators, incubation support, patenting and commercialisation of ideas, and attracting investment in emerging technologies.
- Which incubator has been designated as an AIM Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) under the initiative?
 - Tripura Natural Environment & Sustainable Technologies (T-NEST).
- What support will T-NEST provide to start-ups and early-stage ventures?
 - Mentorship, funding support and office space.

AMARAVATI QUANTUM & AI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

- Which organisation signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish a Quantum Technologies and AI university campus?
 - National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) under MeitY.
- Where will India's first university campus exclusively focused on Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence be established?
 - Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- When was the MoU for the Amaravati Quantum & AI campus signed?
 - 20 February 2026 at the India AI Impact Summit.
- What will the Amaravati campus serve as?
 - A national centre of excellence for research and higher studies in quantum computing, AI and allied deep-tech domains.
- Which academic programmes will be offered at the campus?
 - Undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes in specialised areas of quantum technologies and AI.
- What are the key specialised areas covered by the academic programmes?
 - Quantum algorithms, AI and machine learning, quantum communication, cybersecurity and high-performance computing.

- Which national initiatives does the Amaravati Quantum & AI campus align with?
 - India's National Quantum Mission and AI strategy.

OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION (OTEC) PROJECT – LAKSHADWEEP

- Where is the upcoming OTEC-based desalination project being developed?
 - Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep.
- Which Union Minister inspected the upcoming OTEC project in Lakshadweep?
 - Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology.
- Which institute is developing the OTEC project?
 - National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- What is Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)?
 - A renewable energy technology that uses the temperature difference between warm surface seawater and cold deep seawater to generate electricity.
- What temperature difference is utilised by the Lakshadweep OTEC project?
 - Warm surface seawater is around **29°C**, while deep seawater is around **5°C**.
- From what depth is cold seawater drawn for the project?
 - Approximately **1,000 metres** below the ocean surface.
- How much electricity is the OTEC plant expected to generate?
 - Approximately **60–65 kW** of electricity.
- How much potable water will the plant produce daily?
 - Around **1 lakh litres (100 cubic metres)** of potable water per day.
- Which technology will be used for desalination?
 - Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD).
- What is the major significance of the Lakshadweep OTEC project?
 - It is being developed as the world's first OTEC-based desalination plant using deep ocean water, combining renewable energy generation with freshwater production.

AKASHA300 3D PRINTER & ISRO

- Which Kerala-based startup delivered the Akasha300 3D printer to ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre?
 - Spacetime 4D Printing Solution.
- Where is the Akasha300 3D printer deployed?
 - ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) at Valiamala, Kerala.
- What is the Akasha300?
 - A high-performance 3D printer capable of producing complex engineering components that conventional manufacturing cannot easily create.
- What technology does the Akasha300 use to print multiple materials simultaneously?
 - Dual-extrusion technology.

- **What is the maximum extrusion temperature of the Akasha300 in its initial configuration?**
– Up to 350°C.
- **What is the planned upgraded extrusion temperature capability of the Akasha300?**
– Up to 500°C.
- **Which organisations supported the development of the Akasha300?**
– Space Technology Innovation and Incubation Centre (STIIC) and Kerala Startup Mission.

SATHEE PLATFORM – FREE DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

- **What is SATHEE?**
– SATHEE stands for **Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Exams**, a free digital learning platform.
- **Which Ministry has operationalised the SATHEE platform in collaboration with IIT Kanpur?**
– Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
- **What is the primary objective of the SATHEE platform?**
– To provide free, quality digital learning resources and reduce dependence on expensive private coaching.
- **Which examinations were initially covered under SATHEE?**
– JEE and NEET.
- **Which examinations are currently covered by the expanded SATHEE platform?**
– JEE, NEET, CUET, SSC, IBPS, ICAR, CLAT and RRB examinations.
- **Which institutions contribute academic content to the SATHEE platform?**
– Faculty from IITs, IISc and AIIMS, among other prestigious institutions.
- **In which languages is SATHEE available?**
– English, Hindi and 12 regional languages.
- **Which education policy is reflected in SATHEE's multilingual approach?**
– National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **What is the “Solve with Me” feature of SATHEE?**
– An interactive learning feature that helps students understand and solve problems with guided assistance.
- **During what hours is live doubt-clearing available on SATHEE?**
– From 10 AM to 6 PM.
- **Who provides mentorship to students through the SATHEE platform?**
– Alumni of IITs and AIIMS.

ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2026

- **When is World Wildlife Day observed every year?**
– 3 March.

- **What does 3 March commemorate in relation to World Wildlife Day?**
 - The adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- **What is the official theme of World Wildlife Day 2026?**
 - “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods.”
- **Which flagship species is associated with the conservation focus on elephant corridors?**
 - Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*).
- **What is the major conservation concern for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB)?**
 - Powerline-related threats, particularly in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- **Which species, known as the “Ghost of the Mountains,” is threatened by climate change?**
 - Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*).
- **Which marine mammal is highlighted for India’s marine biodiversity conservation?**
 - Dugong (Sea Cow).
- **Where is India’s first Dugong Conservation Reserve located?**
 - Palk Bay.
- **Which organisation is highlighted for the conservation of medicinal plants in India?**
 - The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).
- **Which major biodiversity-rich regions are highlighted for medicinal plant conservation?**
 - The Himalayas and Western Ghats.

JAL MAHOTSAV 2026

- **Who addressed the Jal Mahotsav 2026 in New Delhi?**
 - President of India Droupadi Murmu.
- **When is Jal Mahotsav 2026 being observed?**
 - March 2026.
- **Which ministry is organising Jal Mahotsav 2026?**
 - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **What is the primary objective of Jal Mahotsav 2026?**
 - To strengthen community participation in rural drinking water service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **What did President Droupadi Murmu emphasise regarding water conservation?**
 - She called for making water conservation an integral part of daily life.
- **Which community-level institutions were highlighted for sustainable water management?**
 - Gram Panchayats and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **Which measures were highlighted for strengthening water security?**
 - Groundwater recharge, greywater management, Catch the Rain, and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari.
- **What role of women was highlighted in Jal Mahotsav 2026?**
 - Women, particularly through Self-Help Groups, were highlighted for their role in water testing and management.

- **What is the key message of Jal Mahotsav 2026?**
 - Water should be treated as a priceless national asset, with community ownership and conservation integrated into daily life.

INDUS RIVER GREEN CORRIDOR ECO-RESTORATION PROJECT

- **Who launched the Indus River Green Corridor Eco-Restoration Plantation project?**
 - Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- **Where was the Indus River Green Corridor project launched?**
 - Spituk Pharka in Leh, Ladakh.
- **What is the main objective of the Indus River Green Corridor project?**
 - To restore the ecological integrity of the Indus riverbanks and create green buffers in Ladakh's cold desert ecosystem.
- **Which indigenous species were planted along the Indus riverbank under the project?**
 - Oleaster and Sea buckthorn.
- **How many saplings of indigenous species were planted along the Indus riverbank?**
 - Nearly 1,000 saplings.
- **Which additional species were planted along the roadsides in Leh city?**
 - Cherry Blossom and Apricot.
- **Which ecological challenges does the project seek to address?**
 - Soil erosion, desertification and low green cover.
- **Which irrigation techniques are being adopted under the project?**
 - Gravity-based solar submersible strip irrigation and drip irrigation.
- **What is the current forest cover of Ladakh and what target has been set?**
 - Less than 1% currently, with a target of 5% in the coming two years.
- **What national goal is the project expected to contribute towards?**
 - Restoration of 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030.

WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT 2025

- **Which organisation released the World Air Quality Report 2025?**
 - IQAir.
- **What was India's rank among 143 countries in terms of PM2.5 pollution in 2025?**
 - 6th.
- **What was India's national average PM2.5 concentration in 2025?**
 - 48.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **What is the annual PM2.5 guideline prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO)?**
 - 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **Which city in India was the most polluted city in 2025?**
 - Loni in Uttar Pradesh.
- **What was Loni's annual average PM2.5 concentration in 2025?**
 - 112.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

- **How many of the world's 100 most polluted cities were located in India?**
– 66 cities.
- **Which city remained the world's most polluted capital city for the eighth consecutive year?**
– New Delhi.
- **How many countries and territories met the WHO annual average PM2.5 guideline?**
– 13 countries/territories.
- **How many countries and territories recorded PM2.5 levels above the WHO annual guideline?**
– 130 out of 143, or about 91%.
- **Which country was ranked the world's most polluted country in 2025?**
– Pakistan, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 67.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **Which five countries recorded the highest average PM2.5 concentrations in 2025?**
– Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Which city was recorded as the world's cleanest city in 2025?**
– Nieuwoudtville in South Africa, with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

SUAV RIVER – NGT DIRECTION ON RIVER CLASSIFICATION

- **Which authority directed the Uttar Pradesh government to restore the Suav's classification as a river?**
– National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- **Which district's official records were ordered to be corrected regarding the Suav River?**
– Balrampur district.
- **What incorrect classification of the Suav was ordered to be corrected?**
– Its classification from a drain/nullah to a river.
- **Who was directed to amend the official records concerning the Suav?**
– The Balrampur District Magistrate.
- **Within what period did the NGT direct the correction of the Suav's classification?**
– Within three months.
- **Where must the correction regarding the Suav's river status be published?**
– In the Official Gazette and local newspapers.
- **What factors contributed to the misclassification of the Suav as a nullah?**
– Land reclamation, encroachments and development over several decades.
- **What restriction did the NGT impose on the Suav's floodplain?**
– New construction or infrastructure was barred in identified floodplain areas until the active flood zone is properly demarcated.
- **Which authorities were directed to monitor the water quality of the Suav?**
– Pollution control authorities, including monitoring of treated sewage and industrial effluents.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

DENMARK – WHO VALIDATION FOR EMTCT OF HIV AND SYPHILIS, 2026

- Which country became the first European Union country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of both HIV and syphilis?
– Denmark.
- When did the WHO certify Denmark for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis?
– 27 February 2026.
- What does EMTCT stand for?
– Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission.
- Which two diseases has Denmark eliminated mother-to-child transmission of?
– HIV and syphilis.
- What transmission-rate target is required for EMTCT validation?
– New infant infections must remain below 50 per 100,000 live births.
- What is the testing and treatment target for pregnant women under EMTCT standards?
– At least 95% of pregnant women must receive testing and necessary treatment.
- Which other countries have achieved similar WHO validation for EMTCT?
– Countries and territories including Botswana, Malaysia and Cuba, among more than 20 others.
- What is Denmark's next public-health goal after eliminating HIV and syphilis transmission?
– Triple elimination, by adding Hepatitis B to its certified elimination achievements.

CHILE – WHO VERIFICATION FOR ELIMINATION OF LEPROSY, 2026

- Which country became the first in the Americas to be verified by WHO for eliminating leprosy as a public health problem?
– Chile.
- When was Chile's leprosy elimination achievement announced?
– 10 March 2026.
- Which organisation verified Chile's elimination of leprosy?
– The World Health Organization (WHO).
- What is leprosy also known as?
– Hansen's Disease.
- What does "elimination of leprosy as a public health problem" mean according to WHO?
– Achieving a national prevalence of less than 1 case per 10,000 inhabitants.
- What measures contributed to Chile's success in eliminating leprosy?
– Robust surveillance, early diagnosis and free multidrug therapy (MDT) through the public healthcare system.

- **What is the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy 2021–2030 called?**
– “Towards Zero Leprosy.”
- **What are the major goals of the “Towards Zero Leprosy” strategy?**
– Achieving zero infection, zero disease and zero stigma/discrimination.

WORLD TB DAY 2026

- **When is World TB Day observed annually?**
– 24 March, commemorating Robert Koch’s discovery of the TB bacterium in 1882.
- **What is the theme of World TB Day 2026?**
– “Yes! We Can End TB: Led by countries, powered by people.”
- **Which countries account for a large share of global TB cases?**
– India, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and Pakistan.
- **What is multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)?**
– TB caused by bacteria resistant to key first-line drugs such as rifampicin and isoniazid.
- **What does XDR-TB refer to?**
– Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, a severe form with resistance to multiple important anti-TB drugs and limited treatment options.
- **Which shorter treatment regimens does WHO recommend for eligible drug-resistant TB patients?**
– BPaLM/BPaL, six-month all-oral regimens that reduce treatment burden.
- **What are the major targets of the WHO End TB Strategy for 2035?**
– To reduce TB deaths by 95% and TB incidence by 90%, compared with 2015 levels.
- **Under which Sustainable Development Goal is ending the TB epidemic included?**
– SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being, with the target of ending the TB epidemic by 2030.
- **Which digital platform is used in India for TB patient tracking and case management?**
– Nikshay Portal.
- **What support is provided under Nikshay Poshan Yojana?**
– ₹500 per month as nutritional support to TB patients during treatment.
- **Which initiative was launched to accelerate India’s goal of TB elimination?**
– Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

ANMOL SCHEME – NEWBORN GENETIC SCREENING

- **What is the full form of ANMOL launched by the Delhi Government?**
– Advanced Newborn Monitoring for Optimal Lifecare.
- **What is the main objective of the ANMOL scheme?**
– To enable early detection of genetic and metabolic disorders in newborns and reduce infant mortality.
- **Who will be covered under the ANMOL newborn screening programme?**
– All newborns in government and private hospitals in Delhi.
- **How many genetic and metabolic disorders will be screened under the ANMOL scheme?**

– 56 disorders.

- **Which disorders are among those screened under the ANMOL scheme?**
 - Congenital hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria and cystic fibrosis.
- **What is the standard procedure used for newborn screening under ANMOL?**
 - A small blood sample is collected through a heel prick and analysed in specialised laboratories.
- **Which state is noted for implementing a full-scale free newborn screening programme?**
 - Kerala.
- **What types of conditions are covered under Kerala's full-scale newborn screening programme?**
 - Hearing disorders, congenital heart defects and metabolic disorders.

GARBH-INI INITIATIVE

- **What is the full form of GARBH-INi?**
 - Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes.
- **Which department launched the GARBH-INi initiative?**
 - Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
- **What is the primary objective of the GARBH-INi initiative?**
 - To predict and prevent adverse birth outcomes, particularly preterm births, through advanced science, AI and data-driven approaches.
- **How many pregnant women are being tracked under India's largest pregnancy cohort study under GARBH-INi?**
 - Around 12,000 pregnant women.
- **Which major areas of research are integrated under GARBH-INi?**
 - Clinical epidemiology, multi-omics research and AI-based predictive modelling.
- **What innovative technology is being developed under the programme for rapid diagnosis?**
 - Microbiome-based biotherapeutics technology.
- **What is GARBH-INi-DRISHTI?**
 - A digital data-sharing platform that enables researchers to access and share data for scientific studies.
- **What health outcome is a major focus of the GARBH-INi initiative?**
 - Prevention and early prediction of preterm births.
- **What has been the approximate growth of India's bioeconomy from 2014 to the present period mentioned?**
 - From around \$10 billion in 2014 to approximately \$195 billion.

DURGA SCHEME – DELHI

- **What is the full form of the DURGA Scheme launched by the Delhi Government?**
 - Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green e-Auto.
- **Who announced the DURGA Scheme?**
 - Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi.

- **When was the DURGA Scheme announced?**
 - During the Delhi Budget 2026–27.
- **What is the proposed budget outlay for the DURGA Scheme?**
 - ₹20 crore.
- **What is the primary objective of the DURGA Scheme?**
 - To provide livelihood opportunities and economic empowerment to women and transgender persons through electric auto-rickshaws.
- **How are the beneficiaries divided under the first phase of the scheme?**
 - 1,000 women and 100 transgender persons.
- **What broader objective does the DURGA Scheme promote?**
 - Inclusive and environmentally sustainable urban transport.
- **What is DUMTA?**
 - Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, a proposed integrated transport authority for coordinating and planning urban transport systems in Delhi.
- **What is the proposed budget outlay for DUMTA?**
 - ₹5 crore.

SPORTS

FINN ALLEN – FASTEST CENTURY IN ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

- **Who scored the fastest century in ICC Men's T20 World Cup history in 2026?**
 - Finn Allen of New Zealand.
- **How many balls did Finn Allen take to score his century in the 2026 T20 World Cup semifinal?**
 - 33 balls.
- **Against which team did Finn Allen score the fastest T20 World Cup century?**
 - South Africa.
- **Where was the 2026 T20 World Cup semifinal played in which Finn Allen set the record?**
 - Eden Gardens, Kolkata.
- **Whose record for the fastest T20 World Cup century did Finn Allen break?**
 - Chris Gayle's 47-ball century against England in the 2016 T20 World Cup.
- **Who holds the record for the fastest century in T20 International cricket?**
 - Sahil Chauhan, who scored a 27-ball century against Cyprus in 2024.
- **Who holds the record for the fastest century in Test cricket?**
 - Brendon McCullum, who scored a 54-ball century against Australia in 2016.
- **What is the significance of Finn Allen's 33-ball century?**
 - It broke a 10-year-old T20 World Cup record and highlighted the evolution of aggressive batting in modern T20 cricket.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026

- **Who won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?**
– India.
- **Which team did India defeat in the 2026 T20 World Cup final?**
– New Zealand.
- **By how many runs did India defeat New Zealand in the final?**
– 96 runs.
- **Where was the 2026 T20 World Cup final played?**
– Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- **When was the 2026 T20 World Cup final played?**
– 8 March 2026.
- **How many T20 World Cup titles has India won after the 2026 edition?**
– Three titles.
- **What historic achievement did India accomplish by winning the 2026 T20 World Cup?**
– India became the first team to win three T20 World Cup titles and the first team to win the tournament on home soil.
- **Who was the captain of India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?**
– Suryakumar Yadav.
- **Which countries jointly hosted the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?**
– India and Sri Lanka.
- **When was the 2026 T20 World Cup held?**
– From 7 February to 8 March 2026.
- **How many teams participated in the 2026 T20 World Cup?**
– 20 teams, divided into four groups, followed by the Super 8 stage and knockouts.
- **Who was named Player of the Tournament in the 2026 T20 World Cup?**
– Sanju Samson (India), who scored 321 runs at an average of 80.25.
- **Who was named Man of the Match in the 2026 T20 World Cup final?**
– Jasprit Bumrah (India) for his bowling figures of 4/15.
- **Who scored the most runs in the 2026 T20 World Cup?**
– Sahibzada Farhan (Pakistan) with 383 runs.
- **Who were the joint leading wicket-takers in the 2026 T20 World Cup?**
– Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy, with 14 wickets each.
- **What was India's score in the 2026 T20 World Cup final?**
– 255/5 in 20 overs.

BCCI NAMAN AWARDS 2026

- **Who received the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men) for 2024–25?**
– Shubman Gill.
- **Who was named Best International Cricketer (Women) for 2024–25?**
– Smriti Mandhana, receiving the honour for a record fifth time.

- **Who received the Colonel C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2026?**
– Rahul Dravid, Roger Binny and Mithali Raj.
- **Who won the Best International Debut (Men) Award?**
– **Harshit Rana.**
- **Who won the Best International Debut (Women) Award?**
– N. Sree Charani.
- **Who received the Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy for Best Woman Cricketer – Domestic?**
– Ira Jadhav.
- **Who was named Best Woman Cricketer in the Senior Domestic One-Day Tournament?**
– Shafali Verma.
- **Who received the Lala Amarnath Award for Best All-Rounder in Limited-Overs domestic cricket?**
– Ayush Mhatre.
- **Who received the Lala Amarnath Award for Best All-Rounder in the Ranji Trophy?**
– Harsh Dubey.
- **Which cricket association was named Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments for 2024–25?**
– Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
- **Who was recognised as the Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket?**
– Ulhas Gandhe.

WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX 2026

- **Which country topped the medal tally at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026?**
– India, with a record 208 medals.
- **What was India's medal tally at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026?**
– 75 Gold, 69 Silver and 64 Bronze medals.
- **Where was the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 hosted?**
– New Delhi, India.
- **How many athletes were part of India's largest-ever contingent at the Grand Prix?**
– 219 athletes.
- **Which athlete won double gold in the Women's 100m and 200m (T35–T37)?**
– Preeti Pal.
- **Who won gold in the Men's Javelin Throw (F43/F44/F64) with a throw of 69.25 metres?**
– Sumit Antil.
- **Which Indian athlete secured gold in the Paralympic high jump category?**
– Praveen Kumar.
- **Which athlete led India's clean sweep in the Men's 800m T53–T54?**
– Manojkumar Sabapathi.
- **Which country finished second in the medal tally?**
– Russia, with 35 medals.

- Which Indian athlete led the Men's Shot Put F57 podium sweep?
– Shubham Juyal.
- Which international organisation governs World Para Athletics?
– World Para Athletics, under the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).
- Which government initiatives were highlighted as contributing to India's growth in para-sports?
– The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Khelo India Para Games.

NATIONAL INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

- Where was the first-ever National Indoor Athletics Championships held?
– Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- When was the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships held?
– 24–25 March 2026.
- Which categories were included in the National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026?
– Senior and U20 categories.
- What type of events were featured in the National Indoor Athletics Championships?
– Track and field events.
- Which organisation organised the National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026?
– The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), with support from the Odisha Sports Department.
- Who is the current President of the Athletics Federation of India?
– Bahadur Singh Sagoo.
- With which international and national organisations is the Athletics Federation of India affiliated?
– World Athletics, the Asian Athletics Association (AAA), and the Indian Olympic Association.

RCB & IPL BRAND VALUATION 2025

- According to the 2025 IPL Brand Valuation Report, which franchise emerged as one of the most valuable IPL brands?
– Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).
- Which organisation released the 2025 IPL Brand Valuation Report?
– Houlihan Lokey.
- What was the approximate brand value of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)?
– About \$269 million.
- Which consortium acquired RCB for around \$1.78 billion?
– A consortium including the Aditya Birla Group, Times Group, Bolt Ventures and Blackstone.
- When did RCB win its first IPL title?
– 2025.
- How many teams currently compete in the IPL?
– 10 teams.

- **What is the format of the Indian Premier League?**
 - Twenty20 (T20) franchise cricket.
- **Which teams are the most successful IPL franchises, with five titles each?**
 - Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK).
- **How many IPL seasons had been completed by 2025?**
 - 17 seasons.

IPL 2026

- **Which edition of the Indian Premier League is being held in 2026?**
 - The 19th season.
- **When is the IPL 2026 being held?**
 - From 28 March to 31 May 2026.
- **Which organisation organises the Indian Premier League?**
 - Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **How many teams are participating in IPL 2026?**
 - 10 teams.
- **Which teams played the opening match of IPL 2026?**
 - Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- **Where was the opening match of IPL 2026 played?**
 - M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- **Which team entered IPL 2026 as the defending champion?**
 - Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).
- **What is the Orange Cap awarded for in the IPL?**
 - It is awarded to the highest run-scorer of the season.
- **What is the Purple Cap awarded for in the IPL?**
 - It is awarded to the highest wicket-taker of the season.

AWARDS & HONOURS

SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET MEDAL – NARENDRA MODI

- **Which honour was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Parliament of Israel?**
 - The “Speaker of the Knesset Medal”, the highest honour of the Israeli Parliament.
- **What historic distinction did Prime Minister Narendra Modi achieve in the Israeli Parliament?**
 - He became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Knesset.
- **What does the conferment of the Speaker of the Knesset Medal signify?**
 - It reflects the growing India-Israel strategic partnership in defence, technology, innovation, agriculture and economic engagement.

- **What values form the foundation of India–Israel relations?**
 - Democratic values and mutual trust.
- **Which areas were identified for strengthening India–Israel cooperation?**
 - Free Trade Agreement, technology, civil nuclear energy, space cooperation and advanced agricultural solutions.

60TH JNANPITH AWARD (2025)

- **Who has been selected for the 60th Jnanpith Award for 2025?**
 - Vairamuthu, renowned Tamil poet and lyricist.
- **Who were the previous Tamil recipients of the Jnanpith Award before Vairamuthu?**
 - Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002).
- **What is the Jnanpith Award?**
 - It is India's highest literary honour, instituted in 1961 for outstanding contributions to literature in Indian languages.
- **Which work of Vairamuthu received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003?**
 - His novel Kallikkaattu Ithihasam, which depicts displacement caused by the Vaigai Dam.
- **How many National Film Awards has Vairamuthu won for Best Lyrics?**
 - Seven times.
- **Which Padma honours have been conferred on Vairamuthu?**
 - Padma Shri (2003) and Padma Bhushan (2014).
- **What does the Jnanpith Award comprise?**
 - A cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a bronze statuette of Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi), and a citation.
- **Who was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award?**
 - G. Sankara Kurup, who received the first award in 1965.
- **Who was the first woman to receive the Jnanpith Award?**
 - Ashapura Devi, who received it in 1976 for her novel Pratham Pratisruti.

98TH ACADEMY AWARDS (OSCARS 2026)

- **Which film won Best Picture at the 98th Academy Awards?**
 - One Battle After Another.
- **Who won the Best Director award at the Oscars 2026?**
 - Paul Thomas Anderson for One Battle After Another.
- **Who won the Best Actor award at the Oscars 2026?**
 - Michael B. Jordan for Sinners.
- **Who won the Best Actress award at the Oscars 2026?**
 - Jessie Buckley for Hamnet.
- **Who won the Best Supporting Actor award?**
 - Sean Penn for One Battle After Another.

- **Who won the Best Supporting Actress award?**
– Amy Madigan for Weapons.
- **Which film won the Best International Feature Film award?**
– Sentimental Value from Norway.
- **Which film won the Best Animated Feature award?**
– KPop Demon Hunters.
- **Which film won the Best Original Song award for “Golden”?**
– KPop Demon Hunters, making it the **first K-Pop song to win an Oscar**.
- **Which film won the Best Original Screenplay award?**
– Sinners, written by Ryan Coogler.
- **Which film won the Best Adapted Screenplay award?**
– One Battle After Another.
- **Who won the newly introduced Best Casting award?**
– Cassandra Kulukundis for One Battle After Another.
- **Which film won the most awards at the Oscars 2026?**
– One Battle After Another, with six Oscars.
- **Where were the 98th Academy Awards held and who hosted the ceremony?**
– At the Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, hosted by Conan O’Brien.
- **Which films shared the award in a rare tie for Best Live Action Short Film?**
– The Singers and Two People Exchanging Saliva.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2025

- **Which organisation confers the Sahitya Akademi Award annually?**
– The Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture.
- **In how many languages are the Sahitya Akademi Awards given?**
– 24 recognised Indian languages, including English and Rajasthani.
- **Which author won the Sahitya Akademi Award in English for **Crimson Spring**?**
– Navtej Sarna.
- **Who received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Hindi for **Jeete Jee Allahabad**?**
– Mamta Kalita.
- **Who won the Sahitya Akademi Award in Tamil for literary criticism?**
– Sa. Tamilselvan for Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal.
- **Who received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Malayalam for the novel **Maayaamanushyar**?**
– N. Prabhakaran.
- **Who received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Marathi for the autobiography **Kalyanilya Resha**?**
– Raju Baviskar.
- **Which author won the Sahitya Akademi Award in Bengali for **Shrestha Kabita**?**
– Prasun Bandyopadhyay.

- **When and where will the Sahitya Akademi Awards be presented?**
– On 31 March 2026 in New Delhi.
- **Which awards are given by the Sahitya Akademi for young writers and children's literature?**
– Yuva Puraskar for young writers and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for children's literature.

SANGITA KALANIDHI AWARD 2026

- **Who has been selected for the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2026?**
– Jayanthi Kumaresh, renowned veena exponent.
- **Which organisation confers the Sangita Kalanidhi award?**
– The Music Academy, Madras.
- **What is the Sangita Kalanidhi award recognised as?**
– It is considered the highest honour in Carnatic music and is often described as the “Nobel Prize” of Carnatic music.
- **What instrument is Jayanthi Kumaresh associated with?**
– The Saraswati Veena.
- **Who is Jayanthi Kumaresh's guru?**
– Padmavathy Ananthagopalan.
- **Which orchestra was founded by Jayanthi Kumaresh?**
– The Indian National Orchestra.
- **What is the CUPPA initiative associated with Jayanthi Kumaresh?**
– Carnatic Music Understanding for Popular Public Appreciation (CUPPA), aimed at making classical music more accessible to the public.
- **Who will receive the Sangita Kala Acharya awards in 2026?**
– G.S. Mani and R. Vedavalli.
- **Who will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi title for the 100th Dance Festival?**
– Malavika Sarukkai, veteran Bharatanatyam exponent.

SARASWATI SAMMAN 2025

- **Who was selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman 2025?**
– Bengali author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay.
- **For which novel was Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay selected for the Saraswati Samman 2025?**
– Hara Parbati Katha.
- **In which language was the award-winning novel Hara Parbati Katha written?**
– Bengali.
- **When was Hara Parbati Katha published?**
– 2020.
- **What themes are reflected in the novel Hara Parbati Katha?**
– Culture, mythology and society.

- **Which organisation instituted the Saraswati Samman?**
 - The K. K. Birla Foundation.
- **Which languages are eligible for the Saraswati Samman?**
 - Languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- **Whose literary works are eligible for the Saraswati Samman?**
 - Literary works written by an Indian citizen and published within the preceding 10 years.

ABEL PRIZE 2026

- **Who was awarded the 2026 Abel Prize?**
 - German mathematician Gerd Faltings.
- **Which organisation awarded the 2026 Abel Prize?**
 - The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- **Where is Gerd Faltings associated with?**
 - The Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, Germany.
- **For what contribution was Gerd Faltings awarded the Abel Prize 2026?**
 - For introducing powerful tools in arithmetic geometry and resolving long-standing Diophantine conjectures of Mordell and Lang.
- **What is Mordell's conjecture known as after its proof by Gerd Faltings?**
 - Faltings' Theorem.
- **What is the historical significance of Gerd Faltings' Abel Prize?**
 - He became the first German mathematician to receive the Abel Prize.
- **Who presents the Abel Prize?**
 - The Government of Norway, through the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- **Where was the 2026 Abel Prize presented?**
 - Oslo, Norway.
- **Who presented the 2026 Abel Prize to Gerd Faltings?**
 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway.

WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2026

- **Who has been named the 2026 World Food Prize Laureate?**
 - Huub Lelieveld of the Netherlands.
- **For what contribution was Huub Lelieveld awarded the 2026 World Food Prize?**
 - For his pioneering contributions to global food safety science, helping prevent foodborne illness and reduce food loss and waste.
- **How many countries were covered by the volunteer movement led by Huub Lelieveld to improve food safety standards?**
 - More than 113 countries.
- **What type of international standards did Huub Lelieveld help develop?**
 - Science-based international food safety standards, regulations and practices.

- **Which areas of contribution are recognised by the World Food Prize?**
 - Agriculture, nutrition, food technology and hunger alleviation.
- **Who was the first recipient of the World Food Prize?**
 - M. S. Swaminathan in 1987.
- **Who received the 2025 World Food Prize?**
 - Mariangela Hungria.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & TOURISM

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

- **When is International Women's Day (IWD) observed annually?**
 - 8 March.
- **When did International Women's Day gain official recognition from the United Nations?**
 - 1977.
- **What historical event is associated with the date 8 March?**
 - The 1917 women workers' protests in Russia demanding "bread and peace."
- **Why is 8 March associated with the 1917 Russian women's protests?**
 - The protest began on **23 February in the Julian calendar**, corresponding to **8 March in the Gregorian calendar**.
- **What is the theme of International Women's Day 2026?**
 - "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."
- **What does the IWD 2026 theme emphasise?**
 - Strengthening women's rights, access to justice, and accelerated progress towards gender equality.
- **What is the global campaign associated with International Women's Day 2026?**
 - "Give to Gain."
- **What does the "Give to Gain" campaign highlight?**
 - The importance of **collective support, mentorship, and resource sharing** to empower women and advance gender equality.
- **How has India's approach to women's development evolved?**
 - From "development for women" to "women-led development," recognising women as drivers of economic and social progress.
- **What does "women-led development" emphasise?**
 - Women's participation in entrepreneurship, education, governance, and economic and social development.
- **Which initiative was organised along Kartavya Path to highlight women's leadership?**
 - "Shakti Walk – #SheLeadsBharat."
- **What is the significance of International Women's Day 2026 for India?**
 - It highlights the role of **Nari Shakti** in India's development and the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, while promoting women's leadership and inclusive development.

KARUNA: THE POWER OF COMPASSION – 2026

- **Who released the book *Karuna: The Power of Compassion* in March 2026?**
– Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- **Who published *Karuna: The Power of Compassion*?**
– The Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, in collaboration with HarperCollins.
- **What is the central theme of *Karuna: The Power of Compassion*?**
– The transformative power of compassion in promoting justice, peace, equality and sustainability.
- **What is the primary objective of Bachpan Bachao Andolan?**
– To work towards the eradication of child labour and child trafficking.
- **Which ILO convention was influenced by the Global March Against Child Labour?**
– ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- **With whom did Kailash Satyarthi jointly receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014?**
– Malala Yousafzai.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & WORLD AFFAIRS

IRAN LEADERSHIP TRANSITION – AYATOLLAH ALIREZA ARAFI

- **Who has been appointed as a key member of Iran's interim Leadership Council following the reported death of Ali Khamenei?**
– Ayatollah Alireza Araf.
- **Under which Article of the Iranian Constitution is the interim Leadership Council formed?**
– Article 111.
- **How many members constitute Iran's interim Leadership Council?**
– Three members.
- **Which body is responsible for choosing the permanent successor to Iran's Supreme Leader?**
– The Assembly of Experts.
- **Which important Iranian constitutional bodies have included Alireza Araf as a member?**
– The Guardian Council and the Assembly of Experts.
- **Which Iranian city is a major centre of Shia Islamic scholarship associated with Alireza Araf?**
– Qom.
- **What is the significance of the interim Leadership Council in Iran?**
– It ensures continuity of executive, military and judicial authority during the leadership transition.

OPERATION EPIC FURY – U.S. MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN

- **What is the name of the major U.S. military campaign launched against Iran in February 2026?**

– Operation Epic Fury.

- **Which country supported the United States in Operation Epic Fury?**
 - Israel.
- **What was the stated primary objective of Operation Epic Fury?**
 - To dismantle Iran’s nuclear programme and weaken the ruling regime.
- **Which Iranian military organisation was specifically targeted under the stated objectives of the operation?**
 - The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).
- **What types of Iranian targets were reportedly attacked during Operation Epic Fury?**
 - Missile installations, command centres and other strategic military facilities.
- **Which weapons were reportedly used by the U.S. in the operation?**
 - Aircraft, cruise missiles and drones.
- **How did Iran respond to Operation Epic Fury?**
 - Iran launched missile and drone attacks against U.S. and allied military installations in several Middle Eastern countries.
- **Why is the Strait of Hormuz significant in the context of the conflict?**
 - Disruption around the Strait of Hormuz could affect global oil supply routes and energy security.
- **What were the major international concerns arising from Operation Epic Fury?**
 - Regional stability, global energy security, nuclear proliferation and diplomatic de-escalation.

RAISINA DIALOGUE 2026

- **Which country hosted the 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue 2026?**
 - India.
- **Where was the Raisina Dialogue 2026 held?**
 - New Delhi.
- **Who was the Chief Guest at the Raisina Dialogue 2026?**
 - Alexander Stubb, President of Finland.
- **When did President Alexander Stubb visit India in 2026?**
 - March 2026.
- **Who organised the Raisina Dialogue?**
 - Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- **What is the Raisina Dialogue?**
 - India’s flagship international conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, bringing together global leaders, policymakers, and experts.
- **What was the theme of the Raisina Dialogue 2026?**
 - “Samskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.”
- **Which areas were emphasised during the India–Finland cooperation discussions?**
 - Digitalisation, sustainability, clean energy, and advanced technologies.

- **What was the significance of President Alexander Stubb's participation in the Raisina Dialogue 2026?**
 - It highlighted the growing strategic partnership between India and Finland and India's increasing role in global geopolitical discussions.

MOJTABA KHAMENEI – SUPREME LEADER OF IRAN, 2026

- **Who was appointed the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2026?**
 - Mojtaba Khamenei.
- **When was Mojtaba Khamenei appointed Supreme Leader of Iran?**
 - 8 March 2026.
- **When did Mojtaba Khamenei join the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)?**
 - 1987, during the Iran-Iraq War period.
- **What is significant about Mojtaba Khamenei's relationship with the IRGC?**
 - He has maintained **deep connections with senior IRGC and intelligence officials**.
- **What is controversial about Mojtaba Khamenei's succession?**
 - His succession represents a **father-to-son transfer of supreme leadership**, raising concerns about a shift towards a dynastic political system.
- **What does Mojtaba Khamenei's leadership indicate about Iran's foreign-policy orientation?**
 - It is viewed as indicating **continuity in Iran's hardline and confrontational policies**.
- **How has the United States reacted to Mojtaba Khamenei's appointment?**
 - U.S. President Donald Trump criticised the appointment and described it as unacceptable.
- **How did Russia and China respond to his appointment?**
 - Russia and China expressed support, citing the constitutional basis of the succession.

BALEN SHAH (BALENDRA SHAH) – NEPAL'S YOUNGEST PRIME MINISTER, 2026

- **Who became the youngest Prime Minister in Nepal's history?**
 - Balendra Shah (Balen).
- **What is Balendra Shah's age?**
 - 35 years.
- **Which political party achieved a landslide victory in Nepal's 2026 election?**
 - Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).
- **How many directly elected seats did the RSP secure in the House of Representatives?**
 - 125 of the 165 directly elected seats.
- **What majority was the RSP projected to command in Nepal's Parliament?**
 - A two-thirds majority in the 275-member Parliament.
- **By approximately what margin did Balendra Shah defeat KP Sharma Oli?**
 - Nearly 50,000 votes.
- **What was the main political slogan or platform of the RSP?**
 - "Generation Change", focusing on technocratic governance, transparency and economic revival.

- **What are the major economic objectives announced by Balendra Shah?**
 - To raise Nepal's GDP to \$100 billion and double per capita income to \$3,000.
- **What is Balendra Shah's employment target?**
 - To create 1.2 million jobs over five years to address youth unemployment and out-migration.
- **How many seats did the Rastriya Swatantra Party secure in the 2026 Nepalese general election?**
 - 182 seats in the 275-member Parliament.
- **Whom did Balen Shah defeat in the Jhapa-5 parliamentary constituency?**
 - Former Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli.
- **Who administered the oath of office to Balen Shah?**
 - Ram Chandra Paudel, President of Nepal.
- **Where was the oath-taking ceremony of Balen Shah held?**
 - Sheetal Niwas in Kathmandu.
- **Which community does Balen Shah belong to, making him the first leader from this community to become Prime Minister in decades?**
 - The Madhesi community.

BHUMIKA SHRESTHA – NEPAL

- **Who became Nepal's first transgender woman lawmaker?**
 - Bhumika Shrestha.
- **Through which electoral system was Bhumika Shrestha confirmed as a Member of Parliament?**
 - Proportional representation.
- **Which political party does Bhumika Shrestha represent in Nepal's Parliament?**
 - Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).
- **What is Bhumika Shrestha known for besides being a lawmaker?**
 - She is a Nepalese LGBTQ+ rights activist and actress.
- **Which organisation has Bhumika Shrestha worked with to advocate for gender and sexual minority rights?**
 - Blue Diamond Society.
- **What major issues does Bhumika Shrestha aim to raise in Parliament?**
 - LGBTQ+ and gender-minority rights, legal protection gaps, anti-discrimination measures and inclusive policies.

INDONESIA – SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTION

- **Which country introduced a nationwide ban on social media use for children under 16?**
 - Indonesia.
- **What age restriction has Indonesia imposed on social media accounts?**
 - Children below 16 years are prohibited from holding accounts on major social media platforms.

- **Which country became the first in Southeast Asia to introduce such social media restrictions?**
– Indonesia.
- **Which major social media platforms are covered under the restriction?**
– YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Bigo Live and Roblox.
- **What is the primary objective of Indonesia's social media age restriction?**
– To protect children from cyberbullying, online scams, pornography exposure and social-media addiction.
- **What mechanism are social media companies required to implement under the regulation?**
– Age-verification mechanisms to prevent under-16 users from creating accounts.
- **What role have parents and guardians been encouraged to play?**
– They have been encouraged to monitor children's online activities and promote responsible internet usage.
- **What action will be taken against accounts belonging to users under 16 on high-risk platforms?**
– Such accounts will be gradually deactivated as part of the enforcement of the regulation.

REPORTS & INDICES

HURUN GLOBAL RICH LIST 2026

- **Which organisation released the Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
– Hurun Research Institute.
- **How many billionaires does India have according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
– 308 billionaires.
- **What is India's global position in terms of the number of billionaires?**
– Third, after the United States and China.
- **What was the combined wealth of Indian billionaires in 2026?**
– Approximately ₹112.6 trillion, an increase of 10%.
- **What is the average wealth of Indian billionaires according to the report?**
– Around ₹36,570 crore.
- **Which city is India's leading billionaire hub?**
– Mumbai, with 95 billionaires.
- **Which Asian city overtook Mumbai as Asia's billionaire capital?**
– Shenzhen, with 132 billionaires.
- **Which other major Indian cities are prominent billionaire hubs?**
– New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
- **Who is the richest person in India according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
– Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries.
- **What percentage of India's billionaire population comprises women?**
– Only 7%, highlighting a significant gender gap among ultra-high-net-worth individuals.

CHANDIGARH ACHIEVES FULLY LITERATE UT STATUS

- Which Union Territory has achieved a 99.93% literacy rate and been recognised as fully literate?
– Chandigarh.
- Which Union Territory was the first in India to achieve fully literate status?
– Ladakh.
- Under which programme did Chandigarh achieve fully literate status?
– New India Literacy Programme (NILP), also known as Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
- Which age group is targeted under the New India Literacy Programme?
– Non-literate persons aged 15 years and above.
- Which assessment test was used to verify Chandigarh's literacy achievement?
– Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT).
- What was the role of "Preraks" in Chandigarh's literacy campaign?
– They acted as instructors for non-literate adults, with college students and members of Vidyalaya Kalyan Samitis supporting the initiative.
- Which digital platform was used to track learners' progress?
– The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) mobile app.
- What type of literacy was emphasised in Chandigarh's campaign?
– Functional literacy, including basic banking, reading signboards and using digital payment interfaces.
- Which Sustainable Development Goal is directly supported by Chandigarh's literacy achievement?
– SDG 4 – Quality Education.

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2026

- Which country was ranked the world's happiest country in the World Happiness Report 2026?
– Finland, for the ninth consecutive year.
- Which organisation released the World Happiness Report 2026?
– The Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, in partnership with the Gallup World Poll and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN).
- What are the six key indicators used to measure happiness?
– GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and perception of corruption.
- Which country ranked fourth in the World Happiness Report 2026?
– Costa Rica, the highest-ranked Latin American country.
- Which countries occupied the top three positions in the World Happiness Report 2026?
– Finland, Iceland and Denmark.
- Which country ranked 116th in the World Happiness Report 2026?
– India, with a life evaluation score of 4.536.

- Which country ranked highest among the BRICS countries mentioned in the report?
– China, ranked 65th.
- Which country was ranked the least happy in the World Happiness Report 2026?
– Afghanistan, ranked 147th.

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2026

- Which organisation released the Global Terrorism Index 2026?
– The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- How many countries are covered by the Global Terrorism Index?
– 163 countries.
- Which database provides the primary data for the Global Terrorism Index?
– Dragonfly's TerrorismTracker database.
- Which factors are used to measure the impact of terrorism in the Global Terrorism Index?
– Terrorist incidents, fatalities, injuries and hostages.
- Which country ranked first in the Global Terrorism Index 2026?
– Pakistan, indicating the highest impact of terrorism.
- What was India's rank in the Global Terrorism Index 2026?
– 13th, with a score of 6.428.
- Which region accounted for more than half of all terrorism-related deaths in 2025?
– The Sahel region.
- Which region continued to be the global epicentre of terrorism?
– Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Which five countries accounted for nearly 70% of terrorism-related deaths?
– Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Which terrorist organisation remained among the deadliest globally according to the GTI 2026?
– The Islamic State (IS).

UTTAR PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

KALINJAR FORT – NATIONAL GEO-HERITAGE SITE

- Which hill region has been declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI)?
– The hill region surrounding Kalinjar Fort in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh.
- In which mountain range is the Kalinjar Geo-Heritage Site located?
– The Vindhya Range.
- Which important geological feature is found at the Kalinjar Geo-Heritage Site?
– The Eparchaeon Unconformity.

- **What rock formations are associated with the Eparchaeon Unconformity at Kalinjar?**
 - Around 2.5-billion-year-old Bundelkhand granite overlain by approximately 1.2-billion-year-old Kaimur sandstone.
- **Which dynasty significantly developed Kalinjar Fort and used the title “Kalanjaradhipati”?**
 - The Chandela dynasty.
- **Which important temple is located within Kalinjar Fort?**
 - The Neelkanth Mahadev Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- **Which Chandela ruler is associated with the construction of the Neelkanth Mahadev Temple?**
 - Paramaditya Dev.

UTTAR PRADESH STC-ONEOTT MOU – BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- **When did the Uttar Pradesh State Transformation Commission (STC) sign the MoU with OneOTT Entertainment Ltd?**
 - 9 March 2026.
- **With which company did the Uttar Pradesh State Transformation Commission sign the MoU to bridge the digital divide?**
 - OneOTT Entertainment Ltd, the broadband vertical of Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS).
- **What is the target of the STC-OneOTT broadband connectivity initiative?**
 - To provide high-speed broadband connectivity to 2 million (20 lakh) households over the next 2–3 years.
- **Which areas will receive priority under the broadband connectivity initiative?**
 - Rural and semi-urban areas, particularly aspirational and border districts.
- **Which Uttar Pradesh districts have been specifically identified for priority intervention?**
 - Shravasti, Bahraich and Balrampur.
- **How many direct and indirect jobs is the project expected to generate in Uttar Pradesh?**
 - More than 1 lakh jobs.
- **What is the primary objective of the STC-OneOTT partnership?**
 - To bridge the digital divide by strengthening high-speed broadband connectivity across Uttar Pradesh.
- **How will the project contribute to e-governance and Digital India?**
 - By strengthening the state’s digital infrastructure and expanding access to digital services.
- **How does the project promote digital entrepreneurship among rural youth?**
 - By training local youth as Digital Service Providers and providing them technical and financial support.

FARIDABAD-JEWAR AIRPORT CONNECTIVITY CORRIDOR

- **Which project has been approved to improve connectivity between Faridabad and Noida International Airport (Jewar)?**
 - An 11-km elevated highway as part of the Faridabad-Jewar Airport connectivity corridor.

- **What is the revised total capital cost approved for the entire 31.42-km connectivity corridor?**
– ₹3,630.77 crore.
- **What is the length of the elevated section approved under the project?**
– 11 km.
- **Which expressway spur will be connected to Noida International Airport through the elevated corridor?**
– The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway spur starting from Sector-65, Faridabad.
- **What is the approximate cost of the 11-km elevated section?**
– About ₹689 crore.
- **How much will the Haryana Government contribute towards the elevated section?**
– ₹450 crore.
- **Which agency is implementing the Faridabad-Jewar Airport connectivity project?**
– National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- **Under which mode is the Faridabad-Jewar connectivity project being implemented?**
– Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).
- **Which national infrastructure planning initiative does the Faridabad-Jewar corridor exemplify?**
– PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
- **Which modes of transport are integrated through the project under the PM GatiShakti approach?**
– Road, rail through the Dedicated Freight Corridor, and air transport through Jewar Airport.

UTTAR PRADESH CLEAN AIR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – WORLD BANK SUPPORT

- **Which institutions signed an agreement to support Uttar Pradesh's Clean Air Plan?**
– The World Bank, Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- **What is the primary objective of the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Programme?**
– To reduce air pollution, improve public health outcomes and create employment opportunities for youth and women.
- **Which geographical region is the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air programme primarily focused on?**
– The Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP).
- **Which major Uttar Pradesh cities are among the high-pollution clusters targeted under the programme?**
– Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- **What reduction in PM_{2.5} levels is targeted in participating cities by 2030?**
– A 30% reduction.
- **Which national programme is the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air target aligned with?**
– National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- **What is the total outlay of the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Programme?**
– \$299.66 million.
- **What is the total financing package for the broader clean-air project?**
– \$500 million, funded through the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- **How much World Bank loan has been provided for the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Programme?**
– \$299.66 million.
- **How many new air-quality monitoring stations are expected to be installed under the programme?**
– Almost 200 new air-quality monitors.
- **How much private-sector investment does the programme aim to mobilise?**
– \$150 million, particularly for transportation and MSMEs.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION 2.0 – REFORM-LINKED MOU WITH UTTAR PRADESH

- **Which State signed a reform-linked MoU with the Government of India under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?**
– Uttar Pradesh.
- **When was Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 approved by the Union Cabinet?**
– 10 March 2026.
- **What is the primary purpose of the reform-linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?**
– To strengthen rural drinking water governance and ensure sustainable service delivery.
- **In whose presence was the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 MoU between the Centre and Uttar Pradesh signed?**
– Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Paatil and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- **How many key structural reform areas are outlined in the Uttar Pradesh MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?**
– 11 key structural reform areas.
- **What are some major reform areas covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 MoU?**
– Governance architecture, service utility framework, participatory governance, and research and innovation.
- **What are the major objectives of the reform-linked framework under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?**
– Accountability, assured service delivery, institutional capacity building, digital governance and community participation.
- **What is the 'Jal Arpan' process under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?**
– The process of handing over completed piped water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats for local management.
- **Which digital system will be operationalised for planning under the reform framework?**
– Decision Support System (DSS).

- **Which application will facilitate local evaluation of rural water services?**
– Meri Panchayat app.
- **When was the National Jal Mahotsav 2026 launched?**
– March 2026.
- **Up to when has the Jal Jeevan Mission been extended?**
– December 2028.

NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NIA) – AERODROME LICENSE

- **Which authority has granted the Aerodrome License to Noida International Airport (NIA)?**
– Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- **Where is the Noida International Airport located?**
– Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Which company is the developer and operator of Noida International Airport?**
– Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, a subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG.
- **What does the Aerodrome License granted to NIA signify?**
– Compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and DGCA's Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR).
- **What major operational activities were completed before granting the Aerodrome License to NIA?**
– Calibration flights, ILS validation and emergency response drills.
- **Which national infrastructure initiative identifies Noida International Airport as a key infrastructure project?**
– PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- **Which major projects are expected to receive an economic boost from NIA's development in the YEIDA region?**
– Proposed Film City, Medical Device Park and Apparel Park.
- **What model of infrastructure development is represented by Noida International Airport?**
– A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model involving foreign investment and government agencies.
- **Which foreign entity is involved in the Noida International Airport project?**
– Zurich Airport International AG.
- **Which international organisation's standards are relevant to the Aerodrome License compliance of NIA?**
– International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – PHASE-I INAUGURATION

- **Who inaugurated Phase-I of the Noida International Airport?**
– Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Where is the Noida International Airport located?**
– Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh.

- **What type of airport is the Noida International Airport?**
 - A major greenfield international airport project.
- **How much investment has been made in Phase-I of the Noida International Airport?**
 - Around ₹11,200 crore.
- **Which company has developed and operates the Noida International Airport?**
 - Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL).
- **YIAPL is a subsidiary of which international airport company?**
 - Zurich Airport International AG.
- **Which governments are partnering in the development of Noida International Airport?**
 - The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and India, in partnership with YIAPL.
- **How is the region around Noida International Airport emerging as a logistics hub?**
 - Through the convergence of two major freight corridors at Dadri, enabling efficient multimodal movement of goods to global markets.
- **What major aviation-related facility is planned at Jewar to reduce India's dependence on foreign maintenance services?**
 - A Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility.
- **What broader national development vision does the Noida International Airport project support?**
 - The vision of “Viksit Bharat” through modern infrastructure and improved connectivity.
- **Which district is associated with the convergence of major freight corridors that supports the logistics potential of the Jewar region?**
 - Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar district.

INDIASKILLS NATIONAL COMPETITION 2025-26 – GREATER NOIDA

Where was the IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26 inaugurated?

– India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Under which national mission is the IndiaSkills National Competition organised?**
 - Skill India Mission.
- **Which organisation is responsible for organising the IndiaSkills National Competition?**
 - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- **Which international competition does the IndiaSkills National Competition serve as the qualifying event for?**
 - WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.
- **What is WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 popularly known as?**
 - The “Olympics of Skills.”
- **How many skill categories are included in the IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26?**
 - 63 skill categories.
- **What broad areas are covered by the skill categories in IndiaSkills 2025-26?**
 - Traditional Trades, Emerging Technologies, Service Excellence, and Onsite versus Offsite Execution.

- **Which core technical skills are included in the IndiaSkills competition?**
 - Electrical Installation, Electronics, Web Technologies and Cloud Computing.

VARANASI – GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR MASS PLANTATION

- **Which city created a new Guinness World Record by planting 2,51,446 saplings in one hour?**
 - Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **How many saplings were planted in one hour during the record-breaking plantation drive in Varanasi?**
 - 2,51,446 saplings.
- **Where was the record-breaking plantation drive conducted in Varanasi?**
 - Sujabad-Domari area, along the banks of the Ganga River.
- **Over how much land was the mega plantation drive carried out?**
 - Approximately 350 bighas of land.
- **Which organisation organised the record-breaking plantation drive in Varanasi?**
 - Varanasi Municipal Corporation.
- **Which groups participated in the mass plantation drive?**
 - Indian Army, NDRF, CRPF, police personnel, students, volunteers and local citizens.
- **Which country previously held the Guinness-recognised record for the most saplings planted in one hour?**
 - China.
- **What type of forest is planned to be developed through the Varanasi plantation initiative?**
 - An urban forest comprising diverse native plant species.

