Forum PCS

UPPSC PRELIMS

QRS QUICK REVISION SERIES

Last-Minute Revision Notes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

& UPPSC SPECIAL EDITION

Polity • Economy • Environment • Science • Uttar Pradesh

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02 International News
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Q.R.P.

Quick Revision Points

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

➤ How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted in India so far? (Jan 2026)
– Four (1952, 1963, 1973, 2002)

➤ Which Articles provide for readjustment of constituencies after each Census? (Jan 2026)
– Articles 82 and 170

➤ How many assembly seats did the 2022 J&K Delimitation Commission create? (Jan 2026)
– 90 (43 Jammu, 47 Kashmir)

➤ Under which programme was Land Stack launched? (Jan 2026)
– DILRMP

➤ Which ministry launched the PANKHUDI portal? (Jan 2026)
– Ministry of Women and Child Development

➤ At which conference was ECINET launched? (Jan 2026)
– IICDEM 2026

➤ In which year was PRAGATI launched? (Jan 2026)
– 2015

➤ Who chairs the PRAGATI review meetings? (Jan 2026)
– The Prime Minister

➤ Which rail link sanctioned in 1994 was opened in 2025 with PRAGATI's push? (Jan 2026)
– Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla link

➤ Which Act was discussed in relation to the Romeo-Juliet clause? (Jan 2026)
– POCSO Act

➤ What does a Romeo-Juliet clause aim to protect? (Jan 2026)
– Consensual adolescent relationships with small age gap

➤ Which Union List entry is the basis of the VBSA Bill, 2025? (Jan 2026)
– Entry 66

➤ Which three Acts does the VBSA Bill repeal? (Jan 2026)
– UGC, AICTE and NCTE Acts

➤ To which committee was the VBSA Bill referred? (Jan 2026)
– Joint Parliamentary Committee

➤ Does VBSA control the funding of institutions? (Jan 2026)
– No

➤ What share of the divisible pool did the 16th Finance Commission give to States? (Feb 2026)
– 41 per cent

➤ Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission? (Feb 2026)
– Dr Arvind Panagariya

➤ Which constitutional article provides for grants-in-aid to States on the Commission's advice? (Feb 2026)
– Article 275

➤ What is the award period of the 16th Finance Commission? (Feb 2026)
– 2026-27 to 2030-31

➤ Which population-growth period is used for demographic performance by the 16th Finance Commission? (Feb 2026)
– 1971 to 2011

➤ Which criterion replaced the tax effort parameter? (Feb 2026)
– Contribution to GDP

➤ Under which article is the divisible pool of taxes shared? (Feb 2026)
– Article 270

➤ What is the total grants-in-aid recommended by the 16th Finance Commission? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 9.47 lakh crore

➤ Which two hazards are recommended for national disaster status? (Feb 2026)
– Heatwaves and lightning

➤ What Centre-State cost sharing applies to Himalayan States for disaster funds? (Feb 2026)
– 90:10

➤ What share of divisible pool goes to States? (Feb 2026)
– 41 per cent

➤ Which criterion has the highest weight? (Feb 2026)
– Income distance (42.5%)

➤ Which Article provides for the Finance Commission? (Feb 2026)
– Article 280

➤ Which Article fixes the seat of the Supreme Court? (Feb 2026)
– Article 130

➤ Which Law Commission report recommended Cassation Benches? (Feb 2026)
– 229th report (2009)

➤ By when must the Centre notify Collegium names under the Bill? (Feb 2026)
– 90 days

➤ Which Supreme Court case upheld key PMLA provisions in 2022? (Feb 2026)
– Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India

➤ For how many days can property be provisionally attached under Section 5 PMLA? (Feb 2026)
– 180 days

➤ What is the maximum punishment under Section 4 for NDPS-linked laundering? (Feb 2026)
– 10 years

➤ Which committee in 1957 recommended the three-tier Panchayati Raj? (Feb 2026)
– Balwant Rai Mehta Committee

➤ How many functions are listed in the Eleventh Schedule? (Feb 2026)
– 29

➤ How many days of wage employment does the 2025 rural Act guarantee? (Feb 2026)
– 125 days

➤ Which Act of 1871 branded certain tribes as criminal? (Feb 2026)
– Criminal Tribes Act, 1871

➤ What is the health cover per family under SEED? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 5 lakh

➤ Which Ministry runs SEED? (Feb 2026)
– Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

➤ How many subjects are devolved to FNTA? (Feb 2026)
– 46

➤ Which article gives Nagaland special provisions? (Feb 2026)
– Article 371(A)

➤ Which organisation represents the eastern Naga tribes in the agreement? (Feb 2026)
– ENPO

➤ Since which year has India adopted gender budgeting? (Feb 2026)
– 2004-05

➤ What share of a scheme's allocation qualifies for Part B? (Feb 2026)
– At least 30 per cent

➤ What is the Gender Budget share in the Union Budget now? (Feb 2026)
– 9.37 per cent

➤ What is the Tele MANAS helpline number? (Feb 2026)
– 14416

➤ Where is the second NIMHANS proposed? (Feb 2026)
– Northern India

➤ Which two institutes are to be upgraded to Regional Apex Institutions? (Feb 2026)
– Ranchi and Tezpur

➤ Under which Article was menstrual health held part of the right to life? (Feb 2026)
– Article 21

➤ For which classes does the school menstrual hygiene policy apply? (Feb 2026)
– Classes 6 to 12

➤ Under which section of the RTE Act can non-compliant private schools be de-recognised? (Feb 2026)
– Section 19

➤ Which Article guarantees the right to education for children aged 6-14? (Feb 2026)
– Article 21A

➤ Which body released India's first DVI guidelines? (Feb 2026)
– NDMA

➤ Which registry is proposed to support dental identification? (Feb 2026)
– National Dental Data Registry

➤ Name the three primary identifiers under the DVI guidelines. (Feb 2026)
– Fingerprints, dental records, DNA

➤ Which institute is the Independent Verification Agency for SANKALP? (Feb 2026)
– IIM Indore

➤ What is the total outlay of SANKALP? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 4,455 crore

➤ Which committee criticised SANKALP's implementation? (Feb 2026)
– Public Accounts Committee

➤ How many pillars does PRAHAAR have? (Feb 2026)
– Seven

➤ Which agency is the nodal national counter-terror force? (Feb 2026)
– National Security Guard

➤ Which ministry released PRAHAAR? (Feb 2026)
– Ministry of Home Affairs

➤ Which 2013 case led to NOTA on EVMs? (Feb 2026)
– PUCL v. Union of India

➤ Which article provides for the President's address to Parliament? (Feb 2026)
– Article 87(1)

➤ Where was NOTA first used in Assembly polls? (Feb 2026)
– Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, MP, Delhi (2013)

➤ Which doctrine decides if a practice is protected under Article 25? (Feb 2026)
– Essential Religious Practices test

➤ Which 2018 judgment is cited in the debate? (Feb 2026)
– Sabarimala judgment

➤ Which Article guarantees freedom of movement? (Feb 2026)
– Article 19(1)(d)

➤ What minimum support is needed to grant leave for a removal motion? (Feb 2026)
– 50 members

➤ Who faced the first Speaker removal motion in 1954? (Feb 2026)
– G.V. Mavalankar

➤ What majority is needed to remove the Speaker? (Feb 2026)
– Majority of all then members

➤ Which section of the PCA requires prior approval to inquire against a public servant? (Feb 2026)
– Section 17A

➤ Through which amendment was Section 17A inserted? (Feb 2026)
– Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018

➤ Which judge held Section 17A violates Article 14? (Feb 2026)
– Justice B. V. Nagarathna

➤ In which year did India ratify UNCAC? (Feb 2026)
– 2011

➤ Who chaired the task force on capacity building of sports administrators? (Feb 2026)
– Abhinav Bindra

➤ Under which Act were the National Sports Body Rules, 2026 notified? (Feb 2026)
– National Sports Governance Act, 2025

➤ Who chairs the search-cum-selection committee of the National Sports Board? (Feb 2026)
– Cabinet Secretary

➤ What is the target year for India to be a top-10 sporting nation? (Feb 2026)
– 2036

➤ Members of the National Sports Board? (Feb 2026)
– Chairperson and two Members

➤ What penalty did CCI impose on Meta in November 2024? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 213.14 crore

➤ Which tribunal set aside the five-year data-sharing ban? (Feb 2026)
– NCLAT

➤ Which 2023 Act now governs data protection? (Feb 2026)
– Digital Personal Data Protection Act

➤ Where is the National Judicial Academy located? (Feb 2026)
– Bhopal

➤ Which judgment banned the two-finger test? (Feb 2026)
– State of Jharkhand v. Shailendra Kumar Rai (2022)

➤ In which year was the Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes released? (Feb 2026)
– 2023

➤ Which 2013 case upheld distribution of colour TVs by a State? (Feb 2026)
– S. Subramaniam Balaji case

➤ Which Act section deals with bribery as a corrupt electoral practice? (Feb 2026)
– Section 123, RPA 1951

➤ Which case saw the 2026 observations on freebies? (Feb 2026)
– Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation v. Union of India

➤ How much is allocated per City Economic Region over five years? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 5,000 crore

➤ What population density does the Census require for an urban area? (Feb 2026)
– 400 persons per sq km

➤ What is the size of the Urban Challenge Fund? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 1 lakh crore

➤ Where was VVP-II launched? (Feb 2026)
– Assam

➤ How many infrastructure themes does VVP-II saturate? (Feb 2026)
– Four

➤ When was VVP-I launched? (Feb 2026)
– 2023

➤ How many km are covered by CIBMS Stages II and III? (Feb 2026)
– About 1,955 km

➤ Which district hosted the launch of VVP-II? (Feb 2026)
– Cachar, Assam

➤ Where will the Kuki and Hmar councils be headquartered? (Mar 2026)
– Guwahati

➤ Which Act's challenge led to CJI Surya Kant's recusal? (Mar 2026)
– CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023

➤ Which doctrine requires a court to hear a case when no other forum exists? (Mar 2026)
– Doctrine of necessity

➤ Which Article governs removal of the Chief Election Commissioner? (Mar 2026)
– Article 324(5)

➤ How many Lok Sabha MPs must sign a removal motion? (Mar 2026)
– 100

➤ Who recommends removal of other Election Commissioners? (Mar 2026)
– The CEC

➤ Which 1937 Act is under challenge on inheritance rules? (Mar 2026)
– Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act

➤ Which state's UCC is cited in the petition? (Mar 2026)
– Uttarakhand

➤ How many CAPFs does the 2026 Bill cover? (Mar 2026)
– Five

➤ IPS deputation share at DG level under the Bill? (Mar 2026)
– 100%

➤ Which HQ prepared Vision 2047? (Mar 2026)
– HQ Integrated Defence Staff

➤ How many Lok Sabha MPs signed the notice against the CEC? (Mar 2026)
– 130

➤ Which section of the RP Act 1950 treats election staff as on deputation to the ECI? (Mar 2026)
– Section 13CC

➤ Who is the Chief Election Commissioner named in the notice? (Mar 2026)
– Gyanesh Kumar

➤ Which House votes on Demands for Grants? (Mar 2026)
– Lok Sabha

➤ Who invokes the guillotine? (Mar 2026)
– Speaker

➤ What does CANH stand for? (Mar 2026)
– Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration

➤ Which constitutional article underpins the right to die with dignity? (Mar 2026)
– Article 21

➤ Outlay of IVFRT for 2026-31? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 1,800 crore

➤ Which ministry runs IVFRT? (Mar 2026)
– Ministry of Home Affairs

➤ Length of India-Myanmar border? (Mar 2026)
– 1,643 km

➤ Cost of border fencing project? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 31,000 crore

➤ Deadline set for ending Maoist violence? (Mar 2026)
– 31 March 2026

➤ Which region was the Maoist heartland in Chhattisgarh? (Mar 2026)
– Bastar

➤ Which village in Vidarbha became Maharashtra's first net-zero village? (Mar 2026)
– Bela Gram (Bhandara)

➤ What must a claimant prove in a no-fault scheme? (Mar 2026)
– Only causation

➤ Which committees handle adverse vaccine events? (Mar 2026)
– AEFI committees

➤ Weeks of paid leave for adoptive mothers after the verdict? (Mar 2026)
– 12 weeks

➤ Paternity leave for male government employees? (Mar 2026)
– 15 days

➤ Which 2020 case mandated permanent commission for women in the Army? (Mar 2026)
– Babita Puniya case

➤ From which date are pension arrears payable? (Mar 2026)
– 1 January 2025

➤ Name the 2026 SC case on OBC creamy layer test. (Mar 2026)
– Union of India v. Rohith Nathan

➤ Which OM governs creamy layer determination? (Mar 2026)
– 1993 Office Memorandum

➤ Is income the sole criterion for OBC creamy layer per SC? (Mar 2026)
– No, it is status-based

➤ Which religions are covered by the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950? (Mar 2026)
– Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism

➤ Which article empowers the President to specify Scheduled Castes? (Mar 2026)
– Article 341

➤ Which 2014 judgment recognised transgender persons as a third gender? (Mar 2026)
– NALSA v. Union of India

➤ Who heads the Medical Board proposed under the 2026 Amendment Bill? (Mar 2026)
– Chief Medical Officer or Deputy CMO

➤ Penalty for forcing a child into transgender identity under the Bill? (Mar 2026)
– Life imprisonment and Rs 5 lakh fine

➤ From which date does the Amaravati capital law take retrospective effect? (Apr 2026)
– 2 June 2024

➤ Which Act made Amaravati the permanent capital? (Apr 2026)
– Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026

➤ Which Schedule of the Constitution contains the anti-defection law? (Apr 2026)
– Tenth Schedule

➤ What fraction of a legislature party must agree for a protected merger? (Apr 2026)
– Two-thirds

➤ Who decides disqualification of a Rajya Sabha member? (Apr 2026)
– Rajya Sabha Chairman

➤ Which state's police received the President's Police Colour in May 2026? (Apr 2026)
– Sikkim

➤ What maximum Lok Sabha strength did the 131st Amendment Bill propose? (Apr 2026)
– 850 members

➤ What was the vote on the Bill in Lok Sabha? (Apr 2026)
– 298 for, 230 against

➤ Which amendment froze delimitation on the 1971 census? (Apr 2026)
– 42nd Amendment (1976)

➤ Which Act provides one-third reservation for women in legislatures? (Apr 2026)
– 106th Amendment Act, 2023

➤ Which Census would be used for interim delimitation? (Apr 2026)
– 2011 Census

➤ Which Act regulates foreign contribution to NGOs? (Apr 2026)
– FCRA, 2010

➤ Which Article provides the right to property? (Apr 2026)
– Article 300A

➤ Which Act governs foreign contributions to NGOs? (Apr 2026)
– FCRA, 2010

➤ What administrative expense cap did the 2020 amendment set? (Apr 2026)
– 20 per cent

➤ Which bank holds the designated FCRA account? (Apr 2026)
– State Bank of India

➤ Minimum foreign contribution to be used in two years to show reasonable activity? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 10 lakh

➤ Which case held that propagation does not include a right to convert? (Apr 2026)
– Rev. Stainislaus v. State of MP (1977)

➤ How many Central Acts does the Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 amend? (Apr 2026)
– 79

➤ How many provisions did Jan Vishwas Act 2023 amend? (Apr 2026)
– 183 provisions in 42 Acts

➤ Under which Article does a High Court judge resign? (Apr 2026)
– Article 217(1)(a)

➤ Which High Court was Justice Yashwant Varma from? (Apr 2026)
– Allahabad High Court

➤ Which two districts are classified as LWE Affected? (Apr 2026)
– Bijapur and West Singhbhum

➤ Which district is a District of Concern? (Apr 2026)
– Kanker

➤ Under which UGC Act section was NCERT declared deemed university? (Apr 2026)
– Section 3, UGC Act 1956

➤ How many constituent units were included with NCERT? (Apr 2026)
– Six

➤ Which operation eliminated the Pahalgam attackers? (Apr 2026)
– Operation Mahadev

➤ Which treaty was placed in abeyance after Pahalgam? (Apr 2026)
– Indus Waters Treaty

➤ On which date was POSHAN Abhiyaan launched? (Apr 2026)
– 8 March 2018

➤ PM POSHAN is the restructured form of which scheme? (Apr 2026)
– Mid-Day Meal Scheme

➤ Which app/tool is used for real-time monitoring under POSHAN? (Apr 2026)
– Poshan Tracker

➤ Who chairs the Online Gaming Authority of India? (Apr 2026)
– Additional Secretary, MeitY

➤ Under which Act were the 2026 Online Gaming Rules framed? (Apr 2026)
– PROG Act, 2025

➤ Maximum validity of a registration certificate for an e-sport? (Apr 2026)
– Up to 10 years

➤ What share of seats is reserved under RTE Section 12(1)(c)? (Apr 2026)
– 25%

➤ Which Article guarantees the right to education? (Apr 2026)
– Article 21A

➤ Which High Court declared khap diktats unconstitutional in 2026? (Apr 2026)
– Rajasthan High Court

➤ Which practice of social boycott was criticised? (Apr 2026)
– Hukka-pani band

➤ Which case gave the 'rarest of rare' doctrine? (Apr 2026)
– Bachan Singh v State of Punjab

➤ Which Constitution Bench ruling bars trial courts from fixed-term life? (Apr 2026)
– UoI v V Sriharan (2015)

➤ Under which Article did the Supreme Court issue the highway safety directions? (Apr 2026)
– Article 142

➤ Maximum interval for ambulances and cranes on national highways? (Apr 2026)
– 75 km

➤ Time limit to implement the highway directions? (Apr 2026)
– 60 days

➤ Which body launched the CPO Portal? (May 2026)
– NITI Aayog

➤ Samadhan Didi works with which language platform? (May 2026)
– Bhashini

➤ Which ECI manual governs EVM handling? (May 2026)
– Manual on EVMs, 2023

➤ Who controls EVM warehouses before polling? (May 2026)
– District Election Officer

➤ Which ministry launched JEEVAN? (May 2026)
– Social Justice and Empowerment

➤ Since when has Centre's NSAP pension share been stagnant? (May 2026)
– 2012

➤ Which Article provides for appointment of the Chief Minister? (May 2026)
– Article 164(1)

➤ Which two commissions recommended the order of preference for inviting parties? (May 2026)
– Sarkaria and Punchhi

➤ How many seats did TVK win in 2026 Tamil Nadu election? (May 2026)
– 108

➤ How many households did NSO 80th Round health survey cover? (May 2026)
– 1.39 lakh

➤ How many Ayushman Arogya Mandirs exist per the survey? (May 2026)
– Over 1.84 lakh

➤ Under which Act is NTA registered? (May 2026)
– Societies Registration Act, 1860

➤ Which 2024 committee proposed NTA reforms? (May 2026)
– Radhakrishnan Committee

➤ Which BNS section replaced sedition? (May 2026)
– Section 152

➤ Which 1962 case upheld sedition with limits? (May 2026)
– Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar

➤ Electors in Uttar Pradesh's final roll after SIR Phase II? (May 2026)
– 13.39 crore

➤ Total electoral roll after SIR Phase II? (May 2026)
– 45.81 crore

➤ Which Article is the basis of the ECI's power over electoral rolls? (May 2026)
– Article 324

➤ From which date does SIR Phase III begin? (May 2026)
– 30 May 2026

➤ Does Aadhaar prove citizenship under SIR? (May 2026)
– No, only identity

➤ Which form is used for new voter enrolment? (May 2026)
– Form 6

➤ Where did the parental SIR requirement begin? (May 2026)
– Bihar SIR

➤ Under which Rules is Form 6 prescribed? (May 2026)
– Registration of Electors Rules, 1960

➤ What is the ECI's centralised digital platform for electoral processes called? (May 2026)
– ECINet

➤ Who are the other two Election Commissioners besides CEC Gyanesh Kumar? (May 2026)
– Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi

➤ Which Act's acid attack definition was widened? (May 2026)
– RPwD Act, 2016

➤ Which BNS section deals with acid attack? (May 2026)
– Section 124

➤ Which UAPA section restricts bail? (May 2026)
– Section 43D(5)

➤ Which 2021 case allowed UAPA bail for delay? (May 2026)
– Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb

➤ What was the theme of the 11th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting? (Jun 2026)
– Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047

➤ How many States' CMs attended for the first time? (Jun 2026)
– All 28

➤ Which scheme for women was cited as an example? (Jun 2026)
– Lakhpati Didi

➤ Which scheme gave about 3.18 crore property cards? (Jun 2026)
– SVAMITVA

➤ Which portal integrates GP planning? (Jun 2026)
– e-GramSwaraj

➤ India's first ranking framework launched for which Act? (Jun 2026)
– PESA Act, 1996

➤ Which Article lets the Supreme Court hear original disputes between States? (Jun 2026)
– Article 131

➤ Which board was ordered after the 2018 Cauvery judgment? (Jun 2026)
– Cauvery River Management Board

➤ Who operates the Mullaperiyar Dam? (Jun 2026)
– Tamil Nadu

➤ Which Article deals with the list of Scheduled Tribes? (Jun 2026)
– Article 342

➤ Which religion do Jharkhand groups want recognised separately? (Jun 2026)
– Sarna

➤ Does Article 342 have a religious qualification? (Jun 2026)
– No

➤ Which body released the draft Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026? (Jun 2026)
– Supreme Court of India

➤ Is AI permitted in judicial decision-making under the draft? (Jun 2026)
– No, prohibited

➤ For what purposes is AI permitted under the draft? (Jun 2026)
– Administrative and research purposes

➤ Who was the first woman directly elevated from the Bar to the SC? (Jun 2026)
– Indu Malhotra (2018)

➤ How many SC judges are women now? (Jun 2026)
– 2 of 37

➤ Which country mandates one-third of each gender on its Constitutional Court? (Jun 2026)
– Belgium

➤ When was the Upper Yamuna water MoU signed? (Jun 2026)
– 12 May 1994

➤ Which Article covers inter-State water disputes? (Jun 2026)
– Article 262

➤ Which State has the largest share of Upper Yamuna water? (Jun 2026)
– Haryana (47.82%)

➤ Who chairs the High-Level Committee on Demographic Change? (Jun 2026)
– Justice P. P. Navlekar

➤ Under which ministry is the committee? (Jun 2026)
– Ministry of Home Affairs

➤ What is the maximum jail term for illegal entry under the 2025 Act? (Jun 2026)
– Five years

➤ Is India a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention? (Jun 2026)
– No

➤ When did India ratify the UNCRPD? (Jun 2026)
– October 2007

➤ How many disabilities does the RPwD Act, 2016 recognise? (Jun 2026)
– 21

➤ Which body runs NeSDA? (Jun 2026)
– DARPG

➤ Which 2003 change widened the PCPNDT Act? (Jun 2026)
– Pre-conception sex selection

➤ Child sex ratio in Census 2011? (Jun 2026)
– 919

➤ Section banning advertisements? (Jun 2026)
– Section 22

➤ Is a passport conclusive proof of citizenship? (Jun 2026)
– No

➤ Which case dealt with electoral rolls and citizenship? (Jun 2026)
– Lal Babu Hussein case (1995)

➤ Which Passports Act section allows passports to non-citizens? (Jun 2026)
– Section 20

➤ Which Act provides a Right to Erasure in India? (Jun 2026)
– DPDP Act, 2023

➤ Which European law codifies the right to erasure? (Jun 2026)
– GDPR

➤ Which court stayed removal of a judgment from Indian Kanoon in 2024? (Jun 2026)
– Supreme Court

➤ Which court ruled on it here? (Jun 2026)
– Delhi High Court

➤ What is restricted, not erased? (Jun 2026)
– Name-based search access

➤ Which Articles underpin the right to walk? (Jun 2026)
– 19(1)(d) and 21

➤ Which Act remedies are independent of this right? (Jun 2026)
– Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

➤ Who must maintain footpaths per the Court? (Jun 2026)
– Local bodies and authorities

➤ Which case recognised homemakers as nation builders? (Jun 2026)
– Shish Ram v. Surjeet

➤ Minimum notional monthly value fixed for a homemaker? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 30,000

➤ Claims in which the value is applied? (Jun 2026)
– Motor accident compensation

➤ Which NGO filed the 2004 trafficking PIL? (Jun 2026)
– Prajwala

➤ Which Article bans trafficking? (Jun 2026)
– Article 23(1)

➤ Which international protocol defines trafficking? (Jun 2026)
– Palermo Protocol

➤ Until when will the Victim Protection Plan operate? (Jun 2026)
– Until Parliament enacts a law

➤ Minimum rank to head an AHTU? (Jun 2026)
– Deputy Superintendent of Police

➤ Under which provision was Telegram blocked? (Jun 2026)
– Section 69A, IT Act 2000

➤ Which agency requested the restriction? (Jun 2026)
– National Testing Agency

➤ Till when was Telegram message-editing disabled? (Jun 2026)
– 30 June 2026

➤ Single emergency number to be integrated? (Jun 2026)
– 112

➤ What does PM RAHAT provide? (Jun 2026)
– Cashless treatment to road accident victims

➤ What is the cashless treatment limit under PM RAHAT? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 1.5 lakh

➤ Which ministry runs PM RAHAT? (Jun 2026)
– Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

➤ Which case recognised the Right to Trauma Care? (Jun 2026)
– SaveLIFE Foundation v. Union of India

➤ Which Article empowers Parliament to adjudicate inter-State water disputes? (Jun 2026)
– Article 262

➤ Where does the Tungabhadra join the Krishna? (Jun 2026)
– Sangamaleshwaram, Andhra Pradesh

➤ What is the ancient name of the Tungabhadra? (Jun 2026)
– Pampa

➤ Which 1956 Act allows Union boards for inter-State basins? (Jun 2026)
– River Boards Act, 1956

➤ Which system of government do India and the UK share? (Jun 2026)
– Westminster model

➤ How long can an Indian Minister serve without being an MP? (Jun 2026)
– Six months

➤ Which country has no anti-defection law? (Jun 2026)
– United Kingdom

➤ UAPA section for designating individuals as terrorists? (Jul 2026)
– Section 35

➤ Total designated individual terrorists now? (Jul 2026)
– 80

➤ Which year amended UAPA to allow this? (Jul 2026)
– 2019

➤ Birth registration level in CRS 2024? (Jul 2026)
– 99.1%

➤ Which Act governs birth and death registration? (Jul 2026)
– RBD Act, 1969

➤ Which ministry oversees the RGI? (Jul 2026)
– Ministry of Home Affairs

➤ Which Code underlies the EPF Scheme 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Code on Social Security, 2020

➤ Current EPF interest rate mentioned? (Jul 2026)
– 8.25%

➤ EPS was introduced in which year? (Jul 2026)
– 1995

➤ Which Code is the EPF Scheme 2026 linked to? (Jul 2026)
– Code on Social Security, 2020

➤ What coverage share of social protection did India reach in 2026 per ILO? (Jul 2026)
– 68.4 per cent

➤ Which Code covers gig and platform workers' social security? (Jul 2026)
– Code on Social Security, 2020

➤ Which institute prepared the national study on low Gram Sabha participation? (Jul 2026)
– NIRD&PR

➤ How many women representatives has Sashakt Panchayat Netri Abhiyan trained? (Jul 2026)
– About 1.5 lakh

➤ With which UN agency are 744 women-friendly Gram Panchayats being developed? (Jul 2026)
– UNFPA

➤ Which statute governs film certification? (Jul 2026)
– Cinematograph Act, 1952

➤ Rangarajan case year? (Jul 2026)
– 1989

➤ Rath Yatra date mentioned? (Jul 2026)
– 27 July 2026

➤ Which UNESCO convention do India's anti-doping laws implement? (Jul 2026)
– International Convention against Doping in Sport, 2005

➤ How many categories of anti-doping rule violations does the 2022 Act list? (Jul 2026)
– 11

➤ Which body is the principal dope testing facility in India? (Jul 2026)
– National Dope Testing Laboratory

➤ From when were the anti-doping Acts enforced? (Jul 2026)
– 15 July 2026

➤ India ratified the UNESCO anti-doping convention in? (Jul 2026)
– 2007

➤ Who composed Vande Mataram? (Jul 2026)
– Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

➤ What is the maximum jail term under the amended Section 3? (Jul 2026)
– Three years

➤ Which version of Vande Mataram is official under MHA guidelines? (Jul 2026)
– Six-stanza version

➤ Vande Mataram appears in which novel? (Jul 2026)
– Anandamath

➤ Which 1971 Act does the Bill amend? (Jul 2026)
– Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act

➤ Which fundamental duty Article mentions the National Anthem? (Jul 2026)
– Article 51A(a)

➤ Which 1971 Act was amended in 2026 to cover Vande Mataram? (Jul 2026)
– Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

➤ Maximum imprisonment under Section 3 of the amended Act? (Jul 2026)
– Three years

➤ Which three schemes were merged to form PM-AJAY? (Jul 2026)
– PMAGY, SCA to SCSP, BJRCY

➤ What share of an Adarsh Gram village population must be SC? (Jul 2026)
– More than 40 per cent

➤ Which bank is the nodal bank for PM-Vidyalaxmi? (Jul 2026)
– Canara Bank

➤ What is the family income limit for 3 per cent subvention under PM-Vidyalaxmi? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 8 lakh

➤ How many institutions does the scheme now cover? (Jul 2026)
– 1,425

➤ When does the Public Examinations Amendment Act 2026 come into force? (Jul 2026)
– 31 July 2026

➤ Within how many months must investigation under the amended Act be completed? (Jul 2026)
– Two months

➤ Which committee gave 101 recommendations after the NEET 2024 leaks? (Jul 2026)
– Radhakrishnan Committee

➤ Appeals from Special Fast Track Courts go to which bench? (Jul 2026)
– Division Bench of High Court

➤ Who heads the task force on exam reforms? (Jul 2026)
– Nandan Nilekani

➤ Which BNSS section replaced Section 144 CrPC? (Jul 2026)
– Section 163

➤ Which case concerned Jantar Mantar protest ban? (Jul 2026)
– Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (2018)

➤ Which case is the Shaheen Bagh judgment? (Jul 2026)
– Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police (2020)

➤ Which agency developed the Rural Internal Audit Portal with the Ministry of Rural Development? (Jul 2026)
– National Informatics Centre

➤ How often does the VB-G RAM G Act 2025 require social audit of works? (Jul 2026)
– At least once every six months

➤ What is the maximum size of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation? (Jul 2026)
– 15 members

➤ Which body hears appeals against CCI orders? (Jul 2026)
– NCLAT

➤ Under which Act was the CCI established? (Jul 2026)
– Competition Act, 2002

➤ Name the 2026 Supreme Court case on foreigner declarations in Assam. (Jul 2026)
– Sabitri Dey v. Union of India

➤ How many persons were affected? (Jul 2026)
– 27

➤ Which principle of natural justice was stressed? (Jul 2026)
– Audi alteram partem

➤ Which BNSS section provides for trial in absentia? (Jul 2026)
– Section 356

➤ Minimum gap between the two warrants? (Jul 2026)
– 30 days

➤ Which BNSS section covers proclaimed offenders? (Jul 2026)
– Section 84

➤ Top-scoring State/UT in PGI 2.0 2025-26? (Jul 2026)
– Chandigarh

➤ Highest PGI grade? (Jul 2026)
– Utkarsh

➤ Secondary GER in UDISE+ 2025-26? (Jul 2026)
– 71.7%

➤ What is the total score of PGI-S? (Jul 2026)
– 1,000 points

➤ What was India's GER in higher education in 2023-24? (Jul 2026)
– 30.0

➤ Literacy rate needed to be called fully literate? (Jul 2026)
– 95% or more

➤ Which test assesses ULLAS learners? (Jul 2026)
– FLNAT

➤ ULLAS period? (Jul 2026)
– 2022-27

➤ Which case gave rise to the Essential Religious Practices test? (Aug 2026)
– Shirur Mutt case (1954)

➤ Which Article was invoked for the right to wear the headscarf? (Aug 2026)
– Article 25

➤ Which 2022 SC hijab case produced a split verdict? (Aug 2026)
– Aishat Shifa v. State of Karnataka

➤ Which Section of the Advocates Act gives BCI rule-making power? (Aug 2026)
– Section 49

➤ What age-based rule did the Supreme Court strike down in 1995? (Aug 2026)
– Bar on enrolment above 45 years

➤ To how many years did the Court reduce the Bar practice requirement in 2026? (Aug 2026)
– One year

➤ Which Commission in 1996 recommended abolishing the 3-year practice rule? (Aug 2026)
– Justice K.J. Shetty Commission

➤ Who dissented in Bhumika Trust v. Union of India (2026)? (Aug 2026)
– Justice K. Vinod Chandran

➤ What is the duration of DISHA 2.0? (Aug 2026)
– 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031

➤ Which scheme component offers free pre-litigation advice? (Aug 2026)
– Tele-Law

➤ Which ministry implements DISHA? (Aug 2026)
– Ministry of Law and Justice

➤ What is the outlay of DISHA 2.0? (Aug 2026)
– Rs 255 crore

➤ Which chatbot is integrated with VIDHI-Sanjeevani? (Aug 2026)
– Nyaya Setu

➤ In which year was the e-Courts Mission Mode Project launched? (Aug 2026)
– 2007

➤ Which tool provides GPS-enabled summons delivery? (Aug 2026)
– NSTEP

➤ Which state became the first paperless judiciary? (Aug 2026)
– Sikkim

➤ Which years does e-Courts Phase III cover? (Aug 2026)
– 2023-2027

➤ Who heads the committee on Gorkhaland solution? (Aug 2026)
– Pankaj Kumar Singh

➤ In which year was the GTA established? (Aug 2026)
– 2011

➤ What is the Siliguri Corridor popularly called? (Aug 2026)
– Chicken's Neck

➤ Who is the Visitor of ISI under the 2026 Bill? (Aug 2026)
– President of India

➤ How many members does the ISI Board of Governors have? (Aug 2026)
– 11

➤ Which Act does the ISI Bill, 2026 seek to replace? (Aug 2026)
– ISI Act, 1959

➤ Which article empowers Parliament to change a State's name? (Aug 2026)
– Article 3

➤ What majority is needed to pass a name-change bill? (Aug 2026)
– Simple majority

➤ Which Ashokan edict mentions Keralaputra? (Aug 2026)
– Rock Edict II

➤ Which Act renamed Kerala? (Aug 2026)
– Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026

➤ Which 2026 case dealt with limits on livestreamed proceedings? (Aug 2026)
– Harshita Grover v. Union of India

➤ Which Article empowers the Supreme Court to punish contempt of itself? (Aug 2026)
– Article 129

➤ Where was the Kashi Declaration adopted? (Aug 2026)
– Varanasi

➤ What is the motto of NSS? (Aug 2026)
– Not Me But You

➤ How many weeks is the Nasha Mukt Yuva action plan? (Aug 2026)
– 100 weeks

➤ What was Lok Sabha productivity in the 2026 Monsoon Session per PRS? (Aug 2026)
– 15 percent

➤ Which session recorded 148 percent Lok Sabha productivity? (Aug 2026)
– Budget Session 2024

➤ Which ministry grants political clearance for foreign visits? (Aug 2026)
– Ministry of External Affairs

➤ Whose clearance do Rajya Sabha MPs need for foreign visits? (Aug 2026)
– Chairperson of Rajya Sabha

➤ Which section of the 1969 Act was amended in 2026? (Aug 2026)
– Section 13(3)

➤ Who must order registration delayed beyond two years? (Aug 2026)
– Judicial Magistrate First Class

➤ Which BNS section corresponds to Section 498A IPC? (Aug 2026)
– Section 85

➤ Which extra condition did the 2026 Lokesh B.H. ruling add for live-in cruelty cases? (Aug 2026)
– Intent to marry

➤ Which Act's Section 2(f) is the source of the term relationship in the nature of marriage? (Aug 2026)
– Domestic Violence Act, 2005

➤ Which case upheld hanging as a constitutional method of execution? (Aug 2026)
– Deena v. Union of India (1983)

➤ Which case propounded the rarest of rare doctrine? (Aug 2026)
– Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)

➤ Which Law Commission report recommended lethal injection? (Aug 2026)
– 187th Report (2003)

➤ What is the aggregate police custody permitted under Section 187(2) BNSS? (Aug 2026)
– 15 days

➤ Which 2016 case required FIRs to be uploaded online within 24 hours? (Aug 2026)
– Youth Bar Association of India v. Union of India

➤ Which 2024 judgment allowed SC sub-classification? (Aug 2026)
– State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh

➤ What share of Central posts did SCs hold in January 2026? (Aug 2026)
– 17.14 percent

➤ What is the new sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court including the CJI? (Aug 2026)
– 38 judges

➤ From which date is the 2026 Amendment deemed effective? (Aug 2026)
– 16 May 2026

➤ Which Article empowers an All India Judicial Service? (Aug 2026)
– Article 312

➤ Law Commission's judge-to-population benchmark? (Aug 2026)
– 50 per million

➤ How many members does the National Tribunals Commission have? (Aug 2026)
– Five

➤ Which 2025 judgment directed an independent NTC? (Aug 2026)
– Madras Bar Association v. Union of India

➤ What is the upper age limit for tribunal Members under the 2026 Act? (Aug 2026)
– 67 years

➤ Which Article allows a distinguished jurist to be a Supreme Court Judge? (Sep 2026)
– Article 124(3)

➤ Which BCI rule forces teachers-advocates to surrender their licence? (Sep 2026)
– Rule 49

➤ Who raised the non-use of the provision? (Sep 2026)
– Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

➤ Which Article gives the Supreme Court power to do complete justice? (Sep 2026)
– Article 142

➤ Which BNSS section governs quashing of FIRs? (Sep 2026)
– Section 528

➤ Which 1962 case limited Article 142? (Sep 2026)
– Prem Chand Garg v. Excise Commissioner

➤ Under which section of the Cinematograph Act were the guidelines notified? (Sep 2026)
– Section 5B(2)

➤ Which committee in 2016 recommended CBFC be only a certifying body? (Sep 2026)
– Shyam Benegal Committee

➤ Which UA age markers are in the guidelines? (Sep 2026)
– 7+, 13+ and 16+

➤ What was the CBI conviction rate in the CVC Report 2025? (Sep 2026)
– 71.71%

➤ Which section requires prior approval to probe public servants' decisions? (Sep 2026)
– Section 17A, PC Act

➤ What is the CBI's sanctioned strength? (Sep 2026)
– 7,300

➤ Which Census will be India's first digital Census? (Sep 2026)
– Census 2027 (16th Census)

➤ When was the last nationwide caste enumeration of all communities? (Sep 2026)
– 1931

➤ Who developed the digital tools for Census 2027? (Sep 2026)
– C-DAC

➤ How many questions are in the Census 2027 population enumeration? (Sep 2026)
– 40

➤ Which Act governs the Census in India? (Sep 2026)
– Census Act, 1948

➤ From which date do the amended e-commerce rules apply? (Sep 2026)
– 1 January 2027

➤ Which 2023 guidelines address dark patterns? (Sep 2026)
– Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023

➤ What share of NCH grievances in 2025 were e-commerce related? (Sep 2026)
– About 29%

➤ Which Directive Principle Article covers maternity relief? (Sep 2026)
– Article 42

➤ What compensation did the Delhi HC award in the maternity case? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 10 lakh

➤ Which Act governs maternity leave in India? (Sep 2026)
– Maternity Benefit Act

➤ Which two PSUs developed the totalizer? (Sep 2026)
– BEL and ECIL

➤ How many EVM Control Units does a totalizer connect to? (Sep 2026)
– 14

➤ Which form records booth-wise EVM results? (Sep 2026)
– Form 17C

➤ Which ministry is the nodal ministry for the Forest Rights Act? (Sep 2026)
– Ministry of Tribal Affairs

➤ Which 2013 judgment strengthened the Gram Sabha's role under the FRA? (Sep 2026)
– Niyamgiri case

➤ Under which Act are forest diversion rules requiring FRA compliance framed? (Sep 2026)
– Forest Conservation Act, 1980

➤ On which date is Hindi Diwas observed? (Sep 2026)
– 14 September

➤ Which Part of the Constitution deals with official language? (Sep 2026)
– Part XVII

➤ Which Act allowed continued use of English with Hindi? (Sep 2026)
– Official Languages Act, 1963

➤ Under which Act are Ladakh hill councils set up? (Sep 2026)
– Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997

➤ Since when is Ladakh a UT? (Sep 2026)
– 31 October 2019

➤ Sixth Schedule councils derive power from which Articles? (Sep 2026)
– 244(2) and 275(1)

➤ Under which Part of the Constitution do Articles 371 to 371J fall? (Sep 2026)
– Part XXI

➤ Which two groups represent Ladakh in talks with the MHA? (Sep 2026)
– Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance

➤ Which year does Manipur propose as the NRC baseline? (Sep 2026)
– 1951

➤ Which Union subject covers citizenship and the NRC? (Sep 2026)
– Citizenship (Union List)

➤ What base year did Manipur adopt for its ILP framework in 2022? (Sep 2026)
– 1961

➤ Which section of the Contract Act makes minors incompetent to contract? (Sep 2026)
– Section 11

➤ Which Act requires verifiable parental consent for children's data? (Sep 2026)
– DPDP Act, 2023

➤ Which IT Act section recognises electronic contracts? (Sep 2026)
– Section 10A

➤ Which Article of the Constitution abolishes untouchability? (Sep 2026)
– Article 17

➤ Which 2024 Supreme Court case linked untouchability with purity and pollution notions? (Sep 2026)
– Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India

➤ Which provision of the SC/ST Act requires an insult at a place within public view? (Sep 2026)
– Section 3(1)(r)

➤ Which section of the RP Act provides for registration of parties? (Sep 2026)
– Section 29A

➤ Which Law Commission report dealt with de-registration of parties? (Sep 2026)
– 255th Report

➤ Donor disclosure to ECI applies above what annual amount? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 20,000

➤ Which Directive Principle Article covers right to work? (Sep 2026)
– Article 41

➤ How many days of guaranteed employment did MGNREGA provide? (Sep 2026)
– 100 days

➤ What does VB-G RAM G stand for in full? (Sep 2026)
– Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)

➤ Which Article requires production before a Magistrate within 24 hours? (Sep 2026)
– Article 22(2)

➤ Which BNSS section deals with grounds of arrest? (Sep 2026)
– Section 47

➤ Which 2023 case made written grounds of arrest mandatory? (Sep 2026)
– Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India

➤ Which Para of the Symbols Order handles rival claims to a party's identity? (Sep 2026)
– Para 15

➤ Which Article gives the ECI superintendence over elections? (Sep 2026)
– Article 324

➤ NCP's clock symbol was awarded to which faction? (Sep 2026)
– Ajit Pawar faction

➤ Period of the Vision Document on Drug Control? (Sep 2026)
– 2026-2029

➤ Which country overtook Afghanistan as opium source? (Sep 2026)
– Myanmar

➤ What is the MANAS helpline number? (Sep 2026)
– 1933

➤ Under which Act is the NCB established? (Sep 2026)
– NDPS Act, 1985

➤ Which platform gives direct Interpol contact with 195 countries? (Sep 2026)
– BHARATPOL

INTERNATIONAL

➤ From which date did CBAM start? (Jan 2026)
– 1 January 2026

➤ What does CBAM aim to prevent? (Jan 2026)
– Carbon leakage

➤ Name two sectors covered by CBAM. (Jan 2026)
– Steel and cement

➤ What is the GIUK Gap? (Jan 2026)
– Greenland-Iceland-UK sea passage

➤ Which US base is located in Greenland? (Jan 2026)
– Pituffik Space Base

➤ Which mission did NATO allies propose for the High North? (Jan 2026)
– Arctic Sentry

➤ By what year do India and the UAE aim to double trade? (Jan 2026)
– 2032

➤ Which group comprises France, Germany and Poland? (Jan 2026)
– Weimar Triangle

➤ Which Indian Act of 2025 enables nuclear partnership discussions with UAE? (Jan 2026)
– SHANTI Act, 2025

➤ India is yet to have an FTA with which RCEP member? (Jan 2026)
– China

➤ When was the India-Oman CEPA signed? (Jan 2026)
– December 2025

➤ Who headed the high-level advisory group on FTAs? (Jan 2026)
– Surjit Bhalla

➤ Which was India's 22nd FTA partner? (Jan 2026)
– European Union

➤ At which summit was the India-EU FTA concluded? (Jan 2026)
– 16th India-EU Summit

➤ When did the UK formally leave the EU? (Jan 2026)
– 31 January 2020

➤ Where is the European Commission headquartered? (Jan 2026)
– Brussels

➤ For which period is the new World Bank partnership framework? (Jan 2026)
– 2026-2031

➤ How much assistance is envisaged for India? (Jan 2026)
– 8-10 billion dollars

➤ Projected urban population of India by 2050? (Jan 2026)
– 80 crore

➤ On which model rules is the global minimum tax based? (Jan 2026)
– GloBE model rules

➤ What does BEPS stand for? (Jan 2026)
– Base Erosion and Profit Shifting

➤ How many components does the side-by-side package have? (Jan 2026)
– Five

➤ Which organisation launched the Responsible Nations Index? (Jan 2026)
– World Intellectual Foundation

➤ How many countries does RNI assess? (Jan 2026)
– 154

➤ What was India's rank in RNI? (Jan 2026)
– 16th

➤ Which country topped the RNI? (Jan 2026)
– Singapore

➤ Which report named geoeconomic confrontation as the top risk in 2026? (Jan 2026)
– WEF Global Risks Report 2026

➤ What is the policy of forming different coalitions for different issues called? (Jan 2026)
– Variable geometry

➤ How many non-permanent members does the UNSC have? (Jan 2026)
– Ten, elected for two-year terms.

➤ India was re-elected to the IMO Council under which category? (Jan 2026)
– Category B

➤ What was the US operation in Venezuela called? (Jan 2026)
– Operation Absolute Resolve

➤ Who announced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823? (Jan 2026)
– President James Monroe

➤ Which Venezuelan region holds most of its oil reserves? (Jan 2026)
– Orinoco Belt

➤ How many UN entities did the US decide to exit? (Jan 2026)
– 31

➤ From which agency had the US withdrawn in 1984 and 2017? (Jan 2026)
– UNESCO

➤ What was USAID's 2024 budget? (Jan 2026)
– 44.2 billion dollars

➤ How many signatories adopted the New Delhi Declaration? (Feb 2026)
– 88

➤ Where will the 2027 AI Summit be held? (Feb 2026)
– Geneva, Switzerland

➤ Which US-led supply chain grouping did India join? (Feb 2026)
– Pax Silica

➤ How many countries endorsed the New Delhi Declaration? (Feb 2026)
– 92

➤ In the MANAV framework, what does M stand for? (Feb 2026)
– Moral and Ethical system

➤ Which company launched Vachana? (Feb 2026)
– Gnani.ai

➤ Which is the largest island in Chagos Archipelago? (Feb 2026)
– Diego Garcia

➤ Which NATO command leads Arctic Sentry? (Feb 2026)
– Joint Force Command Norfolk

➤ Who leads the BNP now? (Feb 2026)
– Tarique Rahman

➤ When was the BNP founded? (Feb 2026)
– 1978

➤ Which UNSC resolution backs the Board of Peace? (Feb 2026)
– Resolution 2803 (2025)

➤ What does NCAG stand for? (Feb 2026)
– National Committee for the Administration of Gaza

➤ In which city was the Board's inaugural meeting held? (Feb 2026)
– Washington DC

➤ On what date did New START expire? (Feb 2026)
– 5 February 2026

➤ What is the warhead cap under New START? (Feb 2026)
– 1,550

➤ Who signed New START? (Feb 2026)
– Obama and Medvedev

➤ What is the India-Brazil trade target for 2030? (Feb 2026)
– $30 billion

➤ What is the new Brazil business visa validity for Indians? (Feb 2026)
– 10 years

➤ What package did India announce for Seychelles? (Feb 2026)
– 175 million dollars

➤ To what level was India-France partnership elevated? (Feb 2026)
– Special Global Strategic Partnership

➤ Which JV will produce HAMMER munitions? (Feb 2026)
– BEL and Safran

➤ Which satellite is a joint ISRO-CNES mission? (Feb 2026)
– TRISHNA

➤ Where is the H125 final assembly line? (Feb 2026)
– Vemagal, Karnataka

➤ Which India-France exercise involves the Navies? (Feb 2026)
– VARUNA

➤ When were India-Israel diplomatic ties established? (Feb 2026)
– 1992

➤ Which payment system will be enabled in Israel? (Feb 2026)
– UPI

➤ What was peak bilateral trade in FY2022-23? (Feb 2026)
– $10.77 billion

➤ What is the India-Israel partnership now called? (Feb 2026)
– Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity

➤ To what level did US tariffs on India fall? (Feb 2026)
– 18 per cent

➤ Which GATT article allows FTAs and customs unions? (Feb 2026)
– Article XXIV

➤ What import value did India plan from the US over five years? (Feb 2026)
– $500 billion

➤ Where is the GCC headquartered? (Feb 2026)
– Riyadh

➤ How many members does the GCC have? (Feb 2026)
– Six

➤ What was the US-Israel operation called? (Feb 2026)
– Operation Epic Fury

➤ Which country mediated the nuclear talks? (Feb 2026)
– Oman

➤ In which year was IONS established? (Feb 2026)
– 2008

➤ Which forum succeeded the Minerals Security Partnership? (Feb 2026)
– FORGE

➤ Which task force did India first command in CMF? (Feb 2026)
– Combined Task Force-154

➤ Which India-Malaysia exercise had its 5th edition? (Feb 2026)
– Harimau Shakti

➤ Since which year has the Doha Round been running? (Feb 2026)
– 2001

➤ Which EU measure is called green protectionism? (Feb 2026)
– Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

➤ Which WTO body has been paralysed by blocked appointments? (Feb 2026)
– Appellate Body

➤ How many members does Colombo Security Conclave have after Seychelles joins? (Feb 2026)
– Six

➤ What package did India announce for Seychelles? (Feb 2026)
– 175 million dollars

➤ What was the vote in the US Supreme Court tariff ruling? (Feb 2026)
– 6-3

➤ Which Act was invoked for the tariffs? (Feb 2026)
– IEEPA, 1977

➤ Who administered the PM oath in Nepal? (Mar 2026)
– President Ram Chandra Poudel

➤ Who led Nepal's interim government? (Mar 2026)
– Sushila Karki

➤ Who is the Canadian PM who visited India? (Mar 2026)
– Mark Carney

➤ Share of India's uranium needs met by imports? (Mar 2026)
– More than 70%

➤ What is MAHASAGAR? (Mar 2026)
– Maritime and Holistic Approach for Security and Growth Across Regions

➤ Pipeline used for diesel to Bangladesh? (Mar 2026)
– India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline

➤ Who is Finland's President who visited India? (Mar 2026)
– Alexander Stubb

➤ Which doctrine underlies Iran's political system? (Mar 2026)
– Velayat-e-faqih

➤ Which post was abolished in Iran in 1989? (Mar 2026)
– Prime Minister

➤ Which country proposed the UNGA slave trade resolution? (Mar 2026)
– Ghana

➤ Who is the next Arab League chief? (Mar 2026)
– Nabil Fahmy

➤ Which US agency conducts Section 301 probes? (Mar 2026)
– USTR

➤ Which Act's tariffs did the US Supreme Court strike down? (Mar 2026)
– IEEPA

➤ Who succeeded Ali Khamenei? (Mar 2026)
– Mojtaba Khamenei

➤ Which Iranian missile targeted Diego Garcia? (Mar 2026)
– Khorramshahr-4

➤ Where was WTO MC14 held? (Mar 2026)
– Yaounde, Cameroon

➤ How many members supported the IFD Agreement? (Mar 2026)
– 129 of 166

➤ Who is the Federal Chancellor of Austria who visited India in 2026? (Apr 2026)
– Christian Stocker

➤ How many years since the last Austrian Chancellor visit to India? (Apr 2026)
– 42 years

➤ Which year does India chair BRICS? (Apr 2026)
– 2026

➤ How many members does BRICS have as per the report? (Apr 2026)
– 11

➤ Up to which generation is OCI eligibility extended for Sri Lanka? (Apr 2026)
– Sixth generation

➤ Total Immigration Check Posts in India? (Apr 2026)
– 114

➤ In which year did India-South Korea ties become a Special Strategic Partnership? (Apr 2026)
– 2015

➤ Which artillery gun is an India-Korea co-production? (Apr 2026)
– K9 Vajra-T

➤ Since when has India-Korea CEPA been in force? (Apr 2026)
– 2010

➤ When did the UAE's exit from OPEC take effect? (Apr 2026)
– 1 May

➤ In which year was OPEC founded? (Apr 2026)
– 1960

➤ In which year did the UAE join OPEC? (Apr 2026)
– 1967

➤ Which Iranian minister agreed to the ceasefire? (Apr 2026)
– Seyed Abbas Araghchi

➤ Share of India's LPG imports routed through Hormuz (of imported LPG)? (Apr 2026)
– About 90%

➤ Where were the US-Iran talks held? (Apr 2026)
– Islamabad

➤ Where was the 5th BRICS SAI Summit held? (May 2026)
– Bengaluru

➤ Who is India's CAG? (May 2026)
– K. Sanjay Murthy

➤ Who is the Cypriot President? (May 2026)
– Nikos Christodoulides

➤ Which corridor does Cyprus champion? (May 2026)
– IMEEC

➤ What is the new status of India-Italy ties? (May 2026)
– Special Strategic Partnership

➤ Which Italian firm did Tata Motors acquire? (May 2026)
– Iveco Group

➤ Italy is the western anchor of which corridor? (May 2026)
– IMEEC

➤ What is the 2030 India-Vietnam trade target? (May 2026)
– 25 billion dollars

➤ Name the Vietnamese President who visited India. (May 2026)
– To Lam

➤ Which central bank signed a payments MoU with RBI? (May 2026)
– State Bank of Vietnam

➤ Who chairs IORA in 2025-27? (May 2026)
– India

➤ Number of IORA member states? (May 2026)
– 23

➤ Which 1816 treaty does Nepal cite? (May 2026)
– Treaty of Sugauli

➤ Since when has India used Lipulekh for the Yatra? (May 2026)
– 1954

➤ Which Chola ruler's reign do the returned plates belong to? (May 2026)
– Rajaraja Chola I

➤ Which Dutch firm partners Tata Electronics? (May 2026)
– ASML

➤ Who is the Dutch PM? (May 2026)
– Rob Jetten

➤ Which Norwegian PM held talks with Modi? (May 2026)
– Jonas Gahr Store

➤ What is India's Arctic research station called? (May 2026)
– Himadri

➤ Where was the Third India-Nordic Summit held? (May 2026)
– Oslo

➤ Total UAE investment announced? (May 2026)
– 5 billion dollars

➤ Which Indian bank gets Emirates NBD investment? (May 2026)
– RBL Bank

➤ Share of global oil via Hormuz? (May 2026)
– About 20 per cent

➤ 1987-88 US escort operation? (May 2026)
– Operation Earnest Will

➤ China's share of Russia's trade in 2025? (May 2026)
– About 32 per cent

➤ Number of agreements in Putin's visit? (May 2026)
– Over 40

➤ When did a sitting US President last visit China before 2026? (May 2026)
– 2017

➤ Which strait did both sides want kept open? (May 2026)
– Strait of Hormuz

➤ Which Nvidia chips were cleared for 10 Chinese firms? (May 2026)
– H200

➤ Who heads UNCTAD per the candidates list? (May 2026)
– Rebeca Grynspan

➤ Who appoints UN Secretary-General? (May 2026)
– General Assembly

➤ Which Assembly session adopted the first stroke resolution? (May 2026)
– 79th World Health Assembly

➤ Which EB session proposed it? (May 2026)
– 158th session

➤ Which framework did the 11th Quad FMM launch? (Jun 2026)
– Indo-Pacific Energy Security Framework

➤ Where was the 6th Quad Leaders' Summit held? (Jun 2026)
– Wilmington, Delaware

➤ Name the Australian Foreign Minister present. (Jun 2026)
– Penny Wong

➤ What is the size of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative? (Jun 2026)
– 20 billion dollars

➤ Who formally proposed the Quad in 2007? (Jun 2026)
– Shinzo Abe

➤ Where was the 52nd G7 Summit held? (Jun 2026)
– Evian-les-Bains, France

➤ What was the G7 2026 theme? (Jun 2026)
– Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity

➤ In what capacity did India attend? (Jun 2026)
– Special invitee

➤ Which Ebola strain outbreak did the G7 address? (Jun 2026)
– Bundibugyo

➤ Which new network targets maritime drug trafficking? (Jun 2026)
– G7+ Ports Network

➤ Where was the 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held? (Jun 2026)
– Indore

➤ Which is the first Southeast Asian BRICS member? (Jun 2026)
– Indonesia

➤ Who coined the acronym BRIC? (Jun 2026)
– Jim O'Neill

➤ How many priority areas in the Indore Declaration? (Jun 2026)
– Four

➤ Where did the BRICS Culture Working Group meet? (Jun 2026)
– Varanasi

➤ Where does the Teesta originate? (Jun 2026)
– Cholamu Lake, Sikkim

➤ Which Chinese firm is linked to the project? (Jun 2026)
– POWERCHINA

➤ Which Indian barrage controls Teesta flow in West Bengal? (Jun 2026)
– Gajoldoba

➤ How many rare earth elements are there as per IUPAC? (Jun 2026)
– 17

➤ Which institute in Dhanbad is part of the India-UK GSCO? (Jun 2026)
– IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

➤ What share of rare earth processing does China control? (Jun 2026)
– 90 per cent

➤ What was India's rank in the GPI 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 127th

➤ Which country topped the GPI for the 19th year? (Jun 2026)
– Iceland

➤ Which body launched the Global Alliance for Human Rights? (Jun 2026)
– OHCHR

➤ When was IMEC announced? (Jun 2026)
– G20 Summit 2023

➤ Which pass in Uttarakhand will see India-China trade resume? (Jun 2026)
– Lipulekh Pass

➤ When does the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty expire? (Jun 2026)
– December 2026

➤ When was the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 adopted? (Jun 2026)
– 14 June 2026

➤ Where in Uttar Pradesh is an aeronautical campus planned? (Jun 2026)
– Kanpur

➤ How many Indian students does France aim to host by 2030? (Jun 2026)
– 30,000

➤ Where was the India-France summit held? (Jun 2026)
– Nice

➤ Trade target by both countries? (Jun 2026)
– 32 billion dollars

➤ Date the India-Oman CEPA came into force? (Jun 2026)
– 1 June 2026

➤ Share of Oman's tariff lines with duty-free access? (Jun 2026)
– 98.08%

➤ Which Omani port hosts an Indian SEZ access? (Jun 2026)
– Duqm

➤ What share of India's exports gets zero duty in Oman under CEPA? (Jun 2026)
– 99.38 per cent

➤ Slovakia became independent in which year? (Jun 2026)
– 1993

➤ Status of ties after the visit? (Jun 2026)
– Comprehensive Partnership

➤ Bilateral trade in 2024? (Jun 2026)
– 1.28 billion euros

➤ Which port does the Kaladan project connect Mizoram to? (Jun 2026)
– Sittwe

➤ Scholarships under Mekong Ganga raised to? (Jun 2026)
– 100

➤ Which settlement mechanism was discussed? (Jun 2026)
– Rupee-Kyat

➤ When was the Rupee-Kyat mechanism operationalised? (Jun 2026)
– 2024

➤ What is the length of the India-Myanmar border? (Jun 2026)
– 1,643 km

➤ Value of India's Special Economic Package for Seychelles? (Jun 2026)
– 175 million dollars

➤ Which honour was conferred on Modi? (Jun 2026)
– Guardian of the Blue Horizon

➤ Which Indian vision for IOR was boosted? (Jun 2026)
– MAHASAGAR

➤ How many seats are in the PoK Assembly? (Jun 2026)
– 53

➤ How many seats reserved for refugees? (Jun 2026)
– 12

➤ Which coalition leads PoK protests? (Jun 2026)
– Joint Awami Action Committee

➤ Who chairs the UN Commission of Inquiry on OPT? (Jun 2026)
– Justice S. Muralidhar

➤ Which Convention defines genocide in 1948? (Jun 2026)
– Genocide Convention

➤ Year the Commission was set up? (Jun 2026)
– 2021

➤ How many clauses does the US-Iran MoU have? (Jun 2026)
– 14

➤ Where did the US sign the MoU? (Jun 2026)
– Palace of Versailles, France

➤ Which case of 1949 affirmed passage through international straits? (Jun 2026)
– Corfu Channel case

➤ Which number of the India-Japan Annual Summit was held in July 2026? (Jul 2026)
– 16th

➤ Which year is declared the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons? (Jul 2026)
– 2027

➤ Which Shinkansen model is planned for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail? (Jul 2026)
– E10

➤ Which Japanese PM attended the 16th summit? (Jul 2026)
– Sanae Takaichi

➤ Name the first India-Japan defence co-development project. (Jul 2026)
– UNICORN naval radio antenna

➤ Who chairs ASEAN in 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Philippines

➤ ASEAN's 12th Dialogue Partner? (Jul 2026)
– Turkiye

➤ ARF was established in? (Jul 2026)
– 1994

➤ In which year was the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific adopted? (Jul 2026)
– 2019

➤ Which policy succeeded the 1991 Look East Policy? (Jul 2026)
– Act East Policy

➤ In which document was ASEAN Centrality first codified? (Jul 2026)
– 2008 ASEAN Charter

➤ Where was the BRICS anti-drug meeting held? (Jul 2026)
– Guwahati

➤ MANAS helpline number? (Jul 2026)
– 1933

➤ Period of India's anti-drug roadmap? (Jul 2026)
– 2026-29

➤ On which Gulf is Chabahar port located? (Jul 2026)
– Gulf of Oman

➤ Length of the INSTC network? (Jul 2026)
– 7,200 km

➤ Which terminal does India operate at Chabahar? (Jul 2026)
– Shahid Beheshti

➤ Which Chinese-run port lies near Chabahar? (Jul 2026)
– Gwadar

➤ When was the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement signed? (Jul 2026)
– 2014

➤ India's nuclear capacity target for 2047? (Jul 2026)
– 100 GWe

➤ Name the new India-Australia cyber and tech partnership. (Jul 2026)
– PACTS

➤ Which 1996 pact does the India-Israel BIA replace? (Jul 2026)
– India-Israel BIT, 1996

➤ In which year did India approve its Model BIT text? (Jul 2026)
– 2015

➤ Roadmap with New Zealand runs till? (Jul 2026)
– 2030

➤ How many pillars does the Roadmap have? (Jul 2026)
– Six

➤ Who is New Zealand's PM? (Jul 2026)
– Christopher Luxon

➤ CETA came into effect on? (Jul 2026)
– 15 July 2026

➤ Number of chapters in the CETA? (Jul 2026)
– 30

➤ What new origin practice was introduced? (Jul 2026)
– Self-declaration of origin

➤ Which country's State Visit saw the 'Ocean of Opportunity' vision articulated? (Jul 2026)
– Seychelles

➤ What does MAHASAGAR stand for? (Jul 2026)
– Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

➤ Name the three main Indian Ocean chokepoints. (Jul 2026)
– Malacca, Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb

➤ Where was the 2026 NATO summit held? (Jul 2026)
– Ankara

➤ Defence spending target by 2035? (Jul 2026)
– 5% of GDP

➤ Latest NATO member? (Jul 2026)
– Sweden (2024)

➤ What does 'Amistad' mean? (Jul 2026)
– Friendship

➤ Which aircraft carried relief for Operation Amistad? (Jul 2026)
– IAF C-17

➤ Which operation helped Turkiye and Syria? (Jul 2026)
– Operation Dost

➤ Indonesia's highest civilian honour given to Modi? (Jul 2026)
– Bintang Adipurna

➤ Where will IIM-B's overseas campus be? (Jul 2026)
– Singhasari SEZ, Malang

➤ Which port did India show interest in developing? (Jul 2026)
– Sabang Port

➤ Which country launched the Pax Silica initiative? (Jul 2026)
– United States

➤ In which month and year did India join Pax Silica? (Jul 2026)
– February 2026

➤ How many countries, including India, signed the Joint Statement on AI Opportunity? (Jul 2026)
– 35

➤ When was IPOI launched? (Jul 2026)
– 2019

➤ Which 2015 Indian vision is IPOI based on? (Jul 2026)
– SAGAR

➤ Where did the 2026 Quad FM sideline meeting occur? (Jul 2026)
– Manila

➤ Who hosted the BIMSTEC NSA meet? (Jul 2026)
– Ajit Doval

➤ Which Quad initiative covers Fiji ports? (Jul 2026)
– Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration

➤ Which group has rejected the US-Israel-Lebanon framework? (Jul 2026)
– Hezbollah

➤ Between which two features does UNIFIL operate? (Jul 2026)
– Blue Line and Litani River

➤ Under which US law was the US-Saudi nuclear deal signed? (Jul 2026)
– Section 123, Atomic Energy Act 1954

➤ Which country first banned social media for under-16 children? (Jul 2026)
– Australia

➤ Where was the 14th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting held? (Aug 2026)
– Chennai

➤ What share of world GDP does BRICS account for? (Aug 2026)
– 40 percent

➤ What share of India's LPG now comes from the US? (Aug 2026)
– 67 percent

➤ Which country was India's largest LNG supplier before the crisis? (Aug 2026)
– Qatar

➤ How many international ports are now open for e-visa entry? (Aug 2026)
– 88

➤ What is the new name of Nauru? (Aug 2026)
– Republic of Naoero

➤ What is the India-Russia trade target for 2030? (Aug 2026)
– USD 100 billion

➤ Which round of SR talks was held in Beijing? (Aug 2026)
– 25th

➤ How many Arunachal locations did India name on its official map? (Aug 2026)
– 27

➤ What is the name of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise? (Aug 2026)
– Dustlik

➤ Where was the 26th SCO Summit held? (Aug 2026)
– Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

➤ What trade target is set for 2030 with Uzbekistan? (Aug 2026)
– USD 5 billion

➤ Which UN Charter article does the Mecca pact's deterrence clause follow? (Aug 2026)
– Article 51

➤ Which three countries signed the Mecca pact? (Aug 2026)
– Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan

➤ Where was the 18th BRICS Summit held? (Sep 2026)
– Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

➤ Which institute coordinates BRICS mental well-being centres? (Sep 2026)
– NIMHANS, Bengaluru

➤ Where is India's proposed BRICS Risk Lab to be set up? (Sep 2026)
– GIFT City

➤ Where was the 26th SCO summit held? (Sep 2026)
– Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

➤ Which country takes over the SCO chair next? (Sep 2026)
– Pakistan

➤ What declaration was adopted at the 26th SCO summit? (Sep 2026)
– Bishkek Declaration

➤ Who is the Belgian Prime Minister who visited India? (Sep 2026)
– Bart De Wever

➤ What was India-Belgium bilateral trade in 2025-26? (Sep 2026)
– US$13.01 billion

➤ Which Indian light tank figures in the defence collaboration? (Sep 2026)
– Zorawar

➤ Which institution brokered the Indus Waters Treaty? (Sep 2026)
– World Bank

➤ On which river is the Ratle project? (Sep 2026)
– Chenab

➤ When did India put the IWT in abeyance? (Sep 2026)
– 23 April 2025

➤ India's status for the Indus Waters Treaty? (Sep 2026)
– In abeyance

➤ Which body did India call illegally constituted? (Sep 2026)
– Court of Arbitration

➤ Which is India's first overseas electronic surveillance facility? (Sep 2026)
– Madagascar Coastal Surveillance Radar station

➤ Where is IMTRAT located? (Sep 2026)
– Haa, western Bhutan

➤ In which country is Agalega Island? (Sep 2026)
– Mauritius

➤ Which Pakistani ship collided with the Indian warship? (Sep 2026)
– PNS Hunain

➤ Which Article of the 1991 agreement did India cite? (Sep 2026)
– Article 10

➤ Which 2011 incident involved PNS Babur? (Sep 2026)
– Brush with INS Godavari

➤ What is the Shaksgam Valley also called? (Sep 2026)
– Trans-Karakoram Tract

➤ In which year did Pakistan cede the Shaksgam tract to China? (Sep 2026)
– 1963

➤ Which glacier lies just south of the Shaksgam Valley? (Sep 2026)
– Siachen Glacier

➤ Which operation is India's post-Cyclone Ditwah aid to Sri Lanka? (Sep 2026)
– Operation Sagar Bandhu

➤ What gun upgrade was agreed for the Sri Lankan Air Force? (Sep 2026)
– L70 guns

➤ How large is India's reconstruction package? (Sep 2026)
– US$450 million

➤ Which Indian scheme did the UK recognise under CBAM? (Sep 2026)
– Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

➤ What was India-UK merchandise trade in 2025-26? (Sep 2026)
– US$25.1 billion

➤ When was the India-UK trade partnership implemented? (Sep 2026)
– July 2026

➤ Which country led the Correct the Map resolution? (Sep 2026)
– Togo

➤ Who introduced the Mercator projection in 1569? (Sep 2026)
– Gerardus Mercator

➤ How many countries backed the resolution? (Sep 2026)
– 164

➤ What is the maximum tariff in the US Russia sanctions Act? (Sep 2026)
– 100%

➤ How many days do targeted countries typically get? (Sep 2026)
– 180 days

➤ Share of India's crude imported from abroad? (Sep 2026)
– Over 88%

➤ Which exercise brought together India, Japan, Australia and the US in November 2025 (29th edition)? (Oct 2026)
– Malabar

➤ SIMBEX is a maritime exercise between India and which country? (Oct 2026)
– Singapore

ECONOMY

➤ Which state is the largest milk producer in India per BAHS 2025? (Jan 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh (15.66%)

➤ Which state leads in wool output? (Jan 2026)
– Rajasthan (47.85%)

➤ In which part of the MMDR Act First Schedule is coking coal now listed? (Jan 2026)
– Part D

➤ Share of coking coal needs of steel sector met by imports? (Jan 2026)
– About 95 percent

➤ Estimated coking coal reserves of India? (Jan 2026)
– 37.37 billion tonnes

➤ Base interest subvention rate under the new sub-scheme? (Jan 2026)
– 2.75 percent

➤ Guarantee cover for micro and small exporters? (Jan 2026)
– Up to 85 percent

➤ Which trust partners in the collateral support sub-scheme? (Jan 2026)
– CGTMSE

➤ Which body released the Export Preparedness Index? (Jan 2026)
– NITI Aayog

➤ Which UP scheme is cited as a policy strength in EPI? (Jan 2026)
– One District One Product (ODOP)

➤ Which state tops the large states in EPI 2024? (Jan 2026)
– Maharashtra

➤ Which state has the highest share of India's rice production? (Jan 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh

➤ India's rice exports in 2024-25? (Jan 2026)
– 20.1 million metric tonnes

➤ Which rice season is sown in June-July and harvested in November-December? (Jan 2026)
– Aman

➤ Which State received most FDI equity in 2024-25? (Jan 2026)
– Maharashtra (39%)

➤ Maximum price of affordable housing in metropolitan cities per NITI Aayog? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 60 lakh

➤ Share of residential land to be earmarked for affordable housing? (Jan 2026)
– At least 10 percent

➤ Which scheme has an Affordable Rental Housing component? (Jan 2026)
– PMAY-U 2.0

➤ From which date does RB-IOS 2026 take effect? (Jan 2026)
– 1 July 2026

➤ What is the maximum compensation an RBI Ombudsman can award? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 30 lakh

➤ Within how many days can an appeal be filed? (Jan 2026)
– 30 days

➤ What does CRPC stand for? (Jan 2026)
– Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre

➤ What is the revised PSL target for Small Finance Banks? (Jan 2026)
– 60 percent of ANBC

➤ After how many days of non-payment does a loan become an NPA? (Jan 2026)
– 90 days

➤ In which year did the gross NPA ratio peak at 11.18 percent? (Jan 2026)
– 2018

➤ Which agency's lending to cooperatives is now treated as PSL? (Jan 2026)
– NCDC

➤ Till which year has the Atal Pension Yojana been extended? (Jan 2026)
– 2030-31

➤ Monthly pension range under APY? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000

➤ Credit limit of the new PM SVANidhi credit card? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 30,000

➤ Which regulator issued NPS Vatsalya guidelines? (Jan 2026)
– PFRDA

➤ Who was the Best Performer in Category A of SRF 5.0? (Jan 2026)
– Gujarat

➤ Which body appraises central sector PPP projects? (Jan 2026)
– PPPAC

➤ How many projects are in the three-year PPP pipeline? (Jan 2026)
– 852

➤ What is the maximum VGF for economic sector projects? (Jan 2026)
– 40 percent of capex

➤ What is the outlay of Biopharma SHAKTI? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 10,000 crore

➤ Which body implements the National Biopharma Mission? (Feb 2026)
– BIRAC

➤ What is India's 2030 bioeconomy target? (Feb 2026)
– 300 billion dollars

➤ How many new NIPERs are planned? (Feb 2026)
– Three

➤ From which date does the Income Tax Act, 2025 take effect? (Feb 2026)
– 1 April 2026

➤ What is the new safe harbour margin for IT services? (Feb 2026)
– 15.5%

➤ Till what year do foreign cloud firms using Indian data centres get a tax holiday? (Feb 2026)
– 2047

➤ What is the LRS annual limit? (Feb 2026)
– USD 2,50,000

➤ What is the revised ECMS outlay? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 40,000 crore

➤ How many legacy industrial clusters are to be revived? (Feb 2026)
– 200

➤ What size is the SME Growth Fund? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 10,000 crore

➤ What is the CCUS outlay announced in Budget 2026-27? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 20,000 crore

➤ Which waterway is the first of 20 new National Waterways? (Feb 2026)
– NW-5 (Odisha)

➤ Which scheme sets up community retail outlets for women entrepreneurs? (Feb 2026)
– SHE-Mart

➤ Where will the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre be upgraded? (Feb 2026)
– Jamnagar

➤ How many archaeological sites are to be developed as cultural destinations? (Feb 2026)
– 15

➤ How many states are covered in CAG's State Finances 2023-24? (Feb 2026)
– 28

➤ What was the states' share in central taxes in 2023-24? (Feb 2026)
– 29.77 percent

➤ How many states had fiscal deficit above 3 percent of GSDP in 2023-24? (Feb 2026)
– 18

➤ In which year was TReDS created? (Feb 2026)
– 2018

➤ What share of India's exports do MSMEs account for? (Feb 2026)
– 48.58 per cent

➤ What was India's rank in Doing Business Report 2019? (Feb 2026)
– 63

➤ How many provisions did the Jan Vishwas Act 2023 decriminalise? (Feb 2026)
– 183

➤ Which agency launched BRAP in 2014? (Feb 2026)
– DPIIT

➤ What is the new Lakhpati Didi target for March 2029? (Feb 2026)
– 6 crore

➤ India's rank in Global Gender Gap Report 2025? (Feb 2026)
– 131

➤ Under which mission was Lakhpati Didi launched? (Feb 2026)
– DAY-NRLM

➤ Which Code first defined gig workers in India? (Feb 2026)
– Code on Social Security, 2020

➤ What identifier does e-Shram give to registered workers? (Feb 2026)
– Universal Account Number (UAN)

➤ How many gig workers does NITI Aayog project by 2029-30? (Feb 2026)
– 2.35 crore

➤ When was the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund launched? (Feb 2026)
– 2020

➤ Which committee in 2014 suggested warehouse receipts? (Feb 2026)
– Shanta Kumar Committee

➤ Foodgrain output in 2024-25 (third advance estimate)? (Feb 2026)
– 353.96 million tonnes

➤ What is the new base year of India's GDP series? (Feb 2026)
– 2022-23

➤ Which method replaces the single deflator approach? (Feb 2026)
– Double deflation

➤ Which international standard will India adopt next? (Feb 2026)
– SNA 2025

➤ What is the NMP 2.0 target? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 16.72 lakh crore

➤ Which body developed NMP 2.0? (Feb 2026)
– NITI Aayog

➤ Which committee first proposed asset monetisation? (Feb 2026)
– Vijay Kelkar Committee

➤ Who chairs the Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation? (Feb 2026)
– Cabinet Secretary

➤ What is the base year of the new CPI series? (Feb 2026)
– 2024

➤ What was the all-India CPI inflation for January 2026? (Feb 2026)
– 2.75 percent

➤ Which survey provides weights for CPI 2024? (Feb 2026)
– HCES 2023-24

➤ How many items does the new CPI basket have? (Feb 2026)
– 358

➤ Which classification does the new CPI adopt? (Feb 2026)
– COICOP 2018

➤ Who coined the term Orange Economy? (Feb 2026)
– Ivan Duque Marquez and Felipe Buitrago

➤ In how many schools will AVGC labs be set? (Feb 2026)
– 15,000

➤ Which year was the International Year of Creative Economy? (Feb 2026)
– 2021

➤ What is the household target? (Feb 2026)
– One crore

➤ Maximum subsidy under the scheme? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 78,000

➤ Which ministry runs it? (Feb 2026)
– MNRE

➤ Which four States get rare earth corridors? (Feb 2026)
– Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu

➤ What is the outlay of REPM scheme? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 7,280 crore

➤ How many chemical parks are proposed? (Feb 2026)
– Three

➤ Which ministry runs ECMS? (Feb 2026)
– MeitY

➤ Export obligation period now? (Feb 2026)
– 12 months

➤ Which accord did India permanently join for engineers? (Feb 2026)
– Washington Accord

➤ What fiscal deficit is estimated for BE 2026-27? (Feb 2026)
– 4.3% of GDP

➤ What is the capital expenditure target for 2026-27? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 12.2 lakh crore

➤ By which year should debt-to-GDP reach 50%? (Feb 2026)
– FY31

➤ Outlay of BHAVYA? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 33,660 crore

➤ Number of parks under BHAVYA? (Mar 2026)
– 100

➤ Nodal agency for cotton MSP operations? (Mar 2026)
– Cotton Corporation of India

➤ Which think tank publishes the Index of Economic Freedom? (Mar 2026)
– The Heritage Foundation

➤ How many sub-indices does FHI use? (Mar 2026)
– Five

➤ Best fiscal category in FHI? (Mar 2026)
– Achievers

➤ Where is India's only mechanised diamond mine? (Mar 2026)
– Panna, Madhya Pradesh

➤ Government stake in NIIF? (Mar 2026)
– 49%

➤ Which Act was invoked for the gas order? (Mar 2026)
– Essential Commodities Act, 1955

➤ Where are India's LPG caverns? (Mar 2026)
– Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam

➤ Outlay of RELIEF scheme? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 497 crore

➤ Capacity targeted by Small Hydro scheme? (Mar 2026)
– About 1,500 MW

➤ Which institute conducted the fortified rice shelf-life study? (Mar 2026)
– IIT Kharagpur

➤ Wind capacity added in FY 2025-26? (Apr 2026)
– 6.05 GW

➤ India's non-fossil capacity target for 2030? (Apr 2026)
– 500 GW

➤ India's global rank in installed renewable capacity? (Apr 2026)
– Third

➤ Which form replaces Form 16 under the Income-tax Act, 2025? (Apr 2026)
– Form 130

➤ India's projected 2026 GDP per IMF? (Apr 2026)
– $4.15 trillion

➤ By which year is India expected to become 3rd largest? (Apr 2026)
– 2031

➤ Up to which year was PMGSY-III extended? (Apr 2026)
– March 2028

➤ Sovereign guarantee for the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 12,980 crore

➤ Free power share for Arunachal from the hydro projects? (Apr 2026)
– 12%

➤ Cyber frauds reported in 2025 (approx.)? (Apr 2026)
– 28 lakh worth Rs 22,931 crore

➤ Effective date of the revised bad loan rules? (Apr 2026)
– 1 April 2027

➤ On which date is National Startup Day observed? (Apr 2026)
– 16 January

➤ Who manages the Fund of Funds for Startups? (Apr 2026)
– SIDBI

➤ What is the turnover limit for a deep-tech startup? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 300 crore

➤ Startups recognised in FY 2025-26? (Apr 2026)
– More than 55,200

➤ Where is India's first commercial semiconductor fab SEZ notified? (Apr 2026)
– Dholera, Gujarat (Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing)

➤ Total credit flow targeted under ECLGS 5.0? (May 2026)
– Rs 2.55 lakh crore

➤ Guarantee cover for MSMEs? (May 2026)
– 100 per cent

➤ Which body provides the guarantee? (May 2026)
– NCGTC

➤ How many persons declared FEO? (May 2026)
– 21

➤ Who declares a person an FEO? (May 2026)
– Special court

➤ India's fish production in 2024-25? (May 2026)
– 197.75 lakh tonnes

➤ Main seafood export item? (May 2026)
– Frozen shrimp

➤ Which Kharif crop has the highest MSP for 2026-27? (May 2026)
– Sesamum (Rs 10,346 per quintal)

➤ Which crop shows the highest estimated margin over cost in Kharif MSP 2026-27? (May 2026)
– Moong (61%)

➤ Who chairs the PFRDA panel on assured NPS payouts? (May 2026)
– Dr M. S. Sahoo

➤ How much gold did RBI bring home in 2025-26? (May 2026)
– 168.06 MT

➤ Share of RBI gold held domestically? (May 2026)
– 77 per cent

➤ Who heads RBI's Q-SAFE committee? (May 2026)
– Prof. Anil Prabhakar

➤ Which firm is recognised as PaRRVA? (May 2026)
– CARE Ratings

➤ Which state has the highest birth rate in SRS 2024? (May 2026)
– Bihar (26.8)

➤ What was India's MMR in SRS 2022-24? (May 2026)
– 87 per 1,00,000 live births

➤ Coal gasification target for 2030? (May 2026)
– 100 million tonnes

➤ Extended coal linkage tenure? (May 2026)
– Up to 30 years

➤ Which is India's 18th railway zone? (May 2026)
– South Coast Railway

➤ Where is its headquarters? (May 2026)
– Visakhapatnam

➤ FRP of sugarcane for 2026-27? (May 2026)
– Rs 365 per quintal

➤ Which order governs FRP payment? (May 2026)
– Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966

➤ What is the estimated foodgrain production of India in 2025-26? (May 2026)
– 376.563 million tonnes (record)

➤ Which state leads in both rice and wheat output in 2025-26 estimates? (May 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh

➤ Where is the mega greenfield shipyard planned? (May 2026)
– Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

➤ Korean firm in the MoU? (May 2026)
– HD KSOE

➤ Outlay of Mission for Cotton Productivity? (May 2026)
– Rs 5,659.22 crore

➤ Which two agencies build the Vadinar facility? (May 2026)
– Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard

➤ What is the outlay of SARTHAK-PDS? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 25,530 crore

➤ What is the name of the portal for the National Seed Reserve seeds? (Jun 2026)
– SATHI

➤ Which silk is India's first GI-tagged silk? (Jun 2026)
– Muga silk

➤ Sharing formula in the Assam-Nagaland MoU? (Jun 2026)
– 50:50

➤ Years exploration was stalled? (Jun 2026)
– Three decades

➤ Area covered by the MoU? (Jun 2026)
– Over 1,000 sq km

➤ How many States exceeded the 3% GSDP fiscal deficit limit in 2024-25? (Jun 2026)
– 18

➤ Which State recorded the highest fiscal deficit? (Jun 2026)
– Meghalaya (8.69% of GSDP)

➤ Combined State liabilities by March 2025? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 90.51 lakh crore

➤ What was the combined public debt of States? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 75.52 lakh crore

➤ What share of total spending was capital expenditure? (Jun 2026)
– 16.59%

➤ Which body regulates coal exchanges? (Jun 2026)
– Coal Controller Organisation

➤ Validity of registration? (Jun 2026)
– 25 years

➤ Which 2025 amendment enabled mineral exchanges? (Jun 2026)
– MMDR Amendment Act, 2025

➤ What is the new limit for individual PROIs in listed equity? (Jun 2026)
– 24 per cent

➤ Which route gives foreigners open access to select G-Secs? (Jun 2026)
– Fully Accessible Route

➤ Which platform conducts G-Sec auctions? (Jun 2026)
– E-Kuber

➤ What share of financial creditors must agree to start CIIRP? (Jun 2026)
– At least 51%

➤ In which year was the IBC enacted? (Jun 2026)
– 2016

➤ Who chaired the committee that shaped the IBC? (Jun 2026)
– T. K. Viswanathan

➤ What is the deadline for a PPIRP? (Jun 2026)
– 120 days

➤ Within how many days must NCLT admit an application after default under the 2026 Act? (Jun 2026)
– 14 days

➤ What threshold is the zero-tax limit in the new regime? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 12 lakh

➤ What was household debt as a share of GDP in March 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 45.5 per cent

➤ Which fund finishes stalled housing projects? (Jun 2026)
– SWAMIH

➤ How many districts are high priority? (Jun 2026)
– 111

➤ Which institute prepared District Agriculture Contingency Plans along with ICAR? (Jun 2026)
– ICAR-CRIDA

➤ Rainfall deficit so far? (Jun 2026)
– About 43%

➤ Which port topped dry bulk in LPPI? (Jun 2026)
– Paradip

➤ Which yard handles about 98 per cent of India's ship recycling? (Jun 2026)
– Alang-Sosiya

➤ What is the size of the Maritime Development Fund? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 25,000 crore

➤ Which framework underlies the LPPI? (Jun 2026)
– Sagar Aankalan

➤ Which port topped container category in LPPI? (Jun 2026)
– Mundra

➤ What share of GDP was total health expenditure in 2022-23? (Jun 2026)
– 3.37%

➤ What is the new base year of IIP? (Jun 2026)
– 2022-23

➤ How many items are in the new WPI basket? (Jun 2026)
– 957

➤ Which index will replace WPI in five years? (Jun 2026)
– Producer Price Index

➤ Manufacturing weight in new IIP? (Jun 2026)
– 76.062%

➤ Which ministry released DDP guidelines? (Jun 2026)
– MoSPI

➤ Which agency implements PMKVY? (Jun 2026)
– NSDC

➤ What share of trainees were placed? (Jun 2026)
– 41 per cent

➤ Which committee raised concerns on PMKVY? (Jun 2026)
– Public Accounts Committee

➤ What is the base year of India's new GDP series? (Jun 2026)
– 2022-23

➤ Start date of the RBI pilot? (Jun 2026)
– 1 January 2027

➤ Maximum compensation under the pilot? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 25,000

➤ Time limit for complaint? (Jun 2026)
– Five calendar days

➤ What is the cap on ZCZP in CSR spending? (Jun 2026)
– 10 per cent

➤ What is the corpus of the ATF Price Stabilisation Fund? (Jun 2026)
– Up to Rs 10,000 crore

➤ Which country issued the first sovereign blue bond? (Jun 2026)
– Seychelles

➤ All-time low touched by the rupee? (Jun 2026)
– 96.96 per dollar

➤ Since when is India's exchange rate market-determined? (Jun 2026)
– 1993

➤ Trade deficit in FY 2025-26? (Jun 2026)
– USD 119.3 billion

➤ Under which Act are ARCs registered? (Jun 2026)
– SARFAESI Act, 2002

➤ Which was India's first ARC? (Jun 2026)
– ARCIL

➤ What is the minimum NOF for an ARC under 2025 Directions? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 300 crore

➤ What is India's rank in the WEF TTDI 2024? (Jun 2026)
– 39th

➤ What is the outlay of SASCI 2024-25? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 3,295.76 crore

➤ Which mission targets 51 cruise circuits? (Jun 2026)
– Cruise Bharat Mission

➤ India's rank in WEF ETI 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 70th

➤ What is the projected 2026 global growth in GEP 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 2.5 per cent

➤ What is India's rank in Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 4th

➤ Which organisation publishes SOFIA? (Jun 2026)
– FAO

➤ Fresh Cabinet approval for NIIF? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 30,000 crore

➤ Total government commitment now? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 60,000 crore

➤ Which fund is the main beneficiary? (Jul 2026)
– NIIF Infrastructure Fund II

➤ Number of chemical parks under BHAVYA-Rasayan? (Jul 2026)
– Three

➤ Maximum central grant per park? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 1,000 crore

➤ Minimum area of each park? (Jul 2026)
– 2,000 acres

➤ Where is the Codex Committee on Spices secretariat located? (Jul 2026)
– Spices Board, Kochi

➤ Lakadong turmeric belongs to which State? (Jul 2026)
– Meghalaya

➤ What is the outlay of Mission Golden Spice? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 175.45 crore

➤ Into which digital form are 50,000 PACS being transformed? (Jul 2026)
– e-PACS

➤ What is Bharat Taxi? (Jul 2026)
– Cooperative ride platform

➤ What is the number of the new ILO platform work convention? (Jul 2026)
– Convention No. 193

➤ In which year did ILO win the Nobel Peace Prize? (Jul 2026)
– 1969

➤ Which core ILO conventions has India not ratified? (Jul 2026)
– No. 87 and No. 98

➤ What was India's stand on ILO Convention 193? (Jul 2026)
– Abstained

➤ Which industry was added as the ninth core industry? (Jul 2026)
– Iron ore

➤ What is the base year of the revised ICI? (Jul 2026)
– 2022-23

➤ How many sub-sectors does the ISP cover? (Jul 2026)
– 19

➤ Number of core sectors now? (Jul 2026)
– Nine

➤ In which year was the WTO fisheries subsidies agreement adopted? (Jul 2026)
– 2022

➤ Which fisheries segments are outside its scope? (Jul 2026)
– Aquaculture and inland fisheries

➤ India's global rank as seafarer supplier? (Jul 2026)
– Second

➤ Target of Mission 20%? (Jul 2026)
– 20% of global seafarers

➤ Which portal handles seafarer grievances? (Jul 2026)
– eNavik

➤ What is the new Lakhpati Didi target? (Jul 2026)
– 6 crore women

➤ Which agency developed SHE-LEAPS? (Jul 2026)
– Digital India Corporation

➤ LokOS belongs to which mission? (Jul 2026)
– DAY-NRLM

➤ New Lakhpati Didi target? (Jul 2026)
– 6 crore

➤ When was SHE-LEAPS launched? (Jul 2026)
– June 2026

➤ What platform must CPSEs now use to settle MSME invoices? (Jul 2026)
– TReDS

➤ In how many days must mediation be completed under the 2026 Act? (Jul 2026)
– 90 days

➤ How can mediated settlements be recovered? (Jul 2026)
– As arrears of land revenue

➤ What is the budget of MPMS? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 62,500 crore

➤ Which scheme did MPMS succeed? (Jul 2026)
– PLI for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

➤ Scheme period? (Jul 2026)
– FY 2026-27 to 2030-31

➤ India's rank in mobile manufacturing? (Jul 2026)
– Second largest

➤ What is the outlay of Modified UDAN? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 28,840 crore

➤ How many modern helipads does Modified UDAN plan? (Jul 2026)
– 200

➤ Which agency implements UDAN? (Jul 2026)
– Airports Authority of India

➤ Year UDAN was launched? (Jul 2026)
– 2016

➤ Which State topped the Investment Friendliness Index among large States? (Jul 2026)
– Gujarat

➤ How many indicators does the index use? (Jul 2026)
– 84

➤ Which policy does NIPU-2026 revise? (Jul 2026)
– New Investment Policy 2012

➤ What is the retail price of a 45-kg urea bag? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 266.50

➤ Number of operational urea units? (Jul 2026)
– 33

➤ Which body approved NIPU-2026? (Jul 2026)
– CCEA

➤ How many persons does the TPDS cover on Census 2011 basis? (Jul 2026)
– 81.35 crore

➤ Which AI tool optimises PDS supply chain routes? (Jul 2026)
– Anna Chakra

➤ Foodgrains under PMGKAY are provided at what price? (Jul 2026)
– Free of cost

➤ When was PMKSY launched? (Jul 2026)
– 1 July 2015

➤ Which UP project was brought under PMKSY in 2016? (Jul 2026)
– Saryu Nahar National Project

➤ What is the PMKSY funding ratio for most States? (Jul 2026)
– 60:40

➤ Which was the 27th Navratna CPSE? (Jul 2026)
– Numaligarh Refinery Limited

➤ Which ministry develops the SDG National Indicator Framework? (Jul 2026)
– MoSPI

➤ What was the multidimensional poverty rate in the report? (Jul 2026)
– 14.96 per cent

➤ Share of world facing hunger in 2025? (Jul 2026)
– 7.8%

➤ Which region has more hungry people? (Jul 2026)
– Africa

➤ Theme of SOFI 2026? (Jul 2026)
– High cost of a healthy diet

➤ What is the outlay of Semicon 2.0? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 1,27,500 crore

➤ Which body is the nodal agency for semiconductor schemes? (Jul 2026)
– India Semiconductor Mission

➤ What was the outlay of Semicon 1.0? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 76,000 crore

➤ Number of pillars? (Jul 2026)
– Six

➤ How many economies are classified for FY 2027? (Jul 2026)
– 218

➤ India's income category? (Jul 2026)
– Lower-middle income

➤ Basis of classification? (Jul 2026)
– GNI per capita, Atlas Method

➤ Which Act did the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 replace? (Aug 2026)
– Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891

➤ Which two UTs first used CBDC-based DBT under PMGKAY? (Aug 2026)
– Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

➤ How many digits does the e-Shram UAN have? (Aug 2026)
– 12

➤ What is the maximum non-controlling LBC ownership allowed for automatic route? (Aug 2026)
– 10 percent

➤ Which Press Note introduced the 2026 FDI reform? (Aug 2026)
– Press Note 2 of 2026

➤ Processing time for such FDI proposals? (Aug 2026)
– 60 days

➤ Who heads the Committee of Secretaries? (Aug 2026)
– Cabinet Secretary

➤ What is the outlay of the GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme? (Aug 2026)
– Rs 23,731 crore

➤ Which ministry now handles the CBG scheme? (Aug 2026)
– Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

➤ In which year was GOBARdhan launched? (Aug 2026)
– 2018

➤ Which GI-tagged product was first shipped by sea to Australia? (Aug 2026)
– Mithila Makhana

➤ Which new section limits State levies on minerals? (Aug 2026)
– Section 9D

➤ Which 1989 judgment was overruled in July 2024? (Aug 2026)
– India Cement Ltd v. State of Tamil Nadu

➤ Which Act on payment systems was amended to allow UPI MDR? (Aug 2026)
– Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

➤ Who pays MDR? (Aug 2026)
– Merchant

➤ When was PMJDY launched? (Aug 2026)
– 28 August 2014

➤ Which material is used for polymer banknotes? (Aug 2026)
– Biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP)

➤ Which two denominations get polymer notes? (Aug 2026)
– Rs 10 and Rs 20

➤ What is the title of the World Bank's WDR 2026? (Aug 2026)
– The Promise of Artificial Intelligence

➤ What does NEET stand for in the skilling context? (Aug 2026)
– Not in Education, Employment or Training

➤ What is the outlay of Samudra Manthan? (Aug 2026)
– Rs 84,084 crore

➤ Which basin is not among the deepwater basins named: Cauvery, Mahanadi, Andaman or Cambay? (Aug 2026)
– Cambay

➤ Where will India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone come up? (Aug 2026)
– Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

➤ What is the outlay of the Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme? (Aug 2026)
– Rs 10,000 crore

➤ Which city is India's top billionaire hub per Hurun 2026? (Sep 2026)
– Mumbai (95)

➤ What is the outlay of DILRMP 3.0? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 565.50 crore

➤ Which department implements DILRMP? (Sep 2026)
– Department of Land Resources

➤ What is the period of DILRMP 3.0? (Sep 2026)
– 2026-2031

➤ What is the new EPFO wage ceiling? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 25,000 per month

➤ In which year was the previous revision to Rs 15,000? (Sep 2026)
– 2014

➤ Name the three EPFO components. (Sep 2026)
– EPF, EPS and EDLI

➤ What was the FAO Food Price Index in August 2026? (Sep 2026)
– 133.3 points

➤ In which month did the FAO index record its peak? (Sep 2026)
– March 2022

➤ What is the FAO's 2026 global cereal output forecast? (Sep 2026)
– 2.980 billion tons

➤ What is India's record forex reserve figure? (Sep 2026)
– US$785.706 billion

➤ Who can open FCNR(B) deposits? (Sep 2026)
– NRIs and OCIs

➤ What does FCNR(B) protect depositors from? (Sep 2026)
– Exchange rate risk

➤ In which year was FIU-IND established? (Sep 2026)
– 2004

➤ Who heads the Economic Intelligence Council? (Sep 2026)
– Finance Minister

➤ Notices to VDA providers were issued under which PMLA section? (Sep 2026)
– Section 13

➤ Which bank partners with GeM for the GeM Sahay loans? (Sep 2026)
– Union Bank of India

➤ How many GeM Suvidha Kendras are planned in the pilot? (Sep 2026)
– 50

➤ Which GeM initiative targets women entrepreneurs? (Sep 2026)
– Womaniya

➤ What happens to bond yields when bond prices fall? (Sep 2026)
– Yields rise

➤ What are UK government bonds called? (Sep 2026)
– Gilts

➤ India's general government debt is about what share of GDP? (Sep 2026)
– 80-84%

➤ Which Indian centre is ranked highest in GFCI 40? (Sep 2026)
– GIFT City (37th)

➤ Which committee approved the railway HAM projects? (Sep 2026)
– PPP Appraisal Committee

➤ What is the total bid project cost of the six lines? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 15,976 crore

➤ Which State has four of the six lines? (Sep 2026)
– Odisha

➤ Which State/UT topped IEMI 2025? (Sep 2026)
– Delhi

➤ What weightage does Transport Electrification Progress carry? (Sep 2026)
– 50%

➤ Who scored highest in charging readiness? (Sep 2026)
– Karnataka

➤ Which entity planned India's first blue bond? (Sep 2026)
– Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd

➤ In which year was the Sagarmala programme launched? (Sep 2026)
– 2015

➤ What is bluewashing? (Sep 2026)
– Misleading claims of ocean-friendly use of proceeds

➤ Where is India's first port-based e-methanol plant? (Sep 2026)
– Deendayal Port, Kandla

➤ Capacity of the e-methanol plant? (Sep 2026)
– 150 tonnes per day

➤ Where were the LNG train power cars converted? (Sep 2026)
– Sabarmati depot

➤ Which weed feeds the Kandla green methanol plant? (Sep 2026)
– Prosopis juliflora

➤ Daily capacity of the plant? (Sep 2026)
– 5 tonnes

➤ How much investment has New Zealand pledged in India under the FTA? (Sep 2026)
– $20 billion over 15 years

➤ How many Working Holiday Visas are provided annually? (Sep 2026)
– 1,000

➤ Which FTA is called India's first women-led FTA? (Sep 2026)
– India-New Zealand FTA

➤ On what date does the India-New Zealand FTA come into effect? (Sep 2026)
– 20 October 2026

➤ Which sensitive sector did India keep outside the FTA concessions? (Sep 2026)
– Dairy

➤ To what rating did JCR upgrade India? (Sep 2026)
– A-

➤ What was India's earlier JCR rating? (Sep 2026)
– BBB+

➤ Which country is JCR based in? (Sep 2026)
– Japan

➤ What is the capacity target of PM-SSY? (Sep 2026)
– 5,000 MW

➤ What is the outlay of PM-SSY? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 5,070 crore

➤ Why is floating solar called land-neutral? (Sep 2026)
– It uses water bodies, not land

➤ How is the VRRR interest rate determined? (Sep 2026)
– Through auction bidding

➤ What does FCNR(B) stand for? (Sep 2026)
– Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)

➤ How much did RBI absorb in the latest VRRR operation? (Sep 2026)
– Nearly Rs 2.9 lakh crore

➤ Which body operates UPI? (Sep 2026)
– National Payments Corporation of India

➤ In which year was UPI launched? (Sep 2026)
– 2016

➤ UPI's share of digital payment transactions in FY 2025-26? (Sep 2026)
– 84%

➤ Who chairs the GST Council? (Oct 2026)
– Union Finance Minister

➤ Which framework did IMF and World Bank release against digital financial fraud? (Oct 2026)
– Bangkok Blueprint

➤ Which bank became the second PSB after SBI to enter pension fund business? (Oct 2026)
– Bank of Baroda

➤ How many dimensions and indicators does the global MPI use? (Oct 2026)
– 3 dimensions and 10 indicators

➤ Which country has the highest MPI in 2026? (Oct 2026)
– Chad (0.517)

➤ Title of the IMF WEO October 2026? (Oct 2026)
– Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices

➤ What is the new name of NSAP? (Oct 2026)
– Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

➤ Which district topped PGI-D 2024-25? (Oct 2026)
– Diu

➤ Which is the only mega port on the east coast? (Oct 2026)
– Paradip

➤ What is the repo rate after the October 2026 MPC? (Oct 2026)
– 5.50%

➤ What stake in IDBI Bank was approved for strategic sale? (Oct 2026)
– 60.72%

ENVIRONMENT

➤ How many countries have ratified the BBNJ agreement so far? (Jan 2026)
– 83

➤ The BBNJ agreement is the third implementing agreement of which convention? (Jan 2026)
– UNCLOS

➤ Has India ratified the treaty? (Jan 2026)
– No, only signed

➤ How many industrial units are covered by the new emission intensity rules? (Jan 2026)
– 208

➤ Which new sectors were added? (Jan 2026)
– Refineries, petrochemicals, textiles, secondary aluminium

➤ India's NDC target of emission intensity cut by 2030? (Jan 2026)
– 45 percent

➤ Share of Environment Protection Fund given to states? (Jan 2026)
– 75 percent

➤ Which institute conducted the study on Himalayan glacial lakes? (Jan 2026)
– IIT Roorkee

➤ Which dam was destroyed by the 2023 South Lhonak GLOF? (Jan 2026)
– Teesta-III

➤ How many glacial lakes does the Central Water Commission monitor? (Jan 2026)
– Over 900

➤ From which date do the SWM Rules, 2026 apply fully? (Jan 2026)
– 1 April 2026

➤ Which rules did they replace? (Jan 2026)
– SWM Rules, 2016

➤ What does EBWGR stand for? (Jan 2026)
– Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility

➤ Which city's model made India's cleanest city for 7 straight years? (Jan 2026)
– Indore

➤ Budget allocation for CCUS? (Feb 2026)
– Rs 20,000 crore

➤ India's CCUS capture target? (Feb 2026)
– 750 mtpa

➤ Where is the CCU Centre of Excellence? (Feb 2026)
– IIT Bombay

➤ What does SIGHT stand for? (Feb 2026)
– Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition

➤ Which agency ran the green ammonia auctions? (Feb 2026)
– SECI

➤ Which park was found to be fishing cat stronghold? (Feb 2026)
– Kaziranga

➤ Which year did NGT ban rat-hole mining? (Feb 2026)
– 2014

➤ Which Article 6 clause is non-market cooperation? (Feb 2026)
– Article 6.8

➤ Which IAF operation fought the Arunachal fires? (Feb 2026)
– Operation Walong

➤ What funding ratio applies to FPM for Northeast States? (Feb 2026)
– 90:10

➤ Which satellite sensors does FSI use for fire alerts? (Feb 2026)
– MODIS and VIIRS

➤ Which body now monitors river pollution? (Feb 2026)
– National Green Tribunal

➤ Polluted stretches identified by CPCB? (Feb 2026)
– 296

➤ Which year did the Ganga Action Plan start? (Feb 2026)
– 1986

➤ Where is the Bhavasagara Referral Centre based? (Mar 2026)
– Kochi

➤ Number of Ramsar sites in NR-7? (Mar 2026)
– 98

➤ Tiger population cited in NR-7? (Mar 2026)
– 3,682

➤ New non-fossil capacity target by 2035? (Mar 2026)
– 60%

➤ Emissions intensity cut target by 2035? (Mar 2026)
– 47% from 2005 levels

➤ Where was CMS COP15 held? (Mar 2026)
– Campo Grande, Brazil

➤ Which three states share the Chambal sanctuary? (Mar 2026)
– Rajasthan, MP and UP

➤ Which is the first Ramsar site of the Union Territory of Chandigarh? (Mar 2026)
– Sukhna Wetland

➤ How many of J&K's 697 lakes disappeared or shrunk? (Apr 2026)
– 518

➤ What is Hokersar Lake known as? (Apr 2026)
– Queen Wetland of Kashmir

➤ What is the fuel policy for non-compliant vehicles in Delhi's 2026 plan? (Apr 2026)
– No PUC-No Fuel

➤ Number of EV charging points planned? (Apr 2026)
– 32,000

➤ In which year is COP33 scheduled? (Apr 2026)
– 2028

➤ At which COP was the first Global Stocktake held? (Apr 2026)
– COP28, Dubai (2023)

➤ Which IPCC report may be advanced to 2028? (Apr 2026)
– AR7

➤ India's share of global groundwater withdrawal? (Apr 2026)
– 25%

➤ Groundwater extraction level in 2023? (Apr 2026)
– 59.26%

➤ Where was India's first satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle released? (May 2026)
– Kaziranga National Park

➤ IUCN status of white-bellied heron? (May 2026)
– Critically Endangered

➤ Which protocol is the parent treaty of ABS? (Jun 2026)
– Nagoya Protocol

➤ Which species has the highest ABS share in India? (Jun 2026)
– Red Sanders

➤ Which tribe benefited from the Jeevani drug? (Jun 2026)
– Kani tribe

➤ Where will COP31 be held? (Jun 2026)
– Antalya, Turkiye

➤ Is India a signatory of the Global Methane Pledge? (Jun 2026)
– No

➤ What is India's rank in ETI 2026? (Jun 2026)
– 70th

➤ Which State has the highest floating solar potential? (Jun 2026)
– Maharashtra

➤ What is the target of the National Coal Gasification Mission? (Jun 2026)
– 100 million tonnes by 2030

➤ Which firm develops the Odisha coal-to-ammonium nitrate project? (Jun 2026)
– BCGCL

➤ Where was the Minamata Convention adopted? (Jun 2026)
– Kumamoto, Japan

➤ Where is UNEP headquartered? (Jun 2026)
– Nairobi

➤ When did the Stockholm Convention come into force? (Jun 2026)
– 17 May 2004

➤ How many Ramsar sites does India have at present? (Jun 2026)
– 103

➤ Which Ramsar site is the largest in India? (Jun 2026)
– Sundarban Wetland

➤ Which state has the second-highest number of Ramsar sites after Tamil Nadu? (Jun 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh (14)

➤ Where was a caracal spotted? (Jun 2026)
– Kuno National Park

➤ Which island has the giant Pavona clavus patch? (Jun 2026)
– Kadmat Island

➤ Which startup developed the 3D-printed reef? (Jun 2026)
– Tvasta

➤ BHS are declared under which section? (Jul 2026)
– Section 37, Biological Diversity Act 2002

➤ Wild ancestor of cultivated rice? (Jul 2026)
– Oryza rufipogon

➤ Borjuli lies in which district? (Jul 2026)
– Sonitpur

➤ CAFE norms are administered by? (Jul 2026)
– Bureau of Energy Efficiency

➤ Proposed start date of CAFE-III? (Jul 2026)
– 1 April 2027

➤ M1 vehicles carry how many passengers besides driver? (Jul 2026)
– Up to eight

➤ Which body replaces SEIAA under the 2026 amendment? (Jul 2026)
– Standing Authority on EIA

➤ What is the new tenure of SEIAA and SEAC? (Jul 2026)
– Four years

➤ Under which Act is the EIA Notification 2006 issued? (Jul 2026)
– Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

➤ What was India's rank in EPI 2026? (Jul 2026)
– 176th

➤ Which country topped EPI 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Estonia

➤ Year India hit 20% blending? (Jul 2026)
– 2025

➤ GST on ethanol after 2018? (Jul 2026)
– 5%

➤ Which ministry approved the E100 framework? (Jul 2026)
– Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

➤ What is the IUCN status of the Great Indian Bustard? (Jul 2026)
– Critically Endangered

➤ Which State has the GIB as State bird? (Jul 2026)
– Rajasthan

➤ What is the scientific name of the Himalayan pangolin? (Jul 2026)
– Manis aurita

➤ The Malvi camel is named after which region? (Jul 2026)
– Malwa

➤ Where are India's first geothermal wells located? (Jul 2026)
– Puga Valley, Ladakh

➤ Which agency implements the Puga project? (Jul 2026)
– ONGC Energy Centre

➤ At which COP was the Global Geothermal Alliance launched? (Jul 2026)
– COP21

➤ Which body administers the Indian Carbon Market? (Jul 2026)
– Bureau of Energy Efficiency

➤ CCTS targets are based on what unit? (Jul 2026)
– Emission intensity per unit of production

➤ Total proposed ESA area? (Jul 2026)
– 56,825.7 sq km

➤ Under which Act are ESAs notified? (Jul 2026)
– Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

➤ Which committee's report is the basis? (Jul 2026)
– Kasturirangan Committee

➤ How many tiger reserves does India have? (Jul 2026)
– 58

➤ Which software-based system supports tiger monitoring? (Jul 2026)
– M-STrIPES

➤ What was India's tiger count in 2022? (Jul 2026)
– 3,682

➤ What buffer distance applies for mining near wetland conservation reserves? (Aug 2026)
– 10 km

➤ Which was Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site? (Aug 2026)
– Asan Conservation Reserve

➤ Under which Ministry does the NMCG function? (Aug 2026)
– Ministry of Jal Shakti

➤ How often does the Active Flood Plain flood? (Aug 2026)
– At least once in 5 years

➤ Which is India's 101st Ramsar site? (Aug 2026)
– Glaw Lake

➤ In which sanctuary is Glaw Lake located? (Aug 2026)
– Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary

➤ Where was UNCCD COP17 held? (Aug 2026)
– Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

➤ What is Meghalaya's state animal? (Aug 2026)
– Clouded leopard

➤ How many Lepidoptera species does India have? (Aug 2026)
– 13,703

➤ What is India's forest and tree cover share of geographical area? (Sep 2026)
– 25.17%

➤ Which institute operates the PRAMAAN certification? (Sep 2026)
– Indian Institute of Forest Management

➤ What is India's Bonn Challenge target by 2030? (Sep 2026)
– 26 million ha

➤ Which network publishes the Status of Coral Reefs of the World report? (Sep 2026)
– Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

➤ Which algae live symbiotically with corals? (Sep 2026)
– Zooxanthellae

➤ Which global bleaching event was the most widespread so far? (Sep 2026)
– 2023-25

➤ For how long does the proposed red entry remain? (Sep 2026)
– 15 months

➤ What is the fine for burning stubble on under 2 acres? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 5,000

➤ Within how many days must the penalty be paid? (Sep 2026)
– 30 days

➤ What warming is expected by 2100 under current policies? (Sep 2026)
– About 2.6 degrees Celsius

➤ By what share does the Global Methane Pledge seek to cut methane by 2030? (Sep 2026)
– 30% from 2020 levels

➤ Is India a signatory to the Global Methane Pledge? (Sep 2026)
– No

➤ Under which section of the Wild Life (Protection) Act was WCCB set up? (Sep 2026)
– Section 38Y

➤ Which orangutan species is the most endangered great ape? (Sep 2026)
– Tapanuli

➤ Which convention does WCCB help implement? (Sep 2026)
– CITES

➤ Which port is the first with ISO 50001:2018 certification? (Oct 2026)
– V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Thoothukudi

➤ How many countries are members of IBCA as of Oct 2026? (Oct 2026)
– 29

GEOGRAPHY

➤ Which 1963 agreement ceded the Shaksgam Valley to China? (Jan 2026)
– China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement

➤ Diego Garcia is part of which archipelago? (Jan 2026)
– Chagos Archipelago

➤ For how many years will the UK lease Diego Garcia? (Jan 2026)
– 99 years

➤ Which Indian Major Port, after Visakhapatnam, offers an 18 m draft? (Jan 2026)
– Kamarajar Port

➤ Where is the Gateway of Guwahati floating terminal located? (Jan 2026)
– On the Brahmaputra at Guwahati

➤ Which tribunal upheld the clearance? (Feb 2026)
– National Green Tribunal

➤ Which PVTG lives on Great Nicobar? (Feb 2026)
– Shompen

➤ Which strait does the island overlook? (Feb 2026)
– Strait of Malacca

➤ Which agency is nodal for tsunami warning in India? (Feb 2026)
– INCOIS

➤ India's only active volcano is on which island? (Feb 2026)
– Barren Island

➤ What local name is used for swell surges in Kerala? (Feb 2026)
– Kallakkadal

➤ Which river hosts the Sawalkote project? (Feb 2026)
– Chenab

➤ What is Tulbul Navigation Project also known as? (Feb 2026)
– Wular barrage

➤ Where is India's first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery installed? (Feb 2026)
– NTPC NETRA, Greater Noida

➤ In which region is Thwaites Glacier? (Feb 2026)
– West Antarctica

➤ When is World Day for Glaciers? (Feb 2026)
– 21 March

➤ Name India's Antarctic stations. (Feb 2026)
– Bharati and Maitri

➤ Which strait has Adam's Bridge? (Mar 2026)
– Palk Strait

➤ Which field is shared by Iran and Qatar? (Mar 2026)
– South Pars-North Field

➤ Which pass connects Uttarakhand with Tibet? (Mar 2026)
– Lipulekh Pass

➤ Which refinery is India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex? (Apr 2026)
– Pachpadra refinery

➤ Which Bhopal lake is part of the Bhoj Wetland Ramsar Site with Upper Lake? (Apr 2026)
– Lower Lake

➤ On which river is the Kishau Dam planned? (Jun 2026)
– Tons

➤ How high is the Kishau Dam? (Jun 2026)
– 236 m

➤ Installed hydropower capacity of Kishau? (Jun 2026)
– 660 MW

➤ Central share of water component cost? (Jun 2026)
– 90%

➤ What type of project is Kirthai-II? (Jun 2026)
– Run-of-the-river

➤ Which jet carries moisture to India over the Arabian Sea? (Jun 2026)
– Somali Jet

➤ Which IOD phase offsets El Nino? (Jun 2026)
– Positive IOD

➤ Which circulation does El Nino weaken? (Jun 2026)
– Walker Circulation

➤ What is a seismic doublet? (Jun 2026)
– Two similar-magnitude quakes in quick succession

➤ Which plate boundary lies under Venezuela? (Jun 2026)
– Caribbean-South American

➤ Which fault is in California? (Jun 2026)
– San Andreas

➤ Which state first produced Matcha tea commercially? (Jul 2026)
– Assam

➤ Which sanctuary is Madhya Pradesh's 27th? (Jul 2026)
– Omkareshwar Sanctuary

➤ Which institution became India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act? (Jul 2026)
– Natural History Museum, Mizoram University

➤ Which town in Shahjahanpur district was renamed Parashurampuri? (Jul 2026)
– Jalalabad

➤ What is the capital of Moldova? (Jul 2026)
– Chisinau

➤ Which Bangladeshi port is near the Sunderbans? (Jul 2026)
– Mongla

➤ The Paizhen fault lies beneath a project on which river? (Jul 2026)
– Brahmaputra

➤ Which plates' collision created the Paizhen fault? (Jul 2026)
– Indian and Eurasian

➤ Which dispute involves 'Islas Malvinas'? (Jul 2026)
– Falkland Islands

➤ Japan's southernmost territory? (Jul 2026)
– Okinotori Island

➤ Which rivers feed the Aral Sea? (Jul 2026)
– Amu Darya and Syr Darya

➤ Which tiger reserve is on the Godavari in Telangana? (Jul 2026)
– Kawal Tiger Reserve

➤ India's deepest freshwater lake? (Jul 2026)
– Manasbal Lake

➤ Naying project capacity? (Jul 2026)
– 1,000 MW

➤ Where does the Narmada originate? (Jul 2026)
– Amarkantak

➤ Which tunnel is India's longest underground water conveyance tunnel? (Jul 2026)
– Sleemanabad Tunnel

➤ What was the magnitude of the Colombia earthquake? (Aug 2026)
– 7.4

➤ In which journal was the Zanskar glacier study published? (Aug 2026)
– The Cryosphere

➤ Which massif saw the glacier collapse behind the Nepal floods? (Aug 2026)
– Langtang Lirung

➤ How many Bailey bridges did India offer to support? (Aug 2026)
– 42

➤ In which district is Shipki La? (Aug 2026)
– Kinnaur

➤ Which river is the only right-bank tributary of the Luni? (Aug 2026)
– Jojari

➤ Which river received legal personhood from Madras High Court? (Aug 2026)
– Thamirabarani

➤ How many hanging glaciers were found in the Alaknanda Basin? (Sep 2026)
– 219

➤ Where will Uttarakhand's first real-time GLOF system begin? (Sep 2026)
– Vasundhara Tal, Chamoli

➤ What does GLOF stand for? (Sep 2026)
– Glacial Lake Outburst Flood

➤ Which Ramsar lake in Ladakh is being revived by diverting glacial water? (Sep 2026)
– Tso Kar

➤ In which district is Bakhira Lake? (Sep 2026)
– Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

➤ Which river is called Chandrabhaga at Pandharpur? (Sep 2026)
– Bhima

➤ Which Arab country first abolished the death penalty formally in 2026? (Oct 2026)
– Lebanon

➤ Which is Ladakh's eighth district? (Oct 2026)
– Sankoo

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

➤ Which organisation's laboratory tested the scramjet engine? (Jan 2026)
– DRDO's DRDL

➤ At what speed does a scramjet work efficiently? (Jan 2026)
– Above Mach 5

➤ Which fuel does a scramjet normally use? (Jan 2026)
– Hydrogen

➤ What is the range of the Pralay missile? (Jan 2026)
– 150 to 500 km

➤ Which missile was displayed at the 77th Republic Day parade as India's first long-range hypersonic glide missile? (Jan 2026)
– LR-AShM

➤ Where is the C-295 aircraft being assembled in India? (Jan 2026)
– Vadodara

➤ Who is the contract partner for Suryastra? (Jan 2026)
– NIBE Limited

➤ Domestic defence production in FY 2025? (Jan 2026)
– About Rs 1.51 lakh crore

➤ Which two states host defence industrial corridors? (Jan 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

➤ When was iDEX launched? (Jan 2026)
– April 2018

➤ Who released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework? (Jan 2026)
– Chief of Defence Staff

➤ Approximate budget of the National Quantum Mission? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 6,000 crore

➤ Which quantum technique offers theoretically unhackable keys? (Jan 2026)
– Quantum key distribution

➤ The PSLV-C62 mission was which flight of PSLV? (Jan 2026)
– 64th

➤ Which body is the nodal agency for private space activity? (Jan 2026)
– IN-SPACe

➤ How many satellites will the private EO constellation have? (Jan 2026)
– 12

➤ PSLV's second stage uses which engine? (Jan 2026)
– Vikas engine

➤ Which user base threshold triggers verification duties? (Feb 2026)
– Over five million users

➤ Which Rules were amended in 2026? (Feb 2026)
– IT Rules, 2021

➤ Which mission will land at Mons Mouton? (Feb 2026)
– Chandrayaan-4

➤ Mons Mouton lies on the rim of which basin? (Feb 2026)
– South Pole-Aitken Basin

➤ When is Chandrayaan-4 planned? (Feb 2026)
– 2027

➤ What does SFDR stand for? (Feb 2026)
– Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

➤ From where was it tested? (Feb 2026)
– Integrated Test Range, Odisha coast

➤ Which State declared Bacillus subtilis State microbe? (Feb 2026)
– Kerala

➤ Apex body for organ donation? (Feb 2026)
– NOTTO

➤ Which shipyard built INS Anjadip? (Feb 2026)
– GRSE, Kolkata

➤ Which country is Dharma Guardian with? (Feb 2026)
– Japan

➤ What is MILAN? (Feb 2026)
– Biennial multilateral naval exercise

➤ Which IIT runs Bharat GenAI's implementing foundation? (Feb 2026)
– IIT Bombay

➤ How many layers does the India AI Stack have? (Feb 2026)
– Five

➤ Which target does Yuva AI for All set? (Feb 2026)
– AI literacy for 1 crore citizens

➤ Where will LIGO-India be built? (Feb 2026)
– Hingoli, Maharashtra

➤ Where will NLOT be set up? (Feb 2026)
– Hanle, Ladakh

➤ Cybercrime helpline number? (Mar 2026)
– 1930

➤ Which institute developed DME technology? (Mar 2026)
– CSIR-NCL

➤ Where is dark oxygen found? (Mar 2026)
– Clarion-Clipperton Zone

➤ Target of the DART mission? (Mar 2026)
– Dimorphos

➤ Which spacecraft carried the Artemis II crew? (Apr 2026)
– Orion

➤ Number of Artemis Accords signatories (2026)? (Apr 2026)
– 64

➤ What does BioE3 stand for? (Apr 2026)
– Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment

➤ Share of BioE3 budget earmarked for the North East? (Apr 2026)
– 10%

➤ Which is India's third SSBN? (Apr 2026)
– INS Aridhaman

➤ Which doctrine makes SSBNs critical for India? (Apr 2026)
– No First Use

➤ What does MAHASAGAR stand for? (Apr 2026)
– Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

➤ Which ship was renamed IOS SAGAR? (Apr 2026)
– INS Sunayna

➤ India's defence exports in FY 2025-26? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 38,424 crore

➤ Share of DPSUs in defence exports? (Apr 2026)
– 54.84%

➤ Outlay of the National Quantum Mission? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 6003.65 crore

➤ Target length of QKD network under NQM? (Apr 2026)
– 2,000 km

➤ Where is Quantum Valley being built? (Apr 2026)
– Amaravati

➤ Which institute leads quantum communication hub? (Apr 2026)
– IIT Madras

➤ Which UP cities had the 2022 QKD link? (Apr 2026)
– Prayagraj and Vindhyachal

➤ Where is the PFBR located? (Apr 2026)
– Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

➤ Which stage does PFBR begin in India's nuclear programme? (Apr 2026)
– Stage II

➤ Target nuclear capacity by 2047? (Apr 2026)
– 100 GW

➤ Which country became the first in the Americas verified free of leprosy? (Apr 2026)
– Chile

➤ Which DRDO lab developed TARA? (May 2026)
– Research Centre Imarat

➤ Which missile replaces Sea Eagle? (May 2026)
– NASM-SR

➤ Who will be the next CDS? (May 2026)
– Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani

➤ Where was Pragati 2026 held? (May 2026)
– Umroi, Meghalaya

➤ JANANI is an upgrade of which portal? (May 2026)
– RCH portal

➤ Up to what age does the diabetes screening framework apply? (May 2026)
– 18 years

➤ Which Ebola strain caused the current outbreak? (May 2026)
– Bundibugyo

➤ Which tiger reserve saw CDV deaths? (May 2026)
– Kanha

➤ Which firm built the OptoSAR satellite Drishti? (May 2026)
– GalaxEye

➤ Which agency authorises private space activity? (May 2026)
– IN-SPACe

➤ Expand UMMID. (May 2026)
– Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders

➤ What is PCOS renamed to? (May 2026)
– PMOS

➤ How many projects are approved under the India Semiconductor Mission after May 2026? (May 2026)
– 12

➤ Where is SkyCast first installed? (May 2026)
– IGI Airport, New Delhi

➤ Where is the next SkyCast planned? (May 2026)
– Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh

➤ Which two councils launched Mission SEHAT? (May 2026)
– ICMR and ICAR

➤ What is the Army's indigenous air defence control system called? (May 2026)
– Akashteer

➤ On which expressway was an ELF drill held? (May 2026)
– Purvanchal Expressway (Sultanpur)

➤ Which mission aims at a national air defence shield? (May 2026)
– Sudarshan Chakra Mission

➤ Hangor class is based on which Chinese design? (May 2026)
– Type 039A (Yuan)

➤ How many Hangor submarines in total? (May 2026)
– 8

➤ Which rocket launched SMILE? (May 2026)
– Vega-C

➤ Height of Vikram's hop? (May 2026)
– About 50 cm

➤ When was India's BMD programme initiated? (Jun 2026)
– 1999

➤ Which interceptors completed Phase-II tests? (Jun 2026)
– AD-1 and AD-2

➤ Which Agni missile is an ICBM? (Jun 2026)
– Agni-V

➤ Which aircraft carries the Netra AEW&C? (Jun 2026)
– Embraer EMB-145I

➤ What is the speed of BrahMos? (Jun 2026)
– Mach 2.8

➤ Which missile succeeds Nirbhay? (Jun 2026)
– LRLACM

➤ What blend range can the new flex-fuel car run? (Jun 2026)
– E20 to E100

➤ Which component adjusts fuel injection in FFVs? (Jun 2026)
– ECU

➤ Which alcohol may be blended with diesel? (Jun 2026)
– Isobutanol

➤ Year for Venus Orbiter Mission? (Jun 2026)
– 2028

➤ Foreign satellites launched by India? (Jun 2026)
– 399

➤ Lunar collaboration partner for LUPEX? (Jun 2026)
– JAXA

➤ What value chain size is targeted by 2035? (Jun 2026)
– 120 to 150 billion dollars

➤ Which body released the semiconductor roadmap? (Jun 2026)
– NITI Aayog

➤ What incentive does SPECS offer? (Jun 2026)
– 25 per cent capex

➤ Which shipyard built the three ships? (Jun 2026)
– GRSE, Kolkata

➤ Value of the S-400 deal? (Jun 2026)
– 5.43 billion dollars

➤ Class of INS Agray? (Jun 2026)
– Arnala-class

➤ How many nuclear warheads does India have per SIPRI 2026? (Jun 2026)
– About 190

➤ What is India's rank in military spending? (Jun 2026)
– 5th

➤ Which country leads arms exports? (Jun 2026)
– USA

➤ Which enzyme do IMI herbicides target? (Jun 2026)
– ALS

➤ Where does JWST orbit? (Jun 2026)
– Lagrange point 2

➤ What is the capacity of the Khavda BESS? (Jun 2026)
– 3.37 GWh

➤ What is the NGHM outlay? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 19,744 crore

➤ From where was India's first hydrogen train flagged off? (Jun 2026)
– Jind, Haryana

➤ What is the SUMAN target for MMR by 2030? (Jul 2026)
– Below 70

➤ AMB expands to which framework? (Jul 2026)
– 7x7x7

➤ Where was Kusha tested from? (Jul 2026)
– APJ Abdul Kalam Island

➤ Mission for multi-layered air defence? (Jul 2026)
– Mission Sudarshan Chakra

➤ Which is the first dengue vaccine approved in India? (Jul 2026)
– Qdenga (Takeda)

➤ How many cyber incidents did India record in 2025? (Jul 2026)
– 2.9 million

➤ What does Quishing mean? (Jul 2026)
– QR-code phishing

➤ Where was INS Mahendragiri commissioned? (Jul 2026)
– Visakhapatnam

➤ Class of INS Malvan? (Jul 2026)
– Mahe-class ASW-SWC

➤ Motto of INS Malvan? (Jul 2026)
– Silent Claws

➤ INS Mahendragiri is which Project 17A ship? (Jul 2026)
– Sixth

➤ SOLVE stands for? (Jul 2026)
– Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments

➤ Altitude range of SOLVE tests? (Jul 2026)
– 10-17 km

➤ Number of parachutes in Gaganyaan system? (Jul 2026)
– 10

➤ Route of India's first hydrogen train? (Jul 2026)
– Jind-Sonipat

➤ Fuel cell type used? (Jul 2026)
– PEMFC

➤ Battery type? (Jul 2026)
– Lithium Ferro Phosphate

➤ At which airport was India's first GAGAN-based landing conducted? (Jul 2026)
– Udaipur

➤ Which agencies jointly implement GAGAN? (Jul 2026)
– ISRO and Airports Authority of India

➤ What is India's 2035 bioeconomy target? (Jul 2026)
– $691 billion

➤ What fund size is proposed for the BioEconomy Growth Fund? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 50,000 crore

➤ In which WHO classification is Ayurveda included? (Jul 2026)
– ICD-11

➤ What is India's Ayurveda export value in 2023? (Jul 2026)
– $2.16 billion

➤ Which process is used in the nuclear hydrogen facility? (Jul 2026)
– Copper-chlorine thermochemical

➤ Where is the facility located? (Jul 2026)
– IGCAR, Kalpakkam

➤ Which was the first country to import Astra missiles? (Jul 2026)
– Indonesia

➤ India's first approved dengue vaccine? (Jul 2026)
– QDENGA

➤ Dose gap for QDENGA? (Jul 2026)
– 3 months

➤ ZAYNICH was made by? (Jul 2026)
– Wockhardt

➤ Who developed the Qdenga vaccine? (Jul 2026)
– Takeda GmbH

➤ Which body approved Qdenga in India? (Jul 2026)
– CDSCO

➤ Where is IN-SPACe headquartered? (Jul 2026)
– Ahmedabad

➤ Which ISRO test demonstrated autonomous runway landing? (Jul 2026)
– RLV-LEX

➤ Which company built Vikram-1? (Jul 2026)
– Skyroot Aerospace

➤ Name Vikram-1's maiden mission. (Jul 2026)
– Aagaman

➤ Payload to SSO? (Jul 2026)
– 260 kg

➤ Where is WAICO headquartered? (Jul 2026)
– Shanghai

➤ Which UN agency leads the AI for Good Global Commission? (Jul 2026)
– ITU

➤ What is the range of Agni-4? (Aug 2026)
– Up to 4,000 km

➤ How many items are in the sixth Positive Indigenisation List? (Aug 2026)
– 405

➤ Which rocket will launch GISAT-1A? (Aug 2026)
– GSLV-F17

➤ Which earlier satellite did GISAT-1A replace? (Aug 2026)
– GISAT-1 (EOS-03)

➤ Which signatory number was India of the Artemis Accords? (Aug 2026)
– 27th

➤ Where is the Moon Base to be located? (Aug 2026)
– Near the lunar South Pole

➤ Which fuel and oxidiser does EVEREST use? (Aug 2026)
– Methane and liquid oxygen

➤ What is the maximum expected casualty risk in IN-SPACe re-entry guidelines? (Aug 2026)
– Below 1 in 10,000

➤ Which institute developed India's first indigenous ASF vaccine? (Aug 2026)
– ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal

➤ How many languages does SraVaani cover? (Aug 2026)
– 65

➤ Which institute identified the Australe Basin? (Sep 2026)
– Physical Research Laboratory

➤ Which Chandrayaan-1 instrument provided the data? (Sep 2026)
– Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3)

➤ How many basalt ponds does the basin contain? (Sep 2026)
– 248

➤ Which section of the Copyright Act, 1957 deals with authorship of computer-generated works? (Sep 2026)
– Section 2(d)(vi)

➤ Which AI system was the subject of the recent Copyright Office ruling? (Sep 2026)
– DABUS

➤ Which case set the minimum-creativity test for originality in India? (Sep 2026)
– Eastern Book Company v. D.B. Modak

➤ Which department developed the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator? (Sep 2026)
– Department of Telecommunications

➤ What are the three FRI risk categories? (Sep 2026)
– Medium, High, Very High

➤ Which platform shares the FRI risk signal? (Sep 2026)
– Digital Intelligence Platform

➤ Which body ran the 20-hospital AMR study? (Sep 2026)
– ICMR

➤ Which bacteria were the focus of the study? (Sep 2026)
– Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacteria

➤ What is India's current AMR plan called? (Sep 2026)
– NAP-AMR 2.0

➤ Duration of NAP-AMR 2.0? (Sep 2026)
– 2025-2029

➤ Which is the second Nistar-class diving support vessel? (Sep 2026)
– INS Nipun

➤ Where was INS Nipun commissioned? (Sep 2026)
– Mumbai Naval Dockyard

➤ Which command will INS Nipun strengthen? (Sep 2026)
– Western Naval Command

➤ Which institution maintains India's official time? (Sep 2026)
– CSIR-National Physical Laboratory

➤ What is IST relative to UTC? (Sep 2026)
– UTC plus 5 hours 30 minutes

➤ Which Indian satellite system helps time dissemination? (Sep 2026)
– NavIC

➤ Which meridian is the basis of IST? (Sep 2026)
– 82 degree 30 minute E

➤ Which body publishes the National Formulary of India? (Sep 2026)
– Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

➤ How many drug monographs are in NFI 2026? (Sep 2026)
– 653

➤ Materiovigilance covers which products? (Sep 2026)
– Medical devices

➤ Which two agencies are partners in TRISHNA? (Sep 2026)
– ISRO and CNES

➤ Which shipyard launched Sagar Manthan? (Sep 2026)
– Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

➤ What is the research depth of Sagar Manthan? (Sep 2026)
– Up to 6 km

CULTURE & TOURISM

➤ Mahmud of Ghazni first attacked Somnath in which year? (Jan 2026)
– 1026 CE

➤ Who started reconstruction of Somnath after 1947? (Jan 2026)
– Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

➤ Which architectural style does the present Somnath temple follow? (Jan 2026)
– Maru-Gurjara

➤ Who created Ol Chiki? (Feb 2026)
– Raghunath Murmu

➤ Which amendment added Santhali to the Eighth Schedule? (Feb 2026)
– 92nd Amendment, 2003

➤ Which department launched Bharat GI? (Feb 2026)
– DPIIT

➤ Who developed the Ol Chiki script? (Feb 2026)
– Pandit Raghunath Murmu

➤ When was Santhali included in the Eighth Schedule? (Feb 2026)
– 2003

➤ Where is Bastar Pandum held? (Feb 2026)
– Chhattisgarh

➤ Which IVC site has the earliest known dockyard? (Feb 2026)
– Lothal

➤ Which IVC site is the westernmost? (Feb 2026)
– Sutkagen Dor

➤ Which IVC city lacked a citadel? (Feb 2026)
– Chanhu-daro

➤ National Science Day is observed on which date? (Feb 2026)
– 28 February

➤ National Space Day falls on? (Feb 2026)
– 23 August

➤ Which year is the International Year of the Woman Farmer? (Feb 2026)
– 2026

➤ What is the focus of the UN International Year 2029? (Feb 2026)
– Asteroid awareness and planetary defence

➤ Which festival marks the end of jhum clearing in Mizoram? (Mar 2026)
– Chapchar Kut

➤ What is the 2026 theme of World Water Day? (Mar 2026)
– Water and Gender

➤ Which day is observed on 21 March for forests? (Mar 2026)
– International Day of Forests

➤ In which district are the Piprahwa relics' site located? (Apr 2026)
– Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh

➤ Who discovered the Piprahwa relics in 1898? (Apr 2026)
– William Claxton Peppe

➤ Which caves have the Hathigumpha inscription? (Apr 2026)
– Udayagiri-Khandagiri (Odisha)

➤ Which caves are linked to the Ajivika sect? (Apr 2026)
– Barabar caves

➤ Where is the Varaha sculpture in Cave 5 found? (Apr 2026)
– Udayagiri caves, Vidisha

➤ Which district's bansuri got a GI tag in 2024? (May 2026)
– Pilibhit

➤ Which state leads in GI tags? (May 2026)
– Tamil Nadu (56)

➤ Ponduru Khadi belongs to which state? (May 2026)
– Andhra Pradesh

➤ Which community builds Ru-Soam bridges? (May 2026)
– Lepcha

➤ In which year was Somnath attacked by Mahmud of Ghazni? (May 2026)
– 1026

➤ What is the outlay of Gyan Bharatam Mission? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 491.66 crore

➤ What is the age criterion for a manuscript? (Jun 2026)
– At least 75 years

➤ Which are India's oldest manuscripts? (Jun 2026)
– Gilgit Manuscripts

➤ Who led the 1926 excavation that found the Dancing Girl? (Jun 2026)
– John Marshall

➤ What material is the Priest-King sculpture? (Jun 2026)
– Steatite

➤ What is boustrophedon writing? (Jun 2026)
– Alternating right-to-left and left-to-right lines

➤ How many Jharkhand products got GI tags? (Jun 2026)
– 11

➤ Kesaria Kalakand is linked to which town? (Jun 2026)
– Jhumri Tilaiya

➤ Technique of Dokra? (Jun 2026)
– Lost-wax casting

➤ Where is Rakhigarhi? (Jun 2026)
– Haryana

➤ Highest earlier count of pottery offerings? (Jun 2026)
– 22

➤ Agency conducting excavation? (Jun 2026)
– ASI

➤ On which date is Hindi Journalism Day observed? (Jun 2026)
– 30 May

➤ Who edited Udant Martand? (Jun 2026)
– Jugal Kishore Shukla

➤ Which is the highest peacetime gallantry award? (Jun 2026)
– Ashoka Chakra

➤ What is the 2026 theme of the International Day of Yoga? (Jun 2026)
– Yoga for Healthy Ageing

➤ World Day to Combat Desertification 2026 focuses on which landscape? (Jun 2026)
– Rangelands

➤ Which Rajasthan craft got a GI tag? (Jul 2026)
– Jodhpur Mojari

➤ Which community crafts Jodhpur Mojari? (Jul 2026)
– Jingar

➤ Where is the GI Registry located? (Jul 2026)
– Chennai

➤ Local name of Spiti Seabuckthorn? (Jul 2026)
– Chharma

➤ Altitude range of seabuckthorn? (Jul 2026)
– 2,500-4,500 m

➤ Which lake sediments were studied for the Harappan decline? (Jul 2026)
– Deoria Tal

➤ Which is the easternmost Harappan site? (Jul 2026)
– Alamgirpur

➤ Birthplace of Sant Ravidas? (Jul 2026)
– Varanasi

➤ Number of his poems in Adi Granth? (Jul 2026)
– About 41

➤ Campaign name for the 650th year? (Jul 2026)
– Samarasya Sankalp Abhiyan

➤ Who designed the Indian National Flag? (Aug 2026)
– Pingali Venkayya

➤ Which newspaper did Gopabandhu Das found in 1919? (Aug 2026)
– The Samaj

➤ Who composed the Prayag Prashasti? (Aug 2026)
– Harishena

➤ Which inscription mentions the Kudavolai system? (Aug 2026)
– Uttaramerur inscriptions

➤ Which is the earliest known copper-plate inscription? (Aug 2026)
– Sohgaura copper plate

➤ On which date is World Elephant Day observed? (Aug 2026)
– 12 August

➤ International Tiger Day falls on which date? (Aug 2026)
– 29 July

➤ In which year was Dogri added to the Eighth Schedule? (Sep 2026)
– 2003

➤ Which script is Namey Dogra Akhar derived from? (Sep 2026)
– Takri

➤ Which ruler's reforms led to the Namey Dogra Akhar script? (Sep 2026)
– Maharaja Ranbir Singh

➤ How many towns does the Shekhawati UNESCO tentative listing cover? (Sep 2026)
– 14

➤ Which Act protects sites of national importance? (Sep 2026)
– Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958

➤ Who built the Ramappa temple in 1213 AD? (Sep 2026)
– Recharla Rudra

➤ Which UN day falls on 15 September? (Oct 2026)
– International Day of Democracy

➤ World Mental Health Day is observed on? (Oct 2026)
– 10 October

SPORTS, AWARDS & REPORTS

➤ Which Indian film won the TIFF Platform Prize 2026? (Jan 2026)
– Angh

➤ Which body publishes the Global Economic Prospects report? (Jan 2026)
– World Bank

➤ India's projected FY 2025-26 growth in GEP? (Jan 2026)
– 7.2 percent

➤ FDI inflow into India in 2025 per UNCTAD? (Jan 2026)
– 47 billion dollars

➤ Which body released the Employment and Social Trends 2026 report? (Jan 2026)
– ILO

➤ What is the tagline of the new MoSPI logo? (Jan 2026)
– Data for Development

➤ How many Padma Awards were approved? (Jan 2026)
– 131

➤ Which case held Padma Awards are not titles? (Jan 2026)
– Balaji Raghavan vs Union of India

➤ Highest peacetime gallantry award? (Jan 2026)
– Ashoka Chakra

➤ Maximum number of Padma Awards per year? (Jan 2026)
– 120

➤ Where were the 25th Summer Deaflympics held? (Jan 2026)
– Tokyo, Japan (Nov 2025).

➤ Which party did Rajaji found in 1959? (Feb 2026)
– Swatantra Party

➤ Which march did Rajaji lead in 1930 in the South? (Feb 2026)
– Trichy to Vedaranyam

➤ When did he receive the Bharat Ratna? (Feb 2026)
– 1954

➤ What was India's CPI 2025 rank? (Feb 2026)
– 91

➤ Which country topped CPI 2025? (Feb 2026)
– Denmark

➤ Which institute produces the Asia Power Index? (Feb 2026)
– Lowy Institute

➤ Who released the report on the death penalty? (Feb 2026)
– The Square Circle Clinic

➤ How many persons were on death row in December 2025? (Feb 2026)
– 574

➤ Who won the Global Teacher Prize 2026? (Feb 2026)
– Rouble Nagi

➤ What is the prize money? (Feb 2026)
– $1 million

➤ Which Manipuri film won a BAFTA? (Feb 2026)
– Boong

➤ Which were the mascots of KIUG 2025? (Feb 2026)
– Two camels, Khamma and Ghani.

➤ Who wrote 'Four Stars of Destiny'? (Mar 2026)
– Former Army Chief Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane

➤ Who is the author of 'M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India'? (Mar 2026)
– Priyambada Jayakumar

➤ Top-ranked country in the food security index? (Mar 2026)
– Iceland

➤ Who won the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025? (Mar 2026)
– India, beating South Africa.

➤ How many T20 World Cups has India won? (Mar 2026)
– Three, after the 2026 win.

➤ Mascot of Khelo India Tribal Games? (Mar 2026)
– Morveer

➤ Who won the Jnanpith Award 2025? (Mar 2026)
– R. Vairamuthu

➤ Cash prize of Saraswati Samman? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 15 lakh

➤ Which film won Best Picture at the 98th Oscars? (Mar 2026)
– One Battle After Another

➤ Who received the Polly Umrigar Award 2024-25? (Mar 2026)
– Shubman Gill.

➤ Who won the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year 2026? (Mar 2026)
– Aryna Sabalenka.

➤ Which book of Sudha Murty describes India's history through Parliament murals? (Apr 2026)
– Tides of Time

➤ Who edited 'When Audit Matters'? (Apr 2026)
– Vinod Rai, former CAG

➤ Which Prime Minister was born in Ibrahimpatti, Ballia? (Apr 2026)
– Chandra Shekhar

➤ Prize amount of each main Breakthrough Prize? (Apr 2026)
– $3 million

➤ Which brand was launched at Bharat Tribes Fest 2026? (Apr 2026)
– RISA

➤ Who was India's 94th Grandmaster? (May 2026)
– Mayank Chakraborty

➤ Which prize is called the Green Nobel? (May 2026)
– Goldman Environmental Prize

➤ Who won ISL 2025-26? (May 2026)
– East Bengal FC, for the first time.

➤ By what per cent did cybercrime rise in 2024 per NCRB? (May 2026)
– 17.9 per cent

➤ Which law's change in hurt classification lowered crime figures? (May 2026)
– Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

➤ What was India's suicide rate per lakh in 2024? (May 2026)
– 12.2

➤ What does PARAKH stand for as regulator? (May 2026)
– National assessment regulator under NCERT

➤ How many schools have zero enrolment? (May 2026)
– About 7,993

➤ Which state won the most National Panchayat Awards 2025? (May 2026)
– Karnataka

➤ How many Panchayats were selected? (May 2026)
– 42

➤ Who became Japan's first woman Prime Minister? (May 2026)
– Sanae Takaichi

➤ Who succeeded Keir Starmer as UK Prime Minister in 2026? (May 2026)
– Andy Burnham

➤ Which state or UT had highest prison occupancy? (May 2026)
– Delhi (194.6%)

➤ Who publishes Prison Statistics India? (May 2026)
– NCRB

➤ Which edition is Women and Men in India 2025? (May 2026)
– 27th

➤ State with highest sex ratio in 2023? (May 2026)
– Arunachal Pradesh (1085)

➤ Which State joined AB-PMJAY recently? (Jun 2026)
– West Bengal

➤ What is the annual cover per family? (Jun 2026)
– Rs 5 lakh

➤ Which authority implements PM-JAY? (Jun 2026)
– National Health Authority

➤ Who succeeds Gen Upendra Dwivedi? (Jun 2026)
– Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth

➤ Number of NDA women officers commissioned? (Jun 2026)
– 17

➤ Which NDA course had the first women? (Jun 2026)
– 148th

➤ Where were the 6th Asian Beach Games held? (Jun 2026)
– Sanya, China (2026).

➤ Number of ITLOS judges? (Jun 2026)
– 21

➤ Who is the first Indian FATF VP? (Jun 2026)
– Vivek Aggarwal

➤ Where is ITLOS headquartered? (Jun 2026)
– Germany

➤ Who won IPL 2026? (Jun 2026)
– Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

➤ Who succeeded Tim Cook as Apple's CEO? (Jun 2026)
– John Ternus

➤ Which institute is the nodal agency for NFHS-6? (Jun 2026)
– IIPS, Mumbai

➤ What is the Total Fertility Rate in NFHS-6? (Jun 2026)
– 2.0

➤ How many districts did NFHS-6 cover? (Jun 2026)
– 715

➤ NFHS-6 stunting figure? (Jun 2026)
– 29.3 per cent (from 35.5)

➤ Which State was excluded from NFHS-6 coverage? (Jun 2026)
– Manipur

➤ On which day does PMSMA offer free ANC? (Jun 2026)
– 9th of every month

➤ What is India's MMR as per SRS 2022-24? (Jun 2026)
– 87

➤ How many ABHA accounts exist? (Jun 2026)
– Over 90 crore

➤ Indian institutions in QS 2027? (Jun 2026)
– 52

➤ Highest ranked Indian institution? (Jun 2026)
– IIT Delhi (118th)

➤ Global No. 1? (Jun 2026)
– MIT

➤ Who was the first Indian elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia? (Jun 2026)
– Randhir Singh

➤ What is the NEP target for education spending? (Jun 2026)
– 6 per cent of GDP

➤ How many DIETs will be upgraded? (Jun 2026)
– 613

➤ In which case was the NTF constituted? (Jun 2026)
– Amit Kumar v. Union of India

➤ How many people were displaced by end-2025? (Jun 2026)
– 117.8 million

➤ Which group is the largest stateless population? (Jun 2026)
– Rohingya

➤ Where is UNHCR headquartered? (Jun 2026)
– Geneva

➤ Host of CWG 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Glasgow

➤ Number of sports in 2026? (Jul 2026)
– 10

➤ First held in 1930 as? (Jul 2026)
– British Empire Games

➤ Who headed the 72nd National Film Awards jury? (Jul 2026)
– Jayaraj

➤ Who won Golden Boot at consecutive World Cups in 2022 and 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Kylian Mbappe

➤ Who won the FIFA World Cup 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Spain, beating Argentina in the final.

➤ How many teams played the 2026 FIFA World Cup? (Jul 2026)
– 48 teams, hosted by Canada, Mexico and the USA.

➤ Fields Medal is awarded every? (Jul 2026)
– Four years

➤ Third woman Fields medallist? (Jul 2026)
– Hong Wang

➤ Age limit for the Fields Medal? (Jul 2026)
– Under 40

➤ What is India's GERD as a share of GDP in 2023-24? (Jul 2026)
– 0.84 per cent

➤ What is the size of the RDI Fund? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 1 lakh crore

➤ Who received the 60th Jnanpith Award? (Jul 2026)
– R. Vairamuthu

➤ Vessel used in Samudra Pradakshina? (Jul 2026)
– IASV Triveni

➤ Days taken? (Jul 2026)
– 314

➤ Distance sailed? (Jul 2026)
– About 25,500 nautical miles

➤ What was India's inward FDI rank in 2025? (Jul 2026)
– 11th

➤ Which two institutions publish the World Intangible Investment Report? (Jul 2026)
– WIPO and Luiss Business School

➤ Which is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award? (Aug 2026)
– Kirti Chakra

➤ Who is Maharashtra's first woman Deputy CM? (Aug 2026)
– Sunetra Pawar

➤ Who won the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup (men)? (Aug 2026)
– Germany.

➤ Who became Interim President of FIDE in 2026? (Aug 2026)
– Viswanathan Anand

➤ What is the Sunshine Double? (Aug 2026)
– Winning Indian Wells and Miami Open in the same year.

➤ In which year were Sangeet Natak Akademi awards first presented? (Aug 2026)
– 1952

➤ Who won the Squash World Cup 2025? (Aug 2026)
– India, its first title, in Chennai.

➤ Who received the Vigyan Ratna 2025 posthumously? (Aug 2026)
– Jayant Vishnu Narlikar

➤ Which trophy did India win at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026? (Aug 2026)
– Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

➤ Who won PWL 2026? (Aug 2026)
– Haryana Thunders.

➤ Who won men's recurve gold at the 2026 Archery World Cup Final? (Sep 2026)
– Dhiraj Bommadevara.

➤ Who won the Thomas Cup 2026? (Sep 2026)
– China.

➤ Who won the FIDE World Cup 2025? (Sep 2026)
– Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan.

➤ Who is the CEO of NITI Aayog appointed in August 2026? (Sep 2026)
– Anurag Jain

➤ Who received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024? (Sep 2026)
– Anant Nag

➤ Who was the first Dadasaheb Phalke recipient? (Sep 2026)
– Devika Rani

➤ What cash prize does each Tenzing Norgay awardee get? (Sep 2026)
– Rs 15 lakh

➤ What is India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026? (Sep 2026)
– 131st

➤ Which body publishes the Global Gender Gap Index? (Sep 2026)
– World Economic Forum

➤ Which subindex is India's highest ranked in 2026? (Sep 2026)
– Political Empowerment

➤ Who won the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award at the 78th Emmys? (Sep 2026)
– Michael J. Fox

➤ Which initiative won gold at the e-Governance Awards 2026? (Sep 2026)
– Panchayat Advancement Index

➤ In which year was the Ramon Magsaysay Award established? (Sep 2026)
– 1957

➤ Which Bangladeshi won the 2026 award? (Sep 2026)
– Runa Khan

➤ Tommy Koh is associated with which 1982 convention? (Sep 2026)
– UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

➤ Who won the 2026 Wimbledon men's singles? (Sep 2026)
– Jannik Sinner.

➤ Which institute publishes the V-Dem report? (Sep 2026)
– Varieties of Democracy Institute, University of Gothenburg

➤ What is India's rank on the V-Dem Electoral Democracy Index 2026? (Sep 2026)
– 106th

➤ How is India classified in V-Dem 2026? (Sep 2026)
– Autocratising

➤ Where were the 20th Asian Games held? (Oct 2026)
– Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (2026).

➤ What was India's rank and medal count at Asian Games 2026? (Oct 2026)
– 4th with 85 medals including 21 gold.

➤ Who chairs the 8th Central Pay Commission? (Oct 2026)
– Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

➤ Who became the first woman DG of the Geological Survey of India? (Oct 2026)
– Varsha Ashok Aglawe

➤ Which Indian woman won individual golf gold at Asian Games 2026? (Oct 2026)
– Pranavi Urs.

➤ Whose 42-year-old record did Vithya Ramraj break? (Oct 2026)
– P.T. Usha's national record in women's 400m hurdles.

➤ Who was the Emir of Qatar from 1995 to 2013? (Oct 2026)
– Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

➤ Which sculptor of the Statue of Unity died in December 2025? (Oct 2026)
– Ram V. Sutar

➤ Which Uzbek honour was given to PM Modi in 2026? (Oct 2026)
– Order of Highest Friendship

➤ Where will the 2030 Commonwealth Games be held? (Oct 2026)
– Ahmedabad

UTTAR PRADESH

➤ Which city is known as the Glass City of India? (Jan 2026)
– Firozabad

➤ Where was India's first indigenous hydrogen water taxi launched? (Jan 2026)
– Namo Ghat, Varanasi

➤ In which district is Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary? (Jan 2026)
– Gonda

➤ How many Ramsar sites does India have after the new additions? (Jan 2026)
– 98

➤ In which UP district is Patna Bird Sanctuary? (Jan 2026)
– Etah

➤ What does 'dhand' mean in Kachchhi? (Jan 2026)
– Shallow wetland

➤ What is the new name of Raj Bhavan, Lucknow? (Jan 2026)
– Jan Bhavan

➤ What was the cash prize of UP Gaurav Samman 2025-26? (Jan 2026)
– Rs 11 lakh

➤ Where is India's first forest university being established? (Jan 2026)
– Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

➤ Which UP city lies on two proposed high-speed rail corridors? (Feb 2026)
– Varanasi

➤ Which UP heritage sites are among the 15 to be developed? (Feb 2026)
– Sarnath and Hastinapur

➤ Which State had most dowry cases in 2023? (Feb 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh

➤ BNS section for dowry death? (Feb 2026)
– Section 80

➤ Which case barred automatic arrest in 498-A? (Feb 2026)
– Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar

➤ Which tribunal ordered the Suav's restoration as a river? (Feb 2026)
– National Green Tribunal

➤ What was the ancient name of the Rapti? (Feb 2026)
– Iravati

➤ Of which river is the Rapti a tributary? (Feb 2026)
– Ghaghara

➤ Who implements Namo Bharat RRTS? (Feb 2026)
– NCRTC

➤ Maximum speed of the system? (Feb 2026)
– 180 km/h

➤ Which UP city is on the first corridor? (Feb 2026)
– Meerut

➤ Who presented the Uttar Pradesh budget 2026-27? (Feb 2026)
– Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on 11 February 2026.

➤ What is UP's fiscal deficit target for 2026-27? (Feb 2026)
– 3 per cent of GSDP.

➤ What is the Uttar Pradesh economic target? (Feb 2026)
– A one trillion dollar economy.

➤ Which state is first in milk production per the survey? (Feb 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh.

➤ In which district is Kalinjar Fort? (Mar 2026)
– Banda

➤ Annual MPLADS entitlement per MP? (Mar 2026)
– Rs 5 crore

➤ Portal managing MPLADS? (Mar 2026)
– e-SAKSHI

➤ Where is the proposed Japan City in UP? (Mar 2026)
– YEIDA Sector 5A near Jewar airport

➤ Where is the Basmati organic demo farm? (Mar 2026)
– Pilibhit

➤ What is the length of Ganga Expressway? (Apr 2026)
– 594 km

➤ What is the five-year outlay of Navayug Palika Yojana? (Apr 2026)
– Rs 2,916 crore

➤ Which Uttar Pradesh industrial hub saw the factory workers' protests? (Apr 2026)
– Noida

➤ What institutional measure did UP take to handle labour disputes? (Apr 2026)
– Specialised industrial cells

➤ Total Ramsar sites in India after Shekha Jheel? (Apr 2026)
– 99

➤ Ramsar sites in Uttar Pradesh now? (Apr 2026)
– 12

➤ Shekha Jheel is near which UP city? (Apr 2026)
– Aligarh

➤ Which districts form Category I in UP minimum wage notification? (Apr 2026)
– Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad

➤ Where did the fire occur in Lucknow? (Jun 2026)
– Aliganj

➤ Which Article lists fire as a municipal function? (Jun 2026)
– Article 243W

➤ Code replacing NBC 2016? (Jun 2026)
– NBCS 2026

➤ Which UP city was named a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy? (Jun 2026)
– Lucknow

➤ Under which mission are 50 more Doppler radars proposed? (Jun 2026)
– Mission Mausam

➤ Which UP district leads in rooftop solar? (Jun 2026)
– Lucknow

➤ Which is India's 100th Ramsar site? (Jun 2026)
– Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary

➤ In which district is Surha Tal? (Jun 2026)
– Ballia

➤ Which flyway does it lie on? (Jun 2026)
– Central Asian Flyway

➤ UP's Ramsar sites? (Jun 2026)
– 13

➤ Who launched Operation Cy-Vajra? (Jul 2026)
– UP DGP Rajeev Krishna

➤ What does GANGA stand for in Project GANGA? (Jul 2026)
– Government Assisted Network for Growth & Advancement

➤ Where is the first Department of Military Medicine? (Jul 2026)
– Command Hospital, Lucknow

➤ It functions under? (Jul 2026)
– DGMS (Army)

➤ Which command's hospital hosts it? (Jul 2026)
– Central Command

➤ What does Kaushal Setu do? (Jul 2026)
– Paperless registration and empanelment of training partners

➤ Which Article guarantees a lawyer of choice to an arrested person? (Jul 2026)
– Article 22(1)

➤ Which Article directs free legal aid? (Jul 2026)
– Article 39A

➤ Penalty imposed by the Ayodhya Bar on defence lawyers? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 5 lakh

➤ How many scooters will be given under the Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Scheme? (Jul 2026)
– 50,000

➤ Which state has the most Jan Aushadhi Kendras? (Jul 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh

➤ What is the revised sustenance allowance under UP Startup Policy 2026? (Jul 2026)
– Rs 20,000 per month for two years

➤ Where is the AK-203 Sher rifle made in UP? (Aug 2026)
– Korwa, Amethi

➤ Under which section is the Appropriate Authority constituted? (Aug 2026)
– Section 17

➤ In which UP district did the case originate? (Aug 2026)
– Bulandshahr

➤ Where is Parichha Weir? (Aug 2026)
– Jhansi, on the Betwa river

➤ Under which criteria was Sarnath inscribed? (Aug 2026)
– Criteria (iii) and (vi)

➤ How many World Heritage properties does India have after Sarnath? (Aug 2026)
– 45

➤ Where was the 48th World Heritage Committee session held? (Aug 2026)
– Busan, South Korea

➤ Which Tirthankara's temple is at Sarnath? (Aug 2026)
– Shreyanshnath

➤ Of which princely state was Rani Avanti Bai queen? (Sep 2026)
– Ramgarh

➤ Where did she defeat the British in 1857? (Sep 2026)
– Battle of Kheri, near Mandla

➤ In which year did she die? (Sep 2026)
– 1858

➤ Which state led domestic tourist visits in 2025? (Sep 2026)
– Uttar Pradesh

➤ What new name was announced for Bhadohi? (Oct 2026)
– Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

➤ Which agency is nodal for UP's SAF policy? (Oct 2026)
– UPNEDA

➤ Which department implements the UP AI Mission? (Oct 2026)
– IT and Electronics Department

➤ How many GPUs are planned for the Lucknow AI City? (Oct 2026)
– 10,000

➤ Within how many hours are paddy payments made to UP farmers? (Oct 2026)
– 48 hours

Polity, Governance and Judiciary

Current Notes

Delimitation and Southern States' Concerns

Context: Southern states have voiced unease that a purely population-based redrawing of Lok Sabha seats, together with the present way the Finance Commission shares funds, works against states that controlled their population growth. The debate puts the constitutional machinery of delimitation back in focus.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Delimitation fixes the number of seats and the territorial boundaries of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies in each state.
- The task is handled by a high-powered Delimitation Commission, also called the Boundary Commission.
- Delimitation commissions have been set up four times so far, in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.
- The 2022 Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission reorganised the Union Territory into 90 assembly seats (43 in Jammu and 47 in Kashmir) and 5 parliamentary constituencies.
- Orders of the Commission have the force of law, cannot be questioned in a court, and take effect from a date specified by the President.
- Articles 82 and 170 provide for readjustment of the division of each state into territorial constituencies after every Census, in the manner Parliament decides by law.
- Articles 330 and 332 deal with fixing the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- In Kishorchandra Chhaganlal Rathod v Union of India (2024), the Supreme Court held that a Commission order that is clearly arbitrary and against constitutional values can be reviewed by constitutional courts.
- Meghraj Kothari v Delimitation Commission (1966) limited judicial interference only to avoid delaying elections, and did not take away the power of judicial review.

Land Stack, PANKHUDI and ECINET Launched

Context: Three digital governance platforms were launched in January 2026: Land Stack for land and property records under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), the PANKHUDI portal for CSR partnerships in women and child development, and the Election Commission's ECINET, unveiled at the IICDEM 2026 conference. They matter as examples of e-governance reforms.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Land Stack, an integrated GIS-based digital platform for land and property records, was launched under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
- Its design draws on global best practices from countries such as Singapore, the United Kingdom and Finland.
- A Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT) was launched along with Land Stack.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the PANKHUDI portal, a single-window digital platform to facilitate Corporate Social Responsibility and partnerships.
- PANKHUDI connects individuals, NRIs, NGOs, corporates and government bodies, covering nutrition, healthcare, early childhood care and education (ECCE) and child welfare.
- The Election Commission of India launched the ECINET digital platform at the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026.
- An early version of ECINET was successfully used in the Bihar Assembly election of 2025.

PRAGATI Platform Completes 50th Meeting

Context: The 50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), the technology-driven review platform chaired by the Prime Minister, was held, drawing attention to its role in clearing stalled projects and promoting cooperative federalism.

□ **Key Highlights**

- PRAGATI was launched in 2015 as a multipurpose, multi-modal platform that brings accountability, transparency and timely decisions into administration.
- Review meetings are chaired by the Prime Minister and involve direct interaction with states and Union ministries in a Team India spirit.
- The platform hosts governance tools such as PM Gati Shakti, PARIVESH and the PM Reference portal.
- An external study by the Said Business School of the University of Oxford described it as a global benchmark and a single source of truth for real-time project monitoring.

Romeo-Juliet Clause and the POCSO Act

Context: A court drew attention to the misuse of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in consensual relationships between adolescents and asked the Centre to consider a 'Romeo-Juliet clause' that balances personal liberty with child protection.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The court noted cases where the age of the victim was wrongly stated so that the matter would fall under the strict provisions of POCSO.
- It also noted cases where families used the law to oppose relationships between young people.
- A Romeo-Juliet clause seeks to exempt genuinely consensual adolescent relationships from the harsh application of

POCSO where the age gap between the partners is very small.

- Ignoring consent in such relationships can lead to the wrongful imprisonment of adolescents.

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 Sent to JPC

Context: The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha and has now been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. It proposes one apex regulator for higher education in place of several existing bodies.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The UGC currently both frames norms and distributes grants, which is seen as a conflict of interest. About 65 percent of the UGC budget goes to central universities, while state universities enrolling most students get about 35 percent.
- The Bill is framed under Entry 66 of the Union List, which deals with coordination and determination of standards in higher education, research and scientific and technical institutions.
- A single commission, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan, will become the apex regulatory body for higher education.
- VBSA will not control the funding of institutions.
- Three councils will function under it: for regulation, for quality and accreditation, and for setting standards.
- The Bill repeals the UGC Act 1956, the AICTE Act 1987 and the NCTE Act 1993.
- The regulatory council can impose penalties on higher education institutions for violations, and appeals against decisions lie with the Union government.
- Legal and medical education stay outside its scope; the Council of Architecture is proposed to act as a Professional Standard Setting Body.
- In Amit Kumar vs Union of India, the Court used Article 142 to issue directions on rising student suicides in higher education institutions.
- Institutions must report any student suicide or unnatural death to the police at once, even if it occurs in a hostel or PG.
- Vacant faculty and administrative posts are to be filled within 4 months, and pending scholarships cleared within 4 months.
- India spends only about 0.68 percent of GDP on research and development.

16th Finance Commission Report (2026-31)

Context: The report of the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Dr Arvind Panagariya, was laid before Parliament on 1 February 2026. It covers the five-year award period 2026-27 to 2030-31 and decides how tax revenue and grants are shared between the Union and the States.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Vertical devolution flows through the divisible pool (Article 270), grants-in-aid (Article 275) and discretionary grants such as Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Article 282). Horizontal devolution weighs equity factors like population, area and income against efficiency factors like forest cover and fiscal discipline.
- The Commission was headed by Dr Arvind Panagariya, with T Rabi Sankar, Annie George Mathew, Manoj Panda and Soumya Kanti Ghosh as members.
- Its award period runs from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.
- The States' share in the divisible pool (vertical devolution) has been kept at 41 per cent, the same as under the 15th Commission.
- The 14th Commission had recommended 42 per cent, which the 15th Commission later reduced.
- Cesses and surcharges stay outside the divisible pool; their share together with collection costs touched Rs 13.5 per Rs 100 of Union tax collections in 2021-22.
- Income distance is the gap between a State's per capita GSDP and the average of the top three large States; poorer States get a larger share.
- Population is counted on the basis of the 2011 Census.
- Demographic performance now uses population growth between 1971 and 2011, replacing the change in Total Fertility Rate used earlier.
- The forest criterion now counts both a State's share in total forest area and the increase in forest area between 2015 and 2023, and includes open forests as well.
- The tax or fiscal effort criterion is replaced by contribution to GDP, calculated using the square root of a State's GSDP relative to the sum of square roots of all States' GSDPs.
- For the GDP measure, average nominal GSDP of 2018-19 to 2023-24 is used, leaving out the pandemic year 2020-21.
- Revenue deficit, sector-specific and State-specific grants have been discontinued.
- Local body grants include Rs 4.4 lakh crore for rural and Rs 3.6 lakh crore for urban local bodies; the urban share rises from 36 per cent to 45 per cent.
- Local body grants are split 80 per cent basic and 20 per cent performance-based; half of the basic grant is tied to sanitation, waste and water management.
- A corpus of Rs 2,04,401 crore is set for State Disaster Relief and Management Funds, with Centre-State sharing of 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States and 75:25 for others.
- Heatwaves and lightning are recommended for notification as national disasters, and the NDMIS is to be upgraded.
- Conditions for funds include proper constitution of local bodies, publication of audited accounts and timely setting up of State Finance Commissions.
- Centre should cut its fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent of GDP by 2030-31 and States should cap it at 3 per cent of GSDP.
- All off-budget borrowings should stop, and power sector reform includes privatisation of DISCOMs and Special Purpose Vehicles to hold DISCOM debt.
- Subsidies should have exclusion criteria and sunset clauses, and 308 inactive State PSEs should be reviewed for closure.
- The Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280, every five years.

- The States' share in the divisible pool is retained at 41 per cent, although States had asked for 50 per cent.
- A new criterion of Contribution to GDP, with 10 per cent weight, replaces tax and fiscal effort.
- Demographic performance is now measured by population growth from 1971 to 2011, replacing the change in Total Fertility Rate used by the 15th Commission.

□ **Terms of Reference**

- Distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union and States (vertical) and among States (horizontal).
- Principles for grants-in-aid to States from the Consolidated Fund of India under Article 275.
- Measures to augment State Consolidated Funds to supplement resources of Panchayats and Municipalities.
- Review of disaster financing arrangements under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

□ **Grants and Cost Sharing**

- Total grants-in-aid of Rs 9.47 lakh crore are recommended for 2026-31.
- Local body grants are about Rs 4.35 lakh crore for rural and Rs 3.56 lakh crore for urban local bodies, split into 80 per cent basic and 20 per cent performance-based.
- A disaster management corpus of about Rs 2.04 lakh crore is recommended for States.
- Cost sharing is proposed at 90:10 for north-eastern and Himalayan States and 75:25 for the rest.

Local body grants under 16th Finance Commission

Component	Allocation
Rural local bodies	Rs 4.4 lakh crore
Urban local bodies	Rs 3.6 lakh crore
Basic : performance split	80 : 20
Basic grant tied to sanitation, waste, water	50 per cent
Disaster corpus (SDRF/SDMF)	Rs 2,04,401 crore

Horizontal devolution criteria and weights

Criterion	Weight
Income distance	42.5%
Population (2011)	17.5%
Area	10%
Forest and ecology	10%
Demographic performance	10%
Contribution to GDP	10%

Bill to Diversify the Higher Judiciary

Context: In February 2026, Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson introduced a private member Bill to amend the Constitution to ensure social diversity in judicial appointments and create regional benches of the Supreme Court. It was prompted by low representation in recent High Court appointments and heavy Supreme Court pendency, and it touches Articles 124, 130 and 217.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Between January 2021 and January 2026, of 593 High Court appointments only 26 were SC, 14 ST, 80 OBC, 37 minorities and 96 women. Over 90,000 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as of January 2026.
- The 229th Law Commission Report (2009) suggested Cassation Benches in four zones.
- Article 124 governs Supreme Court appointments and Article 217 High Court appointments; Article 130 fixes the seat in Delhi.

□ **What the Bill Proposes**

- Proportionate representation of SC, ST, OBC, religious minorities and women in Supreme Court and High Court appointments.
- A 90-day deadline for the Centre to notify Collegium recommendations.
- Permanent regional benches at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, with constitutional matters staying in Delhi.

Can ED Attach Assets for Non-Scheduled Offences?

Context: The Supreme Court stayed a 2025 Delhi High Court ruling that had upheld the Enforcement Directorate's attachment of about Rs 20 crore linked to hawala-backed online cricket betting through a UK-based platform. The case revives the debate on whether income from a non-scheduled activity can be treated as proceeds of crime under the PMLA, 2002.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The ED issued a Provisional Attachment Order in 2015 freezing assets of roughly Rs 20 crore. Online betting is not a scheduled offence, so the ED linked it to a scheduled offence such as forgery to claim jurisdiction.
- Section 3 defines the offence and Section 4 prescribes rigorous imprisonment of 3 to 7 years, extendable to 10 years for NDPS-related proceeds.
- Section 5 allows provisional attachment for up to 180 days on recorded reason to believe; the Adjudicating Authority must be approached within 30 days.
- The Adjudicating Authority has a Chairperson and two Members with a five-year tenure.
- Appeals go to the Appellate Tribunal and then the High Court within 60 days.
- Offences are cognizable and non-bailable with twin bail conditions under Section 45.
- The Delhi High Court called the PMLA a self-contained statute, held writ petitions under Article 226 non-maintainable, and read proceeds of crime broadly, using the 'fruit of the poisoned tree' reasoning.
- The appeal argues that mere linkage to another offence cannot convert betting income into proceeds of crime.

□ **Precedent: Vijay Madanlal Choudhary (2022)**

- Money laundering is a standalone, continuing offence independent of the scheduled offence.
- Attachment can proceed even without conviction in the scheduled offence.
- ED officers are not police officers, so statements under Section 50 are admissible.
- An ECIR need not be supplied to the accused like an FIR.

Decentralisation and Rural Transformation in India

Context: Union Budget allocations for rural development have risen by over 211 per cent between 2016-17 and 2026-27, reaching Rs 2.73 lakh crore. The rise has renewed focus on how Panchayati Raj institutions, empowered by the 73rd and 74th Amendments, deliver rural change.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) proposed a three-tier system; the first PRI was set up at Nagaur, Rajasthan on 2 October 1959. The Asoka Mehta Committee (1977) recommended a two-tier system with Zila Parishad and Mandal Panchayat.
- The 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts of 1992 added Part IX for Panchayats and Part IXA for Municipalities.
- They mandate three-tier structure (two tiers where population is under 20 lakh), five-year terms, one-third reservation for women and State Election and Finance Commissions.
- The Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules list 29 functions for Panchayats and 18 for Municipalities.
- Fiscal devolution to local bodies rises from about Rs 2.36 lakh crore under the 15th Finance Commission to nearly Rs 4.35 lakh crore under the 16th.
- Women make up about 40 per cent of PRI leadership.
- Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 extends Part IX to Fifth Schedule areas.
- The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 provides 125 days of unskilled wage employment per rural household annually.

Denotified Tribes Seek Separate Census Column

Context: Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes want a separate column in the 2027 Census and a distinct constitutional Schedule. They say they are lost within SC, ST and OBC lists and cannot access targeted welfare.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India will carry out caste enumeration in February 2027 for the first time since 1931.
- Many DNTs were absorbed into SC, ST or OBC lists, where politically stronger groups crowd them out.
- Police allegedly still treat them as habitual offenders despite repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.
- States are not issuing proper DNT certificates, which blocks welfare access.
- There is no reliable national population figure.

□ **SEED Scheme**

- The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs was launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a Rs 200 crore central sector scheme.
- It provides coaching for competitive exams, health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family, housing aid and livelihood support to families with income below Rs 2.5 lakh.
- Only Rs 69.3 crore had been spent by December 2025.

Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Agreement

Context: The Government of India, the Government of Nagaland and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation signed an agreement creating the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA). It devolves powers to six eastern districts of Nagaland.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ENPO is the apex body of eight recognised Naga tribes: Konyak, Sangtam, Chang, Khiamniungan, Yimkhiung, Tikhir, Phom and Sumi.
- FNTA covers Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator districts.
- Powers over 46 subjects are devolved to the Authority.
- A mini-secretariat headed by an Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary will be set up.
- The arrangement does not affect Article 371(A), the special provision for Nagaland.

Gender Budget Share Rises to 9.37 Per Cent

Context: The share of the Gender Budget in the Union Budget has risen to 9.37 per cent, with 53 Ministries or Departments and five Union Territories reporting allocations. India has used gender budgeting since 2004-05.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Gender budgeting examines government budgets from a gender perspective rather than creating a separate budget.
- India formally adopted it in 2004-05, with Gender Budget Cells across ministries and departments.
- Part A of the statement lists schemes with 100 per cent provision for women; Part B lists schemes where at least 30 per cent is for women.
- The Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti (Ministry of Women and Child Development) supports gender budgeting and aims for full coverage.
- Odisha and Karnataka are among States that have adopted it.

India's Mental Health Burden and Budget Response

Context: Following an Economic Survey warning on digital addiction among children, the Union Budget of 1 February announced a second NIMHANS in north India and the upgrade of mental health institutes at Ranchi and Tezpur. India's mental health spending is still small relative to the burden.

□ **Burden**

- India accounts for nearly one-third of global cases of suicide, depression and addiction.
- Suicide is among the leading causes of death for those aged 15 to 29.
- WHO estimates a loss of $1.03 trillion between 2012 and 2030.
- Between 70 and 92 per cent of people with mental disorders receive no proper care.

- India has 0.75 psychiatrists per 1,00,000 people against the WHO-recommended minimum of 3.

□ Government Response

- Mental health is part of the Comprehensive Primary Health Care package at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, with over 1.73 lakh centres upgraded.
- Over 20 Centres of Excellence and 47 postgraduate departments have been set up.
- Tele MANAS, launched in October 2022, offers 24x7 help on 14416 or 1-800-891-4416 through 53 cells across 36 States and UTs.
- The mental health budget rose from Rs 683 crore in 2020-21 to about Rs 1,898 crore in 2024-25, still under 2 per cent of the health budget.

Menstrual Hygiene as Part of Article 21

Context: In Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Government of India (2026), the Supreme Court held that access to menstrual hygiene is a constitutional right flowing from Article 21. It moved the subject from public health to dignity, equality and fundamental rights, and issued detailed directions for schools across the country.

□ The Holding

- The right to menstrual health is treated as part of the right to life and dignity under Article 21.
- Lack of menstrual hygiene measures denies girls equal participation in school, so Article 14 on equality is also engaged.
- Lack of access to sanitary products affects the fundamental right to education under Article 21A and the RTE Act.
- The Court directed nationwide implementation of the Centre's Menstrual Hygiene Policy for School Going Girls, for classes 6 to 12.

□ Directions to Schools

- Every government and private school, urban or rural, must have functional gender-segregated toilets with water, privacy and disability access.
- Handwashing facilities with soap and water must be available at all times.
- Free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins conforming to ASTM D-6954 must be provided, through vending machines in toilets or designated authorities.
- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners stocked with spare uniforms, innerwear and disposal bags must be set up.
- Each toilet must have a covered bin, and disposal must follow the Solid Waste Management Rules.
- Sensitisation of male teachers and students.

□ Awareness and Monitoring

- NCERT and SCERTs must add gender-responsive content on menstruation, puberty and PCOS/PCOD to the curriculum, and teachers of both sexes must be trained.
- District Education Officers must carry out annual inspections, gather anonymous student feedback and issue compliance notices under the RTE Rules.
- Private schools that fail to comply risk de-recognition under Section 19 of the RTE Act.
- Earmarked funds for MHM infrastructure under Samagra Shiksha and related schemes.

NDMA Issues First Disaster Victim Identification SOP

Context: The National Disaster Management Authority has released the country's first Standard Operating Procedure and guidelines on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) and management. The document treats victim identification as a core part of disaster response, linking humanitarian, medico-legal, public health and administrative systems.

□ Key Highlights

- Primary identifiers are fingerprints, dental records and DNA, supported by secondary identifiers depending on the condition of the remains.
- Methods include post-mortem fingerprinting, DNA analysis, forensic odontology, virtual autopsy and forensic archaeology.
- The guidelines stress dignity, ethical conduct, cultural sensitivity and support to families.
- A National Dental Data Registry (NDDR) is proposed so dental records can identify burnt or decomposed bodies and reduce over-reliance on DNA.
- Preparedness rests on minimum readiness standards, regular training, robust data systems and inter-agency cooperation.

□ Four Stages of DVI

- Stage one is systematic recovery, documentation and preservation of remains at the site.
- Stage two is collection of ante-mortem dental data through the central registry.
- Stage three is preparation of post-mortem dental records by qualified forensic odontologists.
- Stage four compares both datasets using specialised software and expert review, ending in positive identification, exclusion or an inconclusive result.

PAC Flags Weak Delivery of SANKALP Scheme

Context: The Public Accounts Committee criticised the 'lackadaisical' implementation of SANKALP, a World Bank-assisted Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Only a fraction of the funds was used, and monitoring was found weak.

□ Key Highlights

- SANKALP stands for Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion and was launched in 2018. It was meant to run until March 2023 and was extended to March 2024.
- Skill India Mission was launched in 2015; PMKVY 4.0, PM-NAPS and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan scheme were merged into the Skill India Programme.
- Craftsmen Training Scheme dates to 1950; PM Vishwakarma (2023) has an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore till 2027-28.

- DDU-GKY began in 2014 and RSETIs in 2009.
- Total outlay is Rs 4,455 crore: World Bank loan Rs 3,300 crore, State leverage Rs 660 crore and industry leverage Rs 495 crore.
- Its three key result areas are institutional strengthening, quality assurance and inclusion of marginalised groups.
- World Bank disbursement is linked to Disbursement Linked Indicators, with IIM Indore as Independent Verification Agency.

PRAHAAR: India's First National Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs released PRAHAAR, an eight-page document that is India's first publicly articulated national counter-terrorism policy and strategy. It rests on a zero-tolerance stance and a seven-pillar framework combining prevention, response and recovery.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Prevention relies on intelligence-guided action through the Multi Agency Centre and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence in the Intelligence Bureau.
- Local police act as first responders, backed by State and Central forces, with the National Security Guard as the nodal counter-terror force.
- Aggregating capacities stresses modernisation of forces, with training from BPR&D and the NSG.
- Human rights and rule of law pillar relies on laws such as UAPA 1967, Explosive Substances Act 1908, Arms Act 1959 and PMLA 2002.
- International alignment uses Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, extradition treaties and Joint Working Groups.
- Recovery and resilience involve doctors, psychologists, lawyers and civil society to rehabilitate affected communities.

□ **Framework**

- It recognises threats from cross-border terrorism, global jihadist networks such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS, and new risks like drones, dark web tools, crypto-financing, cyberattacks and CBRN materials.
- It does not link terrorism with any religion or identity.
- It rests on a zero-tolerance political stance.
- The seven pillars are intelligence-led prevention, swift and proportionate response, capacity aggregation, rule of law and human rights, de-radicalisation and community engagement, international alignment, and recovery and resilience.

Parliamentary and Electoral Concepts in News

Context: Several constitutional and parliamentary issues came up in February 2026: the Supreme Court's remarks on NOTA, the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, and a proposal for a Right to Recall. These are frequently tested concepts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- NOTA was introduced after the 2013 judgment in PUCL v. Union of India, which directed the ECI to provide it on EVMs. It was first used in the 2013 Assembly elections of Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.
- Under Article 87(1) the President addresses both Houses at the first session after a general election and the first session of each year.
- Discussion on the address takes place on a Motion of Thanks under Rule 17 of the Lok Sabha Rules, and members may move amendments expressing regret over omissions.
- The Supreme Court noted that NOTA has had little impact on the choice of candidates fielded by parties more than a decade after its introduction.
- An opposition resolution seeking removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was moved during the period.
- Even if NOTA gets the most votes, the candidate with the next highest votes is declared elected.
- Maharashtra and Haryana State Election Commissions treat NOTA as a fictional candidate and order re-election if it secures a majority.

Plan to Bar Non-Hindus from Char Dham Shrines

Context: Temple committees of the Chota Char Dham shrines in Uttarakhand, led by the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, are considering barring non-Hindus from temple premises. Critics say the move conflicts with Articles 19, 25 and 26.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Article 19(1)(d) gives freedom of movement across India, and a religion-based bar serves community rather than public interest.
- Articles 25 and 26 are subject to public order, morality, health and other fundamental rights.
- Under the Essential Religious Practices test, the committee must prove that admitting non-Hindus damages the shrine's religious character.
- In the 2018 Sabarimala judgment the Supreme Court held that excluding women was not an essential religious practice.
- The ERP doctrine originated in the 1950s.
- Any restriction must satisfy Articles 19, 25 and 26.
- Rules should regulate conduct rather than religious identity.
- Stakeholder consultation and judicial review are needed.

Removal Motion Against the Lok Sabha Speaker

Context: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chose not to preside over proceedings in February 2026 until a no-confidence resolution moved by 118 Opposition MPs is resolved, with debate and voting set for 9 March. The episode draws attention to the constitutional procedure and rules for removing the Speaker, and to earlier such motions, none of which succeeded.

□ **Procedure**

- Rule 200 needs at least 14 days' written notice to the Secretary-General.

- Rule 200A requires the resolution to be specific, clearly worded and free of arguments or defamatory statements.
- Leave is granted if at least 50 members rise in support, and discussion follows within 10 days.
- Rule 203 limits ordinary speeches to 15 minutes.
- Passage needs a majority of all the then members; the Speaker is removed but stays an MP.

□ **Past Motions**

- 1954: against G.V. Mavalankar, the first such motion.
- 1966: against Hukam Singh.
- 1987: against Balram Jakhar.
- None of them succeeded.

Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption Act

Context: In Centre for Public Interest Litigation v Union of India (2026), the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, which requires prior government approval before an inquiry against a public servant begins.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Related measures include the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 and the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. India ratified the UN Convention against Corruption in 2011.
- Section 17A was inserted by the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- Justice Viswanathan upheld the section but added that the sanction decision should be taken by the Lokpal or the respective state Lokayukta.
- Justice B. V. Nagarathna held the section violates Article 14 because it protects only one class of public servants.
- Earlier, in Vineet Narain v Union of India (1997) and Dr Subramanian Swamy v Director, CBI (2014), the Court had struck down executive and statutory provisions requiring prior approval before probing senior officers.
- The PCA, 1988 defines a public servant to include anyone in the service or pay of the government or a local authority, and any judge.
- Corruption is treated as accepting or demanding a gratification, other than legal remuneration, for performing or not performing an official act.
- A habitual offender faces imprisonment of at least 5 years which may extend to 10 years, along with a fine.
- Police below the rank of Inspector (in DSPE cases), Assistant Commissioner in metropolitan areas, or Deputy Superintendent elsewhere cannot investigate without the required magistrate's order.
- Other transparency laws are the RTI Act, 2005 and the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended bringing anti-corruption bureaus under the State Vigilance Commission.

Sports Governance: Bindra Task Force, National Sports Board and Tribunal Rules

Context: A task force chaired by Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra has submitted its report on building the capacity of sports administrators, while the government notified rules under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 for national sports bodies and the National Sports Board.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The task force was set up under the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and aims at placing India among the top 10 sporting nations by 2036 and supporting the bid to host the 2036 Olympics.
- It found a lack of a professional cadre of sports administrators, fragmented and outdated training, and no clear pathway for athletes to move into administration.
- It proposed a National Sports Education and Capacity Building Council as an autonomous statutory body under the Sports Ministry to regulate, recognise and certify administrator training.
- A National Training and Development Cell would run India-specific courses, maintain a registry of administrators and manage the e-Khel Pathshala digital platform of the Sports Authority of India.
- A five-level capability maturity model and a Unique Administrator ID (UAID) were recommended to link promotions to measurable skills.
- A dual-career plan would let athletes study leadership during their playing years and earn a Sportsperson of Merit certificate.
- The National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 cover bodies such as the Indian Olympic Association and regional sports federations.
- Each body must have a general body and an executive committee, and at least four posts in the executive committee are reserved for women.
- The National Sports Election Panel overseeing elections will always have at least 20 members.
- A person convicted by a court and sentenced to imprisonment is disqualified from membership.
- Under the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026, the committee is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and includes the Sports Secretary, one person with administrative experience in sports and two National Sports Award recipients.
- The National Sports Board will recognise National Sports Bodies and monitor governance, financial and ethical standards.
- The Board has one Chairperson and two Members appointed by the Centre from a panel of a Search-cum-Selection Committee.
- The National Sports Tribunal is a specialised body for sports disputes, offering speedy and affordable resolution.
- A dedicated online portal supports filing, virtual hearings and digital records.

Supreme Court Questions WhatsApp-Meta Data Sharing

Context: A bench led by CJI Surya Kant criticised WhatsApp and Meta over the 2021 'take-it-or-leave-it' privacy policy, saying citizens' privacy cannot be compromised under the guise of business operations. The case arises from a Competition Commission of India penalty.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The CCI held that WhatsApp abused its dominant position under the Competition Act, 2002. In November 2024 it imposed a Rs 213.14 crore penalty and a five-year ban on sharing user data with other Meta entities for advertising.
- NCLAT upheld the abuse finding and the penalty but set aside the five-year ban, noting that the DPDP Act, 2023 would govern privacy.

□ **Supreme Court Observations**

- Companies cannot 'play with' citizens' privacy.
- Consent under a take-it-or-leave-it policy may be illusory, since opting out of WhatsApp is like opting out of the country.
- The Court raised the economic value of behavioural data and the question of who benefits.
- Unless Meta undertakes not to share data, the appeal may be dismissed or strict interim directions given.

Supreme Court Rethinks Gender Stereotype Handbook

Context: While hearing a suo motu case arising from an Allahabad High Court ruling that called certain acts mere 'preparation' instead of attempt to rape, the Supreme Court indicated a shift away from the 2023 Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes. CJI Surya Kant called the handbook too academic and asked for practical judicial training.

□ **The Present Case**

- The Supreme Court had stayed and then set aside the Allahabad High Court judgment.
- The trial court was directed to proceed on charges of attempt to rape.
- The National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, must form an expert committee to draft practical training guidelines for High Court judges.
- Judges will receive batch-wise training on handling sexual assault cases with sensitivity.

□ **2023 Handbook**

- Released in August 2023 under then CJI D.Y. Chandrachud; it runs to 35 pages.
- It lists stereotype-promoting words with preferred alternatives, such as 'street sexual harassment' for 'eve teasing' and 'homemaker' for 'housewife'.
- It states that clothing, alcohol use or absence of resistance does not imply consent.
- It cites State of Punjab v. Gurmit Singh (1996) on credibility of survivor testimony and State of Jharkhand v. Shailendra Kumar Rai (2022) banning the two-finger test.

Supreme Court on Freebies Culture

Context: In Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited v. Union of India, the Supreme Court expressed concern about the freebies culture among States. It observed that indiscriminate cash transfers may weaken fiscal discipline and the dignity of work.

□ **Key Highlights**

- In S. Subramaniam Balaji v. Tamil Nadu (2013) the Court upheld distribution of items like colour TVs as consistent with Directive Principles. Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 treats gifts or promises to induce voters as bribery, a corrupt practice.
- The Court said direct cash transfers without distinguishing those who can and cannot afford services may disincentivise work.
- It noted that taxpayer-funded largesse can undermine economic stability and urged States to focus on long-term development.
- The RBI defines freebies as a public welfare measure provided free of charge, distinct from merit goods like education.
- Aggregate unconditional cash transfers, mostly targeted at women, were estimated at Rs 1.7 lakh crore in 2025-26.
- Combined gross fiscal deficit of States rose from 2.6 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 to 3.2 per cent in 2024-25.
- The Election Commission's manifesto guidelines under the Model Code of Conduct ask parties to avoid promises that vitiate election purity.
- Directive Principles in Articles 38, 39 and 41 are often cited in favour of welfare transfers.

Urbanisation and Budget 2026-27 Urban Measures

Context: Union Budget 2026-27 gave priority to urban development through City Economic Regions, support for Tier II and III cities and municipal bond incentives. The measures come amid debate over how India defines and measures urbanisation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Census treats a place as urban if population exceeds 5,000, at least 75 per cent of male workers are in non-agricultural jobs and density is at least 400 persons per sq km, besides statutory towns. Satellite-based GHSL data suggested India was about 63 per cent urban in 2015, almost double the 2011 Census figure.
- City Economic Regions will be mapped around growth drivers, with Rs 5,000 crore per region over five years.
- Infrastructure priority goes to Tier II and Tier III cities with population above 0.5 million, and to temple towns.
- A Rs 100 crore incentive is offered for a single municipal bond issue above Rs 1,000 crore, while AMRUT continues to back issues of Rs 200 crore or less.
- Rs 1.4 lakh crore goes to States in 2026-27 as grants for urban and rural local bodies and disaster management.

- Kerala is 47.7 per cent urban by the Census (2011) but about 80.8 per cent under the DEGURBA method.

Vibrant Villages Programme-II and Border Technology

Context: The Union Home Minister launched the Rs 6,839 crore Vibrant Villages Programme-II from Cachar, Assam in February 2026, covering border villages with a saturation approach to basic infrastructure. He also stressed advanced technology against new border threats such as drones and tunnels.

□ Vibrant Villages Programme-II

- Selected villages in border blocks get full coverage in four areas: all-weather roads, telecom, television and electrification.
- Electrification combines grid supply and renewable solutions.
- The programme converges existing central schemes through inter-ministerial coordination.
- Livelihood support covers tourism, skills, cooperatives, agriculture, horticulture and medicinal plants.
- Villages are chosen by proximity to international borders, security sensitivity and strategic relevance.
- Vibrant Villages Programme-I is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2023 for villages along the northern border.
- VVP-II is a Central Sector Scheme approved in 2025 for villages along land borders in 15 States and 2 UTs other than those under VVP-I.

□ Technology in Border Management

- Stage II and III of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System are to cover about 1,955 km of vulnerable borders, following pilots such as BOLD-QIT.
- The BSF plans a unified smart border observation and monitoring system.
- Drone drops of narcotics and weapons are rising along the western sector.

Assam Peace Settlement with Kuki and Hmar Groups

Context: In March 2026 the Assam government signed a Memorandum of Settlement with three Kuki extremist groups and one Hmar group, which it says ends ethnic militancy in the state. The pact creates two welfare development councils headquartered in Guwahati and provides for rehabilitation of cadres. It is relevant to internal security and insurgency-settlement questions.

□ Key Highlights

- Two councils will be set up: Hmar Welfare Development Council and Kuki Welfare Development Council, both headquartered in Guwahati.
- Each has a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Chief Executive Member, Executive Members and government nominees.
- Cadres will be rehabilitated under existing procedures and families of slain cadres compensated.
- More than 9,000 cadres of Bodo, Karbi and Adivasi groups have already been rehabilitated.

CEC Appointment Act: CJI Recusal and Larger Bench Reference

Context: CJI Surya Kant recused himself from petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, citing possible conflict of interest. He directed that the case be listed before a bench outside the CJI succession line. The step has sparked discussion on the doctrine of recusal and the doctrine of necessity.

□ Key Highlights

- CJI Sanjiv Khanna had also recused himself in 2024.
- The Second Judges case (1993) established the seniority convention for appointing the CJI.

□ Supreme Court Referral

- The bench said the Election Commission must not only be independent but also be seen to be independent.
- Justice Datta questioned whether the Leader of Opposition's role could become ornamental, with the Prime Minister and a nominated Cabinet Minister forming two of three selectors.
- Both judges flagged the long pendency of Constitution Bench cases.

□ Removal of the CEC

- Article 324(5) allows removal of the CEC only in the manner and on the grounds applicable to a Supreme Court Judge.
- The grounds are proved misbehaviour or incapacity under Article 124(4).
- A motion needs signatures of 100 Lok Sabha MPs or 50 Rajya Sabha MPs.
- Passage needs a majority of total membership and two-thirds of members present and voting in each House, after which the President orders removal.
- Other Election Commissioners can be removed by the President only on the CEC's recommendation.
- No CEC has ever been removed; motions submitted in March 2026 were rejected by the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Can Courts Review Personal Laws: Shariat Act Petition

Context: A petition against the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 on grounds of gender discrimination in inheritance has led the Supreme Court to ask whether personal laws can face judicial review. The petitioner argues that after the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code, the Act functions as an ordinary civil statute. The Court orally suggested deferring to Parliament.

□ Key Highlights

- The petition seeks equal property rights for Muslim women similar to those under the Uttarakhand UCC. It relies on Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25, arguing inheritance is a secular civil matter (muamalat) rather than worship (ibadat).
- Article 25(2)(b) allows laws for social welfare and reform.
- The Supreme Court orally observed that striking down the Act could create a legal vacuum and that Parliament should bring a Uniform Civil Code.

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill 2026

Context: The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 was introduced in Rajya Sabha to create a single law on recruitment and service conditions of CAPF officers. It covers BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP and SSB. The Bill retains IPS deputation at senior levels.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Centre can frame rules on recruitment, promotion, deputation and service conditions of Group A General Duty officers, prevailing over conflicting laws, court orders or earlier rules.
- IPS deputation: 50% at Inspector General, at least 67% at Additional DG, and 100% at Special DG and DG level.
- The Centre may amend the schedules by notification; changes take immediate effect but must be laid before both Houses, which can modify or annul them.
- Allowances already granted to Group A GD officers continue until new orders are issued.
- Standardise service rules across the five forces.
- Replace fragmented regulations with one law to reduce litigation.
- Retain IPS deputation for Centre-State coordination in security operations.

Defence Forces Vision 2047 Released

Context: In March 2026 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released 'Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military', prepared by HQ Integrated Defence Staff. It is the first long-term vision document covering all three services together, aiming at an integrated, multi-domain, agile force and self-reliance in line with Viksit Bharat 2047.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The goal is an integrated, multi-domain and agile force by 2047.
- Multi-domain means operating across land, sea, air, space and cyber domains.
- It is the first long-term vision document for all three services together.
- It stresses self-reliance and reducing import dependence, aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047.

First Notice for Removal of Chief Election Commissioner

Context: Opposition MPs in both Houses moved notices seeking the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, with 130 Lok Sabha and 63 Rajya Sabha members signing. It is the first time such a notice has been moved against a Chief Election Commissioner. The charges include partisan conduct and mass disenfranchisement linked to the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The notice alleges partisan and discriminatory conduct that favoured the ruling party.
- It alleges obstruction of investigations into electoral irregularities.
- It cites removal of genuine voters from rolls, particularly in West Bengal during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- Removal of the CEC requires a special majority in both Houses, the same stringent procedure used for a Supreme Court judge.
- Section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 deems Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and other election staff to be on deputation to the ECI during election work.
- Such officials are under the control, superintendence and discipline of the ECI, which can suspend or replace them for dereliction of duty.

Guillotine and Demands for Grants 2026-27

Context: The Lok Sabha passed Demands for Grants of ministries for 2026-27, exceeding Rs 53 lakh crore, by applying the guillotine without discussion. The Lok Sabha also revoked the suspension of eight MPs and issued fresh conduct rules.

□ **Guillotine**

- It is invoked by the Speaker to put all remaining demands to vote at once when time runs out.
- Only the Lok Sabha votes on Demands for Grants; the Rajya Sabha has no voting power on them.
- After the guillotine, the Appropriation Bill authorises withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Finance Bill then gives effect to tax proposals.
- The Rajya Sabha can only discuss and return the Appropriation Bill.

□ **New Conduct Rules for MPs**

- Ban on AI-generated portraits and derogatory pictures or slogans during protests in the Parliament complex.
- Prohibition on carrying firearms, banners, placards, spears, swords, sticks and brickbats.

Harish Rana Case: First Passive Euthanasia Under Common Cause

Context: In Harish Rana v. Union of India (2026), the Supreme Court for the first time permitted passive euthanasia under the Common Cause framework. It allowed withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for a 32-year-old who had been in a persistent vegetative state for over 13 years. The Court held that artificial nutrition through a PEG tube is medical treatment.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) via a PEG tube is medical treatment and not basic care, so it can be withdrawn.
- The Delhi High Court's view that absence of ventilator support meant no life support was rejected.
- The best interests test asks whether continued treatment gives therapeutic benefit, what burdens it imposes, and whether the patient is kept alive without awareness, autonomy or human interaction.

□ **Procedural Directions**

- High Courts are to issue directions to Judicial Magistrates so hospitals can formally notify them of a medical board's decision.
- Chief Medical Officers of districts must maintain panels of doctors for quick formation of medical boards.

IVFRT Scheme Extended to 2031

Context: The Union Cabinet approved continuing the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme for five years, April 2026 to March 2031, with an outlay of Rs 1,800 crore. The MHA project was first approved in 2010.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a central sector scheme to integrate and modernise immigration, visa and foreigner registration systems.
- It has pillars of emerging technology, core infrastructure including Immigration Posts, FRROs and data centres, and service optimisation.
- Around 91% of e-Visas are processed within 72 hours.
- Immigration clearance time has fallen to 2.5 to 3 minutes from 5 to 6 minutes.
- The Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme cuts clearance to about 30 seconds via e-gates.

India-Myanmar Border: Fencing and Free Movement Regime

Context: The arrest of seven foreign nationals accused of training ethnic armed groups in Myanmar via Mizoram has drawn attention to the largely unfenced India-Myanmar border. Only 43 km of the 1,643 km border has been fenced.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Border length by state: Arunachal Pradesh 520 km, Nagaland 215 km, Manipur 398 km, Mizoram 510 km.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the fencing project in March 2024 at Rs 31,000 crore.
- Road works: 3,194.8 km approved, 941.91 km sanctioned, 11.5 km completed.
- The fencing includes biometric gates; a joint counter-drone mechanism with monthly reporting exists.
- Assam Rifles guards the border; it is under Army operational control and MHA administrative control.

Naxal-Free India: Declaration and States

Context: Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared India 'Naxal-free' in the Lok Sabha, a day before the 31 March 2026 deadline he had set to end Maoist violence. He said Naxalism had been more or less wiped out from Bastar.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Politburo and central command structure of CPI (Maoist) have been almost completely dismantled.
- At its peak, 12 states formed the Red Corridor.
- Maoist violence killed about 20,000 people, including 5,000 security personnel.
- Development in Bastar included schools in every village, ration shops, Aadhaar and ration cards and free 5 kg ration.
- Bela Gram (Bhandara, Vidarbha) became Maharashtra's first net-zero village through panchayat leadership (February 2026); it had won the Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat prize at the 2024 Rashtriya Panchayat Puraskar.

□ **Declarations**

- Madhya Pradesh: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav declared the state Naxal-free after two Maoists surrendered in Balaghat (December 2025).
- Bihar: declared free of Naxal activity in February 2026, according to state police.
- Telangana: declared Naxal-free in April 2026 after 42 cadres laid down arms.

SC Directs No-Fault Compensation for Covid Vaccine Injuries

Context: In Rachana Gangu v. Union of India (2026), the Supreme Court directed the Centre to frame a no-fault compensation policy for people who suffered serious adverse effects or died after Covid vaccination. The Court held that Article 21 includes health, bodily integrity and dignity. It refused to decide scientific causation itself.

□ **Key Highlights**

- No-fault means a claimant needs to show only causation, not medical negligence or a vaccine defect.
- The existing AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunisation) mechanism is adequate; no new medical board was ordered.
- The Court rejected the suggestion to approach civil courts, as proving negligence is scientifically complex and burdensome.
- Absence of a uniform compensation framework raises constitutional concerns under Articles 21 and 14.

SC Extends Paid Maternity Leave to Adoptive Mothers

Context: In Hamsaanandini Nanduri v. Union of India, the Supreme Court struck down the restriction in the Social Security Code, 2020 that limited adoptive mothers' leave to cases where the child was under three months. Adoptive mothers are now entitled to 12 weeks paid leave regardless of the child's age. The Court also urged a legal framework for paternity leave.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 originally gave 12 weeks; the 2017 amendment raised leave for biological mothers to 26 weeks.
- Section 5(4) of the Act, later Section 60(4) of the Social Security Code, 2020, limited adoptive leave to children below three months.
- Data showed under 5% of adopted children are below three months of age.
- The Court said motherhood cannot be seen through a narrow lens of biology and linked adoption to reproductive autonomy.

□ **Paternity Leave**

- Male central government employees get 15 days of paternity leave (fewer than two surviving children).
- There is no comprehensive national law on paternity leave; private sector policies vary.

SC Orders Permanent Commission for Women Officers

Context: A bench led by CJI Surya Kant delivered three related judgments directing the Army, Navy and Air Force to grant permanent commission to eligible women officers. Those already released are to receive full pension, treated as having completed 20 years of qualifying service. Pension arrears are payable from 1 January 2025.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The 2020 rulings in Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya (Army) and Union of India v. Annie Nagaraja (Navy) required consideration of women for permanent commission on par with men.
- After 2020, many women were rejected by selection boards that relied on Annual Confidential Reports.
- Those reports were written when women were barred from permanent commission, so assessors graded them casually.
- The Court treated this as systemic bias embedded in evaluation.

SC Rules on Creamy Layer Test for OBC Candidates

Context: In Union of India v. Rohith Nathan (2026), the Supreme Court held that parental income alone cannot decide creamy layer status of an OBC candidate. It dismissed the Centre's appeals against Madras, Delhi and Kerala High Court orders in favour of civil services candidates. The 1993 Office Memorandum was declared the governing policy.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The 1993 OM is binding policy, framed after expert committee recommendations, while the 2004 clarificatory letter is only explanatory.
- The creamy layer framework is primarily status-based, relying on the rank or position of parents.
- The income and wealth test (Category VI) is only a residual filter; salary and agricultural income must be excluded while applying it.
- Children of PSU and private sector employees cannot be excluded solely on salary when equivalence of posts with government services is not determined.
- Treating them differently from children of government employees was held to be hostile discrimination violating Articles 14, 15 and 16.

□ **Directions**

- Candidates' claims must be reconsidered under the correct reading of the 1993 OM.
- The government was told to create supernumerary posts if required to give eligible candidates their reservation benefit.
- The Court reiterated Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992) that Article 16(4) is a facet of substantive equality under Article 16(1).

SC: Conversion Ends Scheduled Caste Status

Context: The Supreme Court ruled that a person who converts to a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism loses Scheduled Caste status. The bar flows from Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and was called categorical and absolute. The Court upheld a High Court verdict involving a pastor.

□ **What the Court Held**

- Caste certificates and executive orders cannot override the constitutional scheme; only the Presidential Order under Article 341 governs SC status.
- 'Profess' means public declaration and outward practice, not merely private belief.
- Loss of status ends reservation, welfare entitlements and protection under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- An Andhra Pradesh order giving benefits to SC converts applies only to non-statutory concessions.
- Reconversion requires proof of original caste, genuine reconversion and acceptance by the community, with the burden on the claimant.

□ **SC versus ST**

- Scheduled Caste status depends on religion.
- Scheduled Tribe status depends on continuity of tribal identity and community acceptance.

Transgender Persons Amendment Bill 2026 Receives Assent

Context: President Droupadi Murmu has assented to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill 2026, which revises the 2019 Act. The most debated change is the removal of self-identification of gender, replaced by medical certification. Rights groups see it as a rollback of the NALSA (2014) position.

□ **Key Highlights**

- NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised transgender persons as a third gender and upheld the right to self-identify without mandatory medical intervention. The 2019 Act institutionalised recognition through identity cards, third-gender entries in documents and welfare boards; over 32,000 cards have been issued.
- The definition of a transgender person is narrowed to sociocultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta and eunuch, plus persons with specified congenital biological variations.
- A new category covers persons who were forced into a transgender identity through coercion, surgery or manipulation.
- The provision permitting self-perceived gender identity is deleted.

- A Medical Board headed by the Chief Medical Officer or Deputy CMO will assess applicants and advise the District Magistrate.
- State and UT representatives on the relevant body must now be officials of Director rank or above.
- Navtej Singh Johar v. UoI (2018) decriminalised consensual homosexuality, while Supriya Chakraborty v. UoI (2023) did not extend recognition to non-heterosexual marriages.

□ **New Penalties**

- Forcing an adult into a transgender identity: 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 2 lakh.
- Forcing a child into a transgender identity: life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5 lakh.
- Forced begging or servitude of an adult: 5 to 10 years imprisonment and Rs 1 lakh fine.
- Forced begging or servitude of a child: 10 to 14 years imprisonment and Rs 3 lakh fine.

Amaravati Notified as Andhra Pradesh Capital

Context: Amaravati was notified as the permanent sole capital of Andhra Pradesh through the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026, passed in April 2026. It ends uncertainty that began with the 2014 bifurcation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The law has retrospective effect from 2 June 2024, when the 10-year common capital period with Telangana ended.
- It is the first time a specific Bill was brought in Parliament to declare a city the permanent capital of a state.
- It nullifies the earlier three-capital plan of Visakhapatnam (executive), Amaravati (legislative) and Kurnool (judicial).

Anti-Defection Law and the AAP Rajya Sabha Merger Row

Context: Seven of the ten Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MPs moved to the BJP, cutting AAP's strength in the Upper House to three. The episode revived the debate on the merger exception in the Tenth Schedule and on who decides disqualification.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The dispute concerns Paragraph 4: a conjunctive reading needs both a merger of the original party and two-thirds consent of the legislature party. A disjunctive reading treats two-thirds consent of the legislature party alone as a deemed merger.
- The Tenth Schedule protects members from disqualification if two-thirds of a legislature party agree to merge with another party.
- Seven out of ten is above the two-thirds threshold, so the move may be treated as a merger.
- The Rajya Sabha Chairman decides the matter and his decision is open to judicial review afterwards.
- The law sets no time limit on the presiding officer's decision.
- The law recognises merger but not split, since the split exception was deleted by the 91st Amendment in 2003.
- In Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swamy Prasad Maurya (2007) the Supreme Court leaned towards the conjunctive reading.
- In the Goa case, ten of 15 Congress MLAs joined the BJP; the Bombay High Court in February 2022 upheld the Speaker's acceptance, taking a disjunctive view.
- Rajya Sabha members are elected by state MLAs, and the Punjab AAP MLAs who elected these MPs remain in AAP.

CBI ABHAY, Proxy Sarpanch Campaign and Seva Teerth

Context: Several governance-related institutional launches took place during 2026. The CBI's AI-powered mechanism ABHAY for verifying notices was launched by CJI Surya Kant in April 2026, the Panchayati Raj Ministry began a campaign against proxy representation by relatives of elected women on International Women's Day in March 2026, and the PM unveiled the name Seva Teerth for the complex housing the PMO in February 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- President's Police Colour was presented to Sikkim Police on 28 May 2026; Sikkim is the 15th state and third in the North East to receive it.
- UIDAI launched an Aadhaar mascot on 8 January 2026.
- Indian Army launched Q-FORCE, a logistics and sustainment management application, in May 2026.

□ **CBI ABHAY**

- An AI-powered chatbot-style mechanism for verifying notices issued by the CBI, launched by CJI Surya Kant at the 22nd D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture on 20 April 2026.

□ **Say No to Proxy Sarpanch**

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj began the nationwide social media campaign on International Women's Day, 8 March 2026, against proxy representation by relatives of elected women.

□ **Seva Teerth**

- The PM unveiled the name of the new complex housing the PMO on 13 February 2026 and inaugurated it along with Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2.

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Lok Sabha Expansion

Context: The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, meant to raise the strength of the Lok Sabha and operationalise one-third reservation for women, failed in the Lok Sabha because it could not secure the special two-thirds majority. The related Delimitation Bill and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were also affected.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Bill sought to expand the Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 members, with up to 815 from states and up to 35 from Union Territories.
- At present the Constitution allows up to 530 members from states and 20 from Union Territories.

- It removed the condition in the 106th Amendment Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) that women's reservation would start only after the first census following the Act.
- It authorised Parliament to decide by law when delimitation is held and which census is used, which could be done by simple majority.
- The Delimitation Bill, 2026 proposed use of the latest published census at the time of constituting the Delimitation Commission, meaning the 2011 census.
- The Commission was to be headed by a current or former Supreme Court judge, with the Chief Election Commissioner or a nominee and the concerned State Election Commissioner as members.

FCRA Amendment Bill and Rules, 2026

Context: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in Lok Sabha amid debate. The government says it will curb misuse of foreign funds, while the opposition fears excessive executive control over NGOs.

□ Key Highlights

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 regulates acceptance and use of foreign funds by individuals, NGOs and associations.
- Its objective is to ensure foreign contributions do not harm national security, sovereignty or public interest.
- The government argues the Bill will prevent diversion of funds, improve transparency and centralise monitoring.
- NGOs must register for specific approved purposes drawn from a notified schedule, with separate fees per activity.
- Existing registered organisations have one year to indicate the purposes they want to retain.
- Registration certificates will name the States or Union Territories where foreign-funded work may be done; additional areas need prior approval.
- Religious activities such as worship places, religious education and langars remain permitted but expressly excluding proselytisation.
- The term key functionary now covers directors, trustees, partners, office bearers, the karta of an HUF, governing body members and anyone controlling management.

□ Disclosure and Utilisation Norms

- Associations with foreign-national key functionaries (other than persons of Indian origin) will ordinarily be ineligible for registration or prior permission unless exempted by the Centre.
- NGOs must disclose activity reports, websites, social media accounts, publications and ultimate donors where funds come through donor-advised funds or intermediaries.
- An association shows reasonable activity only if it used at least Rs 10 lakh of foreign contribution in the preceding two financial years.
- In prior-permission cases, the next instalment is released only after 75% of the earlier one is utilised and verified by field inquiry.

Revised compounding penalties

Violation	Revised penalty
Administrative expenditure above the 20% statutory limit	Rs 1 lakh or 5% of the excess, whichever is higher
Speculative investment of foreign contribution	Rs 1 lakh or 30% of amount invested, whichever is higher, plus recovery of 100% of returns
Diversion beyond approved purposes or areas	Rs 1 lakh or 30% of the misused amount, whichever is higher

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Context: Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 and it received Presidential assent. It decriminalises minor offences across many Central Acts to improve ease of doing business and ease of living.

□ Key Highlights

- The 2025 version was introduced in August 2025 and sent to a Select Committee of Lok Sabha. It was withdrawn in March 2026 to broaden the reforms.
- It amends 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries.
- Of these, 717 provisions are decriminalised and 67 are amended.
- Over 1,000 offences are rationalised; about 805 are decriminalised with imprisonment replaced by civil penalties or warnings.
- About 125 offences are omitted as redundant or covered by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- Criminal fines (court-imposed) are distinguished from civil penalties (administratively imposed).
- The Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 amended 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts.

Justice Yashwant Varma's Resignation and Judges' Impeachment

Context: Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma resigned in 2026 under Article 217(1)(a) during impeachment proceedings arising from the cash-at-home controversy. The resignation ended the removal process and spotlighted gaps in judicial accountability.

□ Key Highlights

- Unaccounted cash was reportedly found at his residence after a fire in 2025, leading to an in-house inquiry and impeachment proceedings.
- The inquiry panel closed proceedings and sent its report to the Lok Sabha.
- Removal proceedings cannot continue once a sitting judge demits office.
- Criminal proceedings may still be initiated under ordinary law, subject to approval.
- No judge has been successfully impeached since the Constitution came into force.

MHA Reclassifies LWE-Affected Districts

Context: In April 2026 the Ministry of Home Affairs revised the categorisation of Left-Wing Extremism affected districts, replacing the earlier 'most affected' category as violence declined. The new categories are LWE Affected (2 districts), Districts of Concern (1) and Legacy and Thrust Districts (35). LWE-affected districts have fallen from over 200 in 2005 to just 2 in 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The new categories are LWE Affected (2 districts), Districts of Concern (1) and Legacy and Thrust Districts (35).
- The LWE Affected districts are Bijapur in Chhattisgarh and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand.
- The District of Concern is Kanker in Chhattisgarh.
- LWE-affected districts fell from over 200 in 2005 to just 2 in 2026.

NCERT Declared Deemed University

Context: The Ministry of Education declared NCERT, along with its six constituent units, a deemed university under the 'De Novo' category using Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. This enables it to design courses and award degrees on its own.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The six units are Regional Institutes of Education at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru and Shillong and the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education in Bhopal.
- NCERT and its institutes can award UG, PG, diploma and doctoral degrees without affiliation.
- It supports the 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme under NEP 2020.
- It must comply with UGC norms, the Academic Bank of Credits, NAAC/NBA accreditation and NIRF participation.
- DIKSHA, launched in 2017 by NCERT, offers QR-coded textbooks in 36 languages.

One Year After Pahalgam: Shift in Counter-Terror Strategy

Context: One year after the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, security strategy in Jammu and Kashmir has shifted to intelligence-led, terrain-focused operations. India's wider doctrine now treats major attacks as triggers for sustained, multi-pronged responses.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Indus Waters Treaty has been placed in abeyance and water is used as a strategic lever. Operation Sindoor (2025) involved precision strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan and PoK.
- Around 75 high-altitude tourist sites had been opened near infiltration routes, and over 50 locations were closed after the attack.
- Temporary Operating Bases at 3,000-9,000 feet focus on controlling ridgelines and infiltration routes.
- Tools include an Aadhaar-linked ID system for tourism workers, facial recognition and drone surveillance corridors.
- Operation Mahadev (2025) eliminated the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack.
- Operation Amrit targets recruitment and logistics networks, Operation Trident coastal security and Operation Vajra terror financing and sleeper cells.
- The doctrine rests on four tracks: military precision strikes, sustained internal operations, zero tolerance and hydro-diplomatic pressure.

POSHAN Abhiyaan: Eight Years of Nutrition Mission

Context: POSHAN Abhiyaan, India's flagship multi-ministerial nutrition mission, completed eight years since its launch on 8 March 2018. It targets the nutrition of young children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls through convergence across departments and a technology-led, people's-movement approach.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Earlier efforts were fragmented: ICDS (1975), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (2017) and the National Nutrition Strategy (2017) laid the base. Mission Poshan 2.0 (Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, 2021-22) merged POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- The full form of POSHAN is Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition.
- It covers children aged 0-6 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls.
- It aims to cut stunting, underweight and low birth weight by 2% a year and anaemia by 3% a year.
- It promotes behavioural change in diet, hygiene and feeding practices and strengthens service delivery and monitoring.
- Poshan Tracker is the digital tool used to improve transparency and targeting of benefits.
- The network covers roughly 14 lakh Anganwadi centres and about 9 crore beneficiaries.
- PM POSHAN is a different scheme: it is the restructured Mid-Day Meal Scheme (2021) giving one cooked meal daily to Class 1-8 pupils of government and aided schools and to balvatika children.
- NFHS-5 (2019-21) showed child stunting falling from 38.4% to 35.5% while anaemia in children rose from 58.6% to 67.1%.

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026

Context: The Centre notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 under the PROG Act, 2025. The rules create a central regulator and a process to classify games as online money games, social games or e-sports, while keeping online money gaming prohibited.

□ **Key Highlights**

- An Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) is set up with its head office in the NCT of Delhi.

- The Authority has six members and is chaired by an Additional Secretary of MeitY, with representatives of Home, I&B, Finance, Legal Affairs and Youth Affairs and Sports.
- A game's category is decided through a determination, to be completed within 90 days.
- Determination can start by the Authority's own action, on an application from a provider offering the game as an e-sport, or on a Central Government notification.
- Factors examined include payment of fees or stakes, expectation of monetary winnings, the revenue model and the way rewards are redeemed.
- Registration applies to e-sports and to categories notified by the Centre, and the certificate is valid for up to 10 years.
- An online money game cannot be registered as an e-sport under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
- Banks and payment gateways must check a game's regulatory status before processing transactions.
- User safeguards include age verification, time limits, parental controls and counselling support.
- Users can appeal first to the provider, then to the Authority within 30 days, and finally to the Appellate Authority, the MeitY Secretary.
- Platforms offering social games or e-sports must store data in India.
- Proceedings are digital and are to be concluded within 90 days of a complaint.

RTE Section 12(1)(c) Judgment on 25% Quota

Context: In Dinesh Biwaji Ashtikar v State of Maharashtra (January 2026), the Supreme Court addressed poor implementation of the 25% reservation for disadvantaged children in private schools under the RTE Act. It directed states to frame binding rules.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 12(1)(c) requires private unaided non-minority schools to reserve 25% of entry-level seats for EWS and disadvantaged children.
- These children get free education up to Class 8 with government reimbursement to schools.
- It operationalises Article 21A and supports Article 14.
- Schools cannot refuse or delay admission once a seat is allotted and cannot question the State's selection process.
- NCPCR was tasked with oversight and grievance redressal.
- Over 5 million children have benefited with a 90% retention rate.

Rajasthan High Court on Khap Panchayat Diktats

Context: The Rajasthan High Court held that diktats issued by khap panchayats and similar caste councils are unconstitutional and undermine the rule of law. It criticised social boycott practices such as 'hukka-pani band'.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Court called such bodies parallel adjudicatory systems without statutory authority.
- It held that their directions violate Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21.
- It treated social boycott as a serious human rights violation.
- It directed policy, SOPs and administrative accountability to tackle state inaction.
- Petitions highlighted cases in Sirohi, Barmer, Nagaur, Balotra, Jalore and Jodhpur.

Sattankulam Custodial Deaths Verdict

Context: A Madurai trial court sentenced nine policemen to death in the 2020 Sattankulam custodial deaths of a father and son, in a CBI-investigated case. The verdict underlined limits on trial courts' sentencing powers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The court applied the 'rarest of rare' doctrine from Bachan Singh v State of Punjab.
- Trial courts cannot impose fixed-term or non-remittable life sentences, as held by the Constitution Bench in UoI v V Sriharan (2015) and reaffirmed in Kiran v State of Karnataka (2025).
- Hence only ordinary life imprisonment, with remission possible after about 14 years, or death was available.
- The Madras High Court will review the sentence and can convert it to fixed-term life without remission.

Supreme Court Directions on Highway Safety Under Article 142

Context: After two major road accidents in November 2025 that killed 34 people, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance and invoked Article 142 to issue binding highway safety directions. It treated safe roads as part of the State's positive duty under Article 21.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Parking of heavy and commercial vehicles on highways is prohibited except in designated areas.
- Advanced Traffic Management Systems with cameras, signboards, emergency call boxes and GPS tracking are to be integrated with e-Challan.
- Ambulances and recovery cranes must be stationed at intervals not exceeding 75 km on national highways.
- Unauthorised roadside dhabas and commercial establishments are to be demolished.
- States must notify restrictions on structures within 40 m (residential) and 75 m (commercial) of the highway mid-point.
- Directions are to be implemented within 60 days, with highway surveillance teams of police and transport departments working with NHAI and 24/7 monitoring of black spots.

Central Prabhari Officer Portal and Samadhan Didi

Context: NITI Aayog launched the Central Prabhari Officer Portal for real-time monitoring under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programmes, while DARPG introduced an AI voice chatbot, Samadhan Didi, for grievances.

□ Central Prabhari Officer Portal

- It lets Central Prabhari Officers submit field observations in real time through mobile devices.
- CPOs are senior officials, typically Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary rank, who link the Centre, States and districts and oversee over 300 central schemes.
- The portal gives districts, State governments and ministries instant visibility of suggestions.

□ Samadhan Didi

- It is an AI-enabled voice chatbot integrated with CPGRAMS, launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- It was developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances with Bhashini.
- Citizens can lodge grievances by speaking in their own language, and the chatbot identifies the right ministry and category.

EVM Journey from Polling to Counting

Context: Allegations of EVM tampering during the West Bengal Assembly election led the Election Commission to restate the safeguards governing machines between polling and counting, as laid down in its Manual on Electronic Voting Machines, 2023.

□ Key Highlights

- Before polling, EVMs are stored in secure warehouses under the District Election Officer, usually the District Magistrate.
- Randomisation is a digital process that allots EVMs and VVPATs to constituencies and polling stations in the presence of recognised party representatives.
- After voting, machines are sealed in front of polling officials and candidates' agents and escorted back to strongrooms.
- A strongroom has a single entry point with a double-lock system; one key stays with the Returning Officer and the other with the Assistant RO.
- At least one platoon of armed police guards a strongroom round the clock, with entry logs and videography.
- Used EVMs are stored apart from reserve machines, and on counting day they move to counting centres under videography with candidates' representatives present.

Elderly Welfare: JEEVAN App, SHATAYU and Pension Study

Context: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the JEEVAN app and SHATAYU dashboard, while a study on the National Social Assistance Programme found old age pensions have lost value since 2012.

□ JEEVAN and SHATAYU

- JEEVAN is Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network, a mobile app for senior citizens giving scheme information, emergency assistance and details of old-age homes.
- SHATAYU is Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility, a dashboard with a district- and state-level database of trained geriatric caregivers.

□ NSAP Impact Assessment

- The study by the Academy of Management Studies for the Ministry of Rural Development says the Centre's contribution to monthly pensions has been stagnant since 2012.
- Fixed transfers of Rs 200 to Rs 500 lost about 45 per cent of real value.
- The Rs 200 pension should be Rs 353-382 today, as CPI rose from 100 in 2012 to 191 in 2024.
- It recommends a National Floor Pension, inflation indexing and raising the NFBS assistance from Rs 20,000 to about Rs 40,000.

Governor's Discretion in Hung Assembly Situations

Context: After the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election, TVK emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats in the 234-member House, while the DMK was reduced to 59. A delay by the Governor in inviting TVK leader Vijay to form the government revived the debate on gubernatorial discretion and constitutional convention.

□ Key Highlights

- The continuation of Mamata Banerjee as West Bengal CM after her party lost the Assembly election renewed the debate on this question.
- Resignation after defeat is a parliamentary convention, but the Governor cannot remove a CM merely for electoral defeat before the formal process unfolds.
- Election results can be challenged by an election petition under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, with Section 100 listing the grounds.

□ Conventions Recommended

- The Sarkaria Commission (1983) and Punchhi Commission (2007) suggested an order of preference for inviting parties.
- First preference goes to a pre-poll alliance or party with a clear majority, then the single largest party with support of others, then a post-poll coalition whose partners join the government, and then a post-poll alliance with outside support.
- The Governor should identify the leader most likely to command confidence and ask for a floor test within a reasonable time.
- Majority questions are to be settled on the floor of the House rather than through private assessments or demands for signatures.

- In Tamil Nadu the Governor initially sought 118 signatures before inviting TVK, which observers called unusual; the majority mark was 118.

NSO 80th Round Health Survey

Context: The NSO's 80th Round Household Consumption: Health Survey covering 1.39 lakh households shows sharply higher health insurance coverage and greater use of public facilities, along with a rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The proportion of population reported ailing rose from 6.8 to 12.2 per cent in rural areas and 9.1 to 14.9 per cent in urban areas between 2017-18 and 2025.
- Government-financed insurance coverage rose from 12.9 to 45.5 per cent in rural and 8.9 to 31.8 per cent in urban areas.
- Median out-of-pocket expenditure per hospitalisation case was Rs 11,285, while outpatient care in public facilities had zero median expenditure.
- Rural outpatient use of public facilities rose from 28 per cent (2014) to 35 per cent (2025).
- Institutional deliveries reached 95.6 per cent in rural and 97.8 per cent in urban areas.
- Infectious diseases declined while diabetes and cardiovascular diseases rose.

□ **Interventions Credited**

- Over 1.84 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs provide primary care.
- Free Drugs Service Initiative, Free Diagnostics Initiative and AMRIT pharmacies improve affordability.
- PM-JAY gives financial protection, and JSY, JSSK and PMSMA support maternal health.

National Testing Agency and NEET-UG 2026 Cancellation

Context: The cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 in May 2026 renewed concerns about the National Testing Agency's capacity, transparency and crisis management. The NTA is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, set up in 2017 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which conducts NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET and UGC-NET. The Radhakrishnan Committee (2024) had advocated a shift to computer-based testing.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It was established in 2017, began functioning in 2018, and is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the Ministry of Education. It conducts NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET, UGC-NET, CMAT, GPAT and AISSEE.
- It was established in 2017, began functioning in 2018, and is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the Ministry of Education.
- It conducts NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET, UGC-NET, CMAT, GPAT and AISSEE.
- The Radhakrishnan Committee (2024) advocated a gradual shift to computer-based testing.
- A computer-assisted pen-and-paper model with encrypted transmission of papers and local printing was proposed.
- NTA lacks CBT infrastructure to conduct NEET for over 22 lakh candidates at once, so a hybrid transition is considered practical.

Sedition Law: Section 124A and BNS Section 152

Context: In May 2026 the Supreme Court, in Kamran v. State of Madhya Pradesh, allowed pending sedition trials to proceed with the accused's consent, reviving debate despite its 2022 stay order in S.G. Vombatkere. Section 124A of the IPC, which punished disaffection towards the government, has been replaced by Section 152 of the BNS, so the case law and the new provision are exam-relevant.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 124A of the IPC punished disaffection towards the government with three years to life imprisonment.
- Kedar Nath Singh (1962) upheld sedition but limited it to incitement to violence or public disorder.
- Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995) held sloganeering alone is not sedition.
- S.G. Vombatkere (2022) suspended new FIRs under Section 124A.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls: Phases, Form 6 and ECI Steps

Context: The Supreme Court upheld the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. Phase II had reduced voter lists by about 5.18 crore names across 9 States and 3 Union Territories, and Phase III began on 30 May 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- SIR is a house-to-house enumeration with document verification of electoral rolls. It aims to remove duplicate, deceased, shifted and ineligible voters while including all eligible citizens.
- Form 6 is the application under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 for first-time enrolment or for shifting residence outside the constituency.
- The requirement began during the Bihar SIR and is now extended to all fresh registrations nationwide.
- Existing voters not covered in the earlier SIR must also furnish parents' SIR details to stay on the rolls.
- An investigation report said ECs Sandhu and Joshi objected at least 14 times in 10 months.
- Electors flagged as unmapped or having logical discrepancies generally need not appear personally before EROs; BLOs will collect documents from homes and upload them on ECINet.
- The extra SIR-related declaration in Form 6 will be removed after SIR, restoring the form under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

- A committee led by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner with an independent IIT or IIIT expert will review whether ECINet complies with electoral laws.
- Agendas will be circulated in advance, minutes recorded, and new IT modules discussed by the Committee of Officers.
- Persons left out of SIR can seek inclusion through continuous updation, and States must run special enrolment drives.

□ **SIR Phase II**

- Rolls fell by about 10.2% and now stand at 45.81 crore names.
- West Bengal electors fell from about 7.66 crore to 7.04 crore, with over 63 lakh deletions and about 60 lakh under adjudication.
- In Uttar Pradesh about 2.05 crore names were deleted and the final roll has 13.39 crore electors.

□ **SIR Phase III**

- Phase III begins on 30 May 2026 across 16 States and 3 Union Territories and covers about 36.73 crore electors.
- More than 3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers will do door-to-door verification, assisted by about 3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents.
- With this phase SIR covers almost the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Documents will not be collected during enumeration, and Aadhaar is accepted as proof of identity but not of citizenship.

Supreme Court Widens Definition of Acid Attack Survivors

Context: The Supreme Court expanded the meaning of acid attack victims under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to include persons forced to consume acid and those with internal injuries without visible disfigurement.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The petition was filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik.
- The expanded definition applies retrospectively from 2016 when the Act came into force.
- Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita makes acid attack causing grievous hurt cognizable and non-bailable, with punishment from 10 years to life imprisonment.
- Section 397 of the BNSS mandates free immediate treatment in all hospitals, and Section 396 provides the victim compensation scheme.
- Laxmi case (2015) regulated over-the-counter acid sales.

UAPA Bail and the K.A. Najeeb Precedent

Context: The Supreme Court questioned an earlier ruling denying bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi riots conspiracy case, reiterating that bail is the rule even under UAPA where trials are delayed.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 43D(5) of UAPA places stringent conditions on bail where a prima facie case exists. NIA v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali (2019) took a stricter approach, telling courts not to examine evidence in detail at the bail stage.
- Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb (2021), a three-judge Bench, held constitutional courts can grant bail despite Section 43D(5) if trial is delayed and incarceration prolonged.
- In 2026 the Court observed that smaller benches cannot dilute principles laid down by larger benches.

11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog on the theme Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047. It was the first time Chief Ministers of all 28 States took part.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Chief Ministers, Lt Governors and Administrators from 28 States and 5 UTs attended.
- Four pillars were set: Foundational Human Capital and Future-Ready Skills; Productive Employment, Entrepreneurship and Decentralised Growth; Health, Nutrition and Well-being; Equity and Dignity for All.
- States were urged to adopt outcome-oriented approaches and long-term development visions aligned with national goals.
- Focus areas included export strategies around One District One Product, skilling, learning outcomes, elderly care, women-led growth such as Lakhpati Didis, water conservation and natural farming.

12 Years of Panchayat Reforms Report

Context: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released a report titled Building Viksit Bharat from Ground Up: 12 Years of Panchayat Reforms and Innovation. It records progress in capacity building, digital governance and empowerment of tribal areas, women and youth.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, over 4.10 crore representatives and functionaries from more than 2.70 lakh PRIs were trained.
- Over 33.55 lakh women elected representatives were trained between FY 2022-23 and 2025-26.
- SVAMITVA enabled drone surveys and about 3.18 crore property cards across 1.92 lakh villages.
- The Meri Panchayat App crossed one crore downloads.
- Gram Panchayat Development Plans are institutionalised in more than 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats via the e-GramSwaraj platform.

□ **PESA, Women and Youth**

- For PESA, 1996 the Ministry launched the PESA-GPDP portal, a Centre of Excellence and India's first PESA Ranking Framework.
- 744 Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats were identified and the Nirbhay Raho Campaign launched.
- The Model Youth Gram Sabha engaged over 29,000 students.

Cauvery and Other Inter-State Water Cases

Context: Judicial rulings have shaped how inter-State river conflicts are handled in India, from the Cauvery award to the

Mullaperiyar dam. These cases clarify what the Supreme Court can and cannot decide when a tribunal is already seized of a dispute.

□ **Key Highlights**

- In State of Tamil Nadu v. State of Karnataka (2018), the Supreme Court modified the tribunal's allocation, ending the dispute among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, and directed the creation of the Cauvery River Management Board.
- In State of Orissa v. Government of India, the Court held that the jurisdictional bar does not apply if the Centre fails to constitute a tribunal within the stipulated period.
- In the Mullaperiyar case, the Court said dam-safety questions are not strictly water disputes under the ISRWD Act; the dam is on the Periyar in Kerala but operated by Tamil Nadu.
- In State of Andhra Pradesh v. Karnataka, the Court held that it cannot decide a primary water dispute pending before a tribunal but may interpret tribunal awards.
- The Court uses Article 131 for disputes between States and Article 136 for special leave petitions against tribunal orders.

Debate on Delisting Converted Tribals from ST List

Context: A fresh debate has arisen on whether Scheduled Tribe status should continue after conversion to Christianity or Islam, as some tribal groups demand delisting. It coincides with Jharkhand Adivasi demands for recognition of Sarna as a separate religion in the Census.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Delisting means the demand that converted tribals should lose constitutional benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes.
- Supporters argue conversion changes the socio-cultural basis of ST status.
- Opponents say tribal identity is ethnic, cultural and historical, not religious.
- Article 342 contains no religious qualification, so delisting would probably need legislative or constitutional change and would face judicial scrutiny.

Draft Regulations on AI Use in Courts

Context: The Supreme Court has put out draft Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Courts, 2026. They allow AI for administrative and research support but bar it from adjudication and judicial decision-making. The draft seeks to keep accountability for judgments with human judges.

□ **Key Highlights**

- AI may be used for administrative and research work in courts.
- AI is prohibited in adjudicatory functions and in judicial decision-making.
- The draft provides a formal framework for responsible AI use in the judiciary.

Foreign University Campuses: Liverpool in Bengaluru

Context: India's push to host overseas university branches continued when the Education Ministry handed over a Letter of Approval to the University of Liverpool (UK) in June 2026 for a campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka. In July 2026, NIFTEM-Kundli also signed an MoU with Massey University, New Zealand, for academic collaboration. Foreign campuses in India are a recurring education-policy topic.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Education Ministry handed over a Letter of Approval to the University of Liverpool (UK) on 4 June 2026 for a campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- NIFTEM-Kundli signed an MoU with Massey University, New Zealand, on 2 July 2026 for academic collaboration.

Gender Quota Debate in Higher Judiciary

Context: The elevation of Justice V. Mohana as only the second woman directly appointed from the Bar to the Supreme Court has revived the demand for a gender quota in the higher judiciary. Women remain under-represented in the constitutional courts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Constitutional courts in Canada, Germany and Belgium have about 50% women judges.
- Belgium requires at least one-third judges of each gender on its Constitutional Court.
- Suggested reforms include a written policy to raise women's representation, objective appointment criteria, mentorship and gender-sensitive infrastructure.

□ **Present Status**

- Indu Malhotra was the first woman directly elevated from the Bar, in 2018.
- Only 12 women have been appointed to the Supreme Court since 1950.
- Only 2 of the 37 Supreme Court judges are women, about 5.4%.
- Women are about 15% of High Court judges.

Haryana-Rajasthan Accord on Upper Yamuna Waters

Context: Haryana and Rajasthan signed a Memorandum of Agreement to operationalise the 1994 Upper Yamuna Water Sharing Agreement after nearly 32 years. Rajasthan's share will be carried through a dedicated underground pipeline for the Yamuna Water Project.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The pipeline will start from the Western Yamuna Canal instead of a new canal.
- The Yamuna Water Project is estimated to cost about Rs 34,102 crore.
- The MoA was signed in the presence of the Union Home Minister and the Jal Shakti Minister.

➤ The 1994 MoU was signed on 12 May 1994 and gives Delhi's drinking needs priority; it led to the Upper Yamuna River Board (1995) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Share of utilisable Upper Yamuna water

State/UT	Share
Haryana	47.82%
Uttar Pradesh	33.65%
Rajasthan	9.84%
Delhi	6.24%
Himachal Pradesh	3.15%

High-Level Committee on Demographic Change

Context: The Centre has constituted a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change under the Ministry of Home Affairs, chaired by Justice P. P. Navlekar, a retired Supreme Court judge. It follows the Prime Minister's announcement of a Demographic Mission on 15 August 2025 and studies demographic shifts linked to illegal immigration.

□ **Mandate**

➤ The committee includes the Census Commissioner and three other members.

➤ It will study demographic shifts across regions and communities and their causes, including illegal immigration, fertility variations, economic migration and administrative failures.

➤ Special focus areas are border districts, tribal regions, urban centres and industrial corridors.

➤ It is to recommend a permanent, legal and time-bound mechanism for identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants.

➤ It will suggest institutions for border management, population stabilisation, identification and continuous monitoring of demographic trends.

➤ It will propose a policy framework for Centre-State coordination.

□ **Legal Background**

➤ The Citizenship Act, 1955 treats a foreigner who enters without valid documents, or overstays, as an illegal migrant.

➤ The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 exempts Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered before 31 December 2014.

➤ The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 penalises illegal entry with up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of Rs 5 lakh, or both.

➤ India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

➤ In Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India (2021) the Court allowed deportation of Rohingyas only after due process.

➤ In NHRC v. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996) the Court held Article 21 covers foreigners and barred forcible eviction of Chakma refugees without due process.

NeSDA 2025 and COSP19 on Disability Rights

Context: Two governance and rights developments of the month were the launch of the NeSDA 2025 portal for e-governance assessment and the 19th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York.

□ **NeSDA 2025**

➤ The National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment is a biennial framework run by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

➤ It is based on the Online Service Index of the UN e-Government Survey.

➤ It judges availability, accessibility and maturity of online services across States, UTs and central ministries, covering G2C and G2B services.

□ **COSP19 and UNCRPD**

➤ COSP19 marked the 20th anniversary of the UNCRPD, which was adopted by the UNGA in December 2006 and came into force in 2008.

➤ The Convention is a legally binding treaty with 193 parties (192 States and the European Union); India ratified it in October 2007.

➤ India implemented it through the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which raised recognised disabilities from 7 to 21.

➤ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities monitors the Convention, and an Optional Protocol provides an individual complaints mechanism.

PCPNDT Act and Son Preference: Supreme Court

Context: While upholding criminal proceedings against a Maharashtra doctor under the PCPNDT Act, 1994, the Supreme Court noted that preference for male children and covert sex selection persist. The ruling stresses that the law remains essential until true gender equality is achieved.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ India's child sex ratio fell from 945 (1991) to 927 (2001) and 919 (2011).

➤ Sex ratio at birth has improved to about 929 (NFHS-5), but progress is uneven among States.

➤ The Act's constitutional basis lies in Articles 14, 15(1) and 21.

➤ It bans sex determination and pre-conception sex selection; the 2003 amendment widened the scope to pre-conception techniques.

➤ Prenatal diagnostic techniques are permitted only for genetic, chromosomal and congenital abnormalities, with record maintenance.

➤ Written consent of the pregnant woman is compulsory.

➤ Ultrasound clinics, genetic labs and counselling centres must be registered.

- Central and State Supervisory Boards and Appropriate Authorities enforce the law.
- Advertisements on sex selection are banned and offences are cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

Passport, Aadhaar and Proof of Citizenship

Context: The Ministry of External Affairs has stated that a passport is primarily a travel document and not conclusive proof of citizenship, drawing attention to how citizenship is established in India.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Under Section 20 of the Passports Act, the Centre may issue passports to non-citizens in public interest.
- India has no single universal document that is definitive proof of citizenship.
- Aadhaar is an identity document and not proof of citizenship.
- An electoral roll entry raises a presumption of citizenship but is not conclusive, as held in Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995).
- A citizenship certificate is mainly issued to people who acquire citizenship by registration or naturalisation.

Right to Be Forgotten: Delhi High Court and Supreme Court Notice

Context: The Delhi High Court held that the Right to be Forgotten is part of the right to privacy under Article 21 and directed de-indexing of name-based searches where continued access causes disproportionate harm. The Supreme Court has since issued notice on a plea against such a ruling, raising the question whether old news reports can be deleted after an accused is discharged.

□ **Key Highlights**

- RTBF is rooted in the right to privacy under Article 21, recognised in Puttaswamy (2017). India has no codified RTBF; the closest provision is the Right to Erasure in the DPDP Act, 2023.
- The EU's GDPR gives a developed right to erasure, but it is not absolute and yields to free expression, legal obligations and public interest.
- November 2025: Patiala House Court ordered Google to remove links relating to an acquitted banker.
- March 2025: Punjab and Haryana High Court directed removal of a petitioner's name from proceedings after exoneration.
- February 2025: Rajasthan High Court held that juveniles have an absolute right to be forgotten.
- July 2024: Supreme Court stayed a Madras High Court order to remove a judgment from Indian Kanoon, calling judgments public records.

□ **The Right and Its Limits**

- In Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India, the Delhi High Court held the right to be forgotten to be a facet of the right to privacy under Article 21.
- The right arises from informational privacy under Article 21.
- Permanent online memory can damage reputation, jobs and dignity even after acquittal, discharge or settlement.
- The right is not a right to erase history; judicial records remain and only name-based discoverability may be limited.
- De-indexing removes a person's name as a search key without deleting the record and is meant to apply globally; it suits cases ending in acquittal or discharge.
- De-indexing cannot be used in cases involving women, children or breach of public trust.
- Masking replaces names and identifiers in court records with neutral labels such as XYZ.

Right to Walk as a Fundamental Right

Context: The Supreme Court has held that the right to walk on safe, unobstructed and demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right. The ruling in Maniyar Iliyaz and Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan arose from a motor accident claim over the death of a five-year-old child forced onto the road for lack of pedestrian infrastructure.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The right flows from Article 19(1)(d) (freedom of movement) read with Article 21.
- Pedestrian rights have priority over movement of motor vehicles.
- Urban development authorities, municipal bodies and even panchayats must provide and maintain safe footpaths.
- The Court urged the Union Government to consider a legal framework to enforce the right.
- Citizens harmed by missing or encroached footpaths can seek constitutional remedies and compensation, independent of remedies under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Supreme Court Calls Homemakers Nation Builders

Context: In Shish Ram and others v. Surjeet, the Supreme Court said the work of homemakers must be formally recognised and given monetary value when compensation is set in motor accident claims. It called homemakers nation builders.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Court fixed a minimum notional value of Rs 30,000 per month for domestic care services lost on the death of a homemaker.
- Unpaid care work was recognised as part of the constitutional vision of social justice.
- The ruling upholds dignity of labour and substantive equality under Articles 14 and 21.

Supreme Court's Anti-Trafficking Framework and Victim Protection Plan

Context: In a case arising from a 2004 PIL by NGO Prajwala, the Supreme Court used Articles 32 and 142 to call human trafficking a direct assault on constitutional dignity and issued directions on consent, rehabilitation and victim protection. It framed a Victim Protection Plan to operate until Parliament enacts a dedicated law.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Trafficking has three elements: action, means and exploitation, following the Palermo Protocol. Article 23(1) prohibits trafficking and forced labour.
- The Court called trafficking a direct assault on constitutional dignity and ordered a uniform national victim protection protocol.
- Consent is the central test to distinguish voluntary adult sex work from trafficking; where force, coercion or deception is shown, consent becomes irrelevant.
- Raids under Sections 15 and 16 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 should target traffickers, not victims.
- The right to rehabilitation flows from Article 21 as part of the right to live with dignity.
- Rescued victims must not be arrested, abused or photographed in ways that reveal identity, with special care for children, transgender persons, persons with disabilities and the mentally ill.
- Protective homes must not resemble prisons; each survivor gets a case worker and individual care plan.
- Anti-Human Trafficking Units must be headed by an officer of DSP rank or above and be notified as police stations.
- Section 143 of the BNS defines trafficking.
- NCRB's Crime in India 2024 reports 6,018 trafficking victims, including 2,297 children.

□ **Directions to Parliament**

- The Court declined to create the Organised Crime Investigation Agency promised by the government.
- Parliament was asked to amend Sections 7, 8 and 20 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, rethink mandatory fixed detention in homes and enact a standalone anti-trafficking law.

Telegram Restricted During NEET-UG Re-Examination

Context: The Centre temporarily restricted Telegram in India ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination at the request of the National Testing Agency. This followed the cancellation of the original exam over paper-leak allegations and fraud by Telegram channels.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It empowers the Central Government to block online information or services. Grounds include sovereignty and integrity, security of the State, public order and preventing incitement to cognisable offences.
- The original NEET-UG 2026 was cancelled over alleged paper leaks and malpractice.
- Channels with names such as Re-NEET 2026 claimed to sell the re-exam paper; the NTA said no paper existed outside the secure chain.
- MeitY issued a blocking order under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Telegram was also told to disable message editing in India for old messages until 30 June 2026.

Trauma Care, PM RAHAT and Safe Highways under Article 21

Context: In SaveLIFE Foundation v. Union of India, the Supreme Court held trauma care to be part of the right to life under Article 21 and declared safe travel on National Highways an enforceable right. The PM RAHAT scheme of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways provides cashless emergency treatment to road accident victims.

□ **Supreme Court Directions**

- States and UTs must merge emergency numbers 100, 101, 102, 108, 1033 and 1091 into the single number 112 within three months.
- States must operationalise the PM RAHAT scheme giving cashless treatment to road accident victims in the golden hour.
- A Good Samaritan grievance redressal mechanism must be set up within three months.
- A uniform trauma-care framework with trauma registries and multilingual awareness campaigns was directed.
- The Court held that safe, motorable and hazard-free roads are an enforceable right, in a suo motu case on fatal highway accidents.
- India records nearly 4.67 lakh accidental deaths a year, and the Law Commission's 201st report says nearly half of road-crash deaths are avoidable with timely care.

□ **PM RAHAT Scheme**

- Cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim is covered for 7 days from the date of the accident.
- Stabilisation treatment is provided for up to 24 hours for non-life-threatening injuries and up to 48 hours for life-threatening ones.
- Hospitals are reimbursed through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund; insured-vehicle cases are funded by general insurers, and uninsured or hit-and-run cases by the Government of India.
- Claims are to be settled within 10 days by the State Health Agency.
- Victims or Good Samaritans (Rah-Veer) can call 112 under the Emergency Response Support System to reach the nearest hospital.

Tungabhadra Dispute and Inter-State Water Law

Context: The Centre has decided to set up a High-Level Committee to settle water-sharing differences among Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka over the Tungabhadra river. The episode brings the constitutional machinery for inter-State river disputes back into focus.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Tungabhadra, anciently called Pampa, is formed by the confluence of the Tunga and Bhadra at Shimoga in Karnataka; both rise in the Western Ghats. It forms part of the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh boundary and joins the Krishna as a right-bank tributary at Sangamaleshwaram in Andhra Pradesh.

- Karnataka's Upper Bhadra Project, upstream of the Tungabhadra Dam, is opposed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana because impounding water affects downstream canal supplies.
- Telangana says silt build-up and structural obstacles stop it from drawing its allotted share under the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), an inter-State project in Raichur district, Karnataka.
- Telangana has designed the Tummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme and the expansion of Mallammakunta Reservoir to make up for the RDS shortfall.
- The Tungabhadra Board regulates supplies to the States in line with the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal order.
- Water supply, irrigation and canals are State List subjects, but regulation and development of inter-State rivers is a Union List power.
- Article 262 lets Parliament adjudicate inter-State water disputes by law and bar the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and other courts.
- The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for ad-hoc tribunals; its 2002 amendment fixed one year to set up a tribunal and three years to give an award.
- The River Boards Act, 1956 allows Union-created boards for integrated development of inter-State basins, but none has ever been constituted.
- The ISRWD (Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposes a single permanent tribunal with multiple benches and a Dispute Resolution Committee.
- Article 263 allows an Inter-State Council to help defuse tensions through negotiation.
- Varada is its left-bank tributary and Vedavathi a right-bank tributary; Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies on its banks.

UK Parliamentary System Compared with India

Context: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer resigned in June 2026, becoming the seventh UK Prime Minister in a decade, which prompted comparison between the Westminster-style systems of Britain and India. Both have a nominal Head of State, a real executive led by the Prime Minister and a bicameral Parliament, but the UK rests on parliamentary sovereignty while India rests on constitutional supremacy.

□ **Similarities**

- Both follow the Westminster model, where the executive is drawn from the legislature.
- Both have a nominal Head of State (Monarch or President) and a real executive headed by the Prime Minister.
- Both have a bicameral Parliament.
- In both, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the lower House.

□ **Differences**

- The UK is based on parliamentary sovereignty, while India rests on constitutional supremacy.
- The UK constitution is unwritten, built on conventions, statutes and judicial decisions; India has a written Constitution.
- A UK Prime Minister is traditionally a member of the House of Commons, whereas in India a Minister can serve six months without being an MP.
- The UK has no anti-defection law, while India has one.
- UK courts cannot strike down Acts of Parliament on constitutional grounds; Indian courts can through judicial review.

India and the UK compared

Basis	United Kingdom	India
Constitutional principle	Parliamentary sovereignty	Constitutional supremacy
Constitution	Unwritten	Written
Anti-defection law	None	Present
Judicial review of laws	Not on constitutional grounds	Courts can strike down laws

Centre Designates 23 More Terrorists under UAPA

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs designated 23 operatives of Pakistan-based groups, mainly Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The total number of designated individual terrorists rises to 80.

□ **Key Highlights**

- 17 of the 23 are Pakistani nationals and 6 are Indian nationals operating from Pakistan and PoJK.
- Their roles include recruitment, infiltration, training, drone-based arms supply, cyber operations and attack planning in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 2019 UAPA amendment allowed individuals, not only organisations, to be designated terrorists under Section 35 and the Fourth Schedule.
- 57 individuals had been designated before this round, as of 2024.

Civil Registration System Report 2024

Context: The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India released the Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2024, showing 99.1 per cent birth registration and 99.4 per cent death registration. Registration stood at 56 per cent for births and 48 per cent for deaths in 2000.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It works under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (amended in 2023), administered by the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It provides continuous, compulsory and universal registration of births, deaths and stillbirths.
- 18 States and UTs achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 21 achieved 100 per cent death registration.
- The traditional gap between birth and death registration has almost vanished.
- Differences remain between States in quality, timeliness (21-day prescribed period) and sex ratio at birth.

- Under Section 20 of the RBD Act, a child born abroad whose parents return to settle in India can be registered within 60 days of arrival.

Employees' Provident Funds Scheme 2026 and EPFO 3.0

Context: The Labour Ministry notified the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026 under the Code on Social Security, 2020, replacing the 1952 Scheme. Separately, the Government is working on EPFO 3.0, including a Universal Pension Scheme for gig, self-employed and unorganised workers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- EPFO is set up under the EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and works under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It runs the EPF (1952), the Employees' Pension Scheme (1995) and the EDLI (1976).
- The 12 per cent contribution by employer and employee is unchanged.
- The Rs 15,000 monthly wage ceiling for mandatory coverage continues.
- The interest rate is notified annually by the Centre on the recommendation of EPFO's Central Board of Trustees; it is currently 8.25 per cent.
- Existing UANs, balances and accounts continue without disruption.
- EPFO 2.0 merged 123 regional databases into one centralised database.
- EPFO 3.0 plans core banking solution integration, flexible and portable retirement savings and wider pension coverage.

□ **EPF Scheme 2026**

- Employer and employee each contribute 12 per cent of wages, or 10 per cent for notified establishments.
- Existing members automatically move to the new scheme.
- Partial withdrawal rules are simplified into three categories: illness, education and marriage, and housing.
- The Government may reduce or defer contributions for up to three months in a major crisis.
- Nominations must be filed online.
- VISHWAS 2026 and AMNESTY 2026 are six-month windows for settling disputes and regularising exemptions.
- EPS 2026 and EDLI Scheme 2026 were also notified.

India Crosses 100 Crore in Social Protection Coverage

Context: As per the International Labour Organization, India has crossed the one billion mark in social protection coverage. Coverage grew from 19 per cent in 2015 to 68.4 per cent in 2026, covering over 101 crore people.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Coverage rose from about 25 crore people (19 per cent) in 2015 to over 101 crore (68.4 per cent) in 2026.
- India has over 50 crore workers, nearly 90 per cent of them in the unorganised sector without employer-backed safety nets.
- Digital public infrastructure such as JAM, Aadhaar, eShram and DBT helped deliver the expansion at scale.
- Social security is recognised as a basic human right under UN instruments and ILO conventions.

Low Gram Sabha Participation Study and Women-Led Panchayats

Context: A national study prepared by NIRD&PR for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj examined why citizens attend Gram Sabha meetings in low numbers and suggested ways to improve participation. During India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the Ministry also presented initiatives to empower women through decentralised governance.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The National Study Report on Low Participation in Gram Sabha was prepared by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- Sashakt Panchayat Netri Abhiyan, launched in 2025, has trained roughly 1.5 lakh elected women representatives.
- With UNFPA support, 744 Gram Panchayats are being developed as Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats, at least one in every district.
- The report recommends Action Taken Reports and grievance tracking so that Gram Sabha decisions lead to visible results.
- It proposes a National Gram Sabha Awareness, Procedural Literacy and Mobilisation Mission.
- Best practices cited include household invitation cards in Punjab, special Gram Sabhas for persons with disabilities in Tamil Nadu and use of Jeevika SHG networks in Bihar.

Mahaprabhu Jagannath Film and Judicial Review of CBFC

Context: The Supreme Court deferred the release of the CBFC-certified animated film Mahaprabhu Jagannath until after the Puri Rath Yatra on 27 July 2026. The Orissa High Court had earlier stayed the film on a PIL alleging distortion of religious beliefs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The release had been planned for 17 July 2026.
- The Supreme Court did not ban the film; it disposed of the appeal after producers agreed to postpone, without deciding larger censorship issues.
- A CBFC certificate does not bar judicial review, but courts act with restraint and only on a strong prima facie case and irreparable harm.
- S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram (1989): expression cannot be curbed merely because of threats of public disorder.
- Union of India v. K.M. Shankarappa (2000): CBFC is the statutory expert body and executive interference is impermissible except as law provides.
- Film certification is governed by the Cinematograph Act, 1952, with Article 19(1)(a) balanced against Article 19(2).

National Anti-Doping Acts Brought into Force

Context: The National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025 were brought into force from 15 July 2026 amid rising doping cases among Indian athletes. The laws give effect to the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport, 2005, which India ratified in 2007.

□ Key Highlights

- It creates the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports as an advisory and supervisory body.
- NADA is reconstituted as a statutory body with powers of testing, investigation and enforcement, including entry, search and seizure.
- The National Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel hears cases and the National Anti-Doping Appeal Panel hears domestic appeals.
- The Act lists 11 categories of anti-doping rule violations and allows Therapeutic Use Exemptions.
- The National Dope Testing Laboratory is recognised as the principal testing facility.
- India topped the Athletics Integrity Unit list of offenders with 162 names.
- The Athletics Federation of India was moved to Category A because of an extremely high doping risk.

□ Changes under the 2025 Amendment

- Section 2A and a Schedule give Article 2 of the World Anti-Doping Code direct force of law, and the Centre can update the Schedule by notification.
- The 2025 amendment shifts the power to constitute the Appeal Panel from the National Board to the Central Government.
- Those who may appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport include WADA, IOC, IPC and international federations.
- The Director General and staff of NADA are guaranteed operational independence from federations and sports bodies.
- References to the Code of Criminal Procedure are replaced with the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

National Honour Amendment Act, 2026 and Supreme Court on Vande Mataram

Context: Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, Parliament passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026. It extends to the national song the protection that Section 3 of the 1971 Act gives to the National Anthem.

□ Key Highlights

- It was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first published in Bangadarshan on 7 November 1875, and later included in the novel Anandamath (1882). Rabindranath Tagore set it to music and sang it at the 1896 Congress session in Calcutta.
- It amends Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- Intentionally preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or disturbing an assembly engaged in singing it is now an offence.
- Punishment is imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both; repeat convictions carry a mandatory minimum of one year.
- The law does not create a general obligation on everyone to sing the song.
- The Act of 1971 protects the National Anthem but at present not Vande Mataram.
- Concerns relate to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) and to the scope of criminal sanctions.
- It was first used as a political slogan on 7 August 1905 during the Swadeshi movement.
- On 24 January 1950, Rajendra Prasad stated it should be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana.
- MHA guidelines say the audience must stand when the official six-stanza version is played, and it is rendered before the National Anthem when both are played.
- The Constitution does not expressly name a National Song; Article 51A(a) refers to respect for the National Anthem.
- In 1937 the Indian National Congress decided that only the first two stanzas would be used at public functions.

□ Constitutional Provisions

- Article 19(1)(a) protects freedom of speech and expression.
- Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and the right to profess and practise religion.
- Article 26 protects the right of religious denominations to manage their religious affairs.
- Article 51A(a) makes it a fundamental duty to respect the Constitution, the National Flag and the National Anthem, but does not mention the National Song.

PM-AJAY Proposed for Continuation till 2030-31

Context: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has proposed continuing the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a larger outlay. The scheme was created in 2021-22 by merging three older schemes.

□ Key Highlights

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme fully funded by the Centre, though States may add their own funds.
- It merged PMAGY (Adarsh Gram component), SCA to SCSP (Grants-in-Aid component) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (Hostel component).
- A village qualifies as Adarsh Gram if more than 40 per cent of its people are SCs and its population is at least 500; each gets Rs 20 lakh plus Rs 1 lakh for administration.
- Adarsh Gram aims to saturate 50 socio-economic indicators in 10 domains.
- At least 15 per cent of grants must go to income-generating schemes for SC women, and at least 30 per cent women should take part in skill programmes.

- The PM-AJAY portal and AJAY mobile app (May 2026) provide geo-tagging, dashboards and milestone-linked fund flow.

PM-Vidyalaxmi Expands to 1,425 Institutions

Context: PM-Vidyalaxmi now covers 1,425 Quality Higher Educational Institutions, up from 860 at launch. The scheme offers collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans through a single digital process.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The scheme was announced in Union Budget 2024-25 and approved by the Cabinet on 6 November 2024.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 3,600 crore for 2024-25 to 2030-31, expected to give interest subvention to about 7 lakh fresh students.
- Coverage includes NIRF top 100 institutions, State government institutions in the NIRF top 200 and all Central Government institutions.
- A 3 per cent interest subvention applies for families earning up to Rs 8 lakh a year, capped at Rs 1 lakh annually.
- Canara Bank is the nodal bank and NCGTC manages the guarantee fund.
- Students use a Common Education Loan Application Form (CELAF) on one portal and can apply to up to three banks.
- It supplements PM-USP CSIS, which gives full interest subsidy for family income up to Rs 4.5 lakh, and the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026

Context: The President gave assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 after Parliament cleared it in the Monsoon session, and it comes into force on 31 July 2026. It tightens the 2024 Act, which had produced no convictions in two years despite repeated paper-leak incidents, with dedicated courts, fixed timelines and heavier penalties.

□ **Key Highlights**

- About 148 paper-leak cases have been documented since 2015, including NEET-UG 2026 and the UP Police Constable Recruitment Exam of 2024. The National Testing Agency has no statutory backing and about 41 per cent of its sanctioned posts are vacant.
- Every State or UT must designate a Court of Session, in consultation with the High Court Chief Justice, as a Special Fast Track (SFT) Court; pending cases move to it.
- States and UTs must appoint Special Public Prosecutors for SFT Courts, which the 2024 Act did not require.
- Investigation must finish within 2 months, and the trial within 3 months of the chargesheet, with day-to-day hearings.
- The Centre may constitute a Special Task Force (STF); once formed, only the STF investigates the case.
- Appeals against Special Fast Track Court orders lie before a Division Bench of two High Court judges, must be filed within 30 days (extendable up to 90 days) and are to be disposed of within 3 months.
- Malpractice is defined broadly to include leaks of question papers or answer keys and tampering with OMR sheets or computer systems.
- Related reform steps include a task force headed by Nandan Nilekani and the 101 recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee.

□ **Enhanced Penalties**

- Individual offenders: jail of 5-10 years and fine up to Rs 50 lakh (earlier 3-5 years and Rs 10 lakh).
- Service providers: fine up to Rs 5 crore and debarment for 8 years (earlier Rs 1 crore and 4 years).
- Management of service providers: 5-10 years and Rs 5 crore fine (earlier 3-10 years and Rs 1 crore).
- Organised crime: 7-10 years and minimum fine of Rs 10 crore (earlier 5-10 years and minimum Rs 1 crore).

Right to Protest and Section 163 BNSS

Context: Protests in New Delhi revived debate on the constitutional right to protest and the use of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023 (the successor of Section 144 CrPC). Courts have repeatedly said the right is protected but can be reasonably regulated.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The right flows from Article 19(1)(a) and Article 19(1)(b) and can be restricted under Articles 19(2) and 19(3).
- The Constitution does not demand prior permission for every protest, but police permission and designated sites are the usual practice for regulating time, place and manner.
- Section 163 BNSS is an exceptional preventive power for emergencies, not an unlimited one.
- Himat Lal K. Shah v. Commissioner of Police (1973): the State may regulate use of public spaces but cannot arbitrarily exclude citizens from assembling.
- Babulal Parate v. State of Maharashtra (1961): Section 144 CrPC upheld, but usable only for emergency and a specific threat to public order.
- Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v. Union of India (2018): a blanket ban on demonstrations near Jantar Mantar was disproportionate.
- Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police (2020), the Shaheen Bagh case: public roads cannot be occupied indefinitely; protests should be at designated places.

Rural Internal Audit Portal and Social Audit

Context: The Union Rural Development Minister launched the Rural Internal Audit Portal, a unified digital platform for compliance and risk-based audits of rural development programmes. The launch has brought the idea of social audit into focus as a tool of grassroots accountability.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is run by the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Rural Development, and developed with the National Informatics Centre. It replaces manual, paper-based audits with an AI-enabled, data-driven audit management system.

- A map view shows audit coverage, team deployment and para settlement status, and flags audit units never audited before.
- It keeps a central repository of audit records, reports and compliance responses with real-time monitoring of approvals.
- Social audit is a process in which the community and the government jointly examine works and spending already carried out in an area.
- The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 requires Gram Sabha social audit of all works at least once every six months.
- Concerns include lack of independence of social audit units, weak follow-up on findings and elite capture of local proceedings.

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report on CCI Regulations

Context: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha reviewed four 2024 regulations and guidelines of the Competition Commission of India. The report calls for periodic review of the competition framework and better transparency in penalties.

□ Key Highlights

- Each House has its own Committee on Subordinate Legislation with not more than 15 members; it checks whether delegated rule-making powers are properly used. CCI is a statutory body under the Competition Act, 2002, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, with the powers of a civil court and the ability to take suo motu cognizance.
- Targeted advocacy is advised to protect MSMEs and start-ups from misuse of the framework by large firms.
- Repeat violations should be penalised strictly under the Monetary Penalty Guidelines so that fines are not treated as a cost of doing business.
- CCI should give detailed mathematical penalty calculations; it recovers about 98 per cent of realisable penalties.
- Structured coordination with sectoral regulators, for example through MoUs, is recommended.
- Appeals against CCI orders lie before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

Supreme Court on Citizenship Determination in Assam

Context: In Sabitri Dey @ Swasthi Dey v. Union of India (2026) the Supreme Court set aside Foreigners' Tribunal and Gauhati High Court orders declaring 27 persons foreigners. It sent the cases back for fresh adjudication, insisting that citizenship be decided through a fair, lawful and reasonable process.

□ Key Highlights

- The Court found that the Tribunals had not properly considered the evidence offered by the appellants.
- Proceedings on citizenship carry serious consequences such as detention, deportation and statelessness, so due process is essential.
- Every person must have a meaningful chance to produce documentary and oral evidence.
- The State's interest in identifying illegal migrants cannot override procedural fairness.

Trial in Absentia under Section 356 BNSS

Context: Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 lets courts try and pronounce judgment against certain absconding accused. The issue returned to the news when a Special NIA Court in Jammu issued a non-bailable warrant against Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed in the Pahalgam attack probe.

□ Key Highlights

- Two consecutive arrest warrants must be issued at least 30 days apart.
- A notice must be published in a local or national newspaper giving the accused 30 days to appear.
- The notice must also be displayed at the last known residence, and a relative or friend must be informed of the trial.
- The trial cannot start until 90 days after charges are framed.
- Section 84 of the BNSS deals with proclamation of absconding persons as proclaimed offenders.
- The UK permits trial in absentia in limited cases, especially where the accused voluntarily stays away.
- The US generally needs the accused present but can continue if the accused absconds after proceedings begin.
- France and Italy allow it with safeguards such as retrial or appeal on appearance.

UDISE+ 2025-26, PGI 2.0 and AISHE

Context: The Ministry of Education released the UDISE+ Report 2025-26 and the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for States/UTs and Districts. UDISE+ gives raw school data while PGI grades States and districts using it.

□ Key Highlights

- PGI began in 2017 and was revamped as PGI 2.0 in line with NEP 2020; it uses grade bands instead of ranks. PGI-S has 1000 marks and 70 indicators in six domains; PGI-D has 600 marks and 70 indicators across 11 domains.
- UDISE+ 2025-26 covers 14.67 lakh schools, 24.72 crore students and 1.03 crore teachers.
- Secondary GER rose to 71.7 per cent from 68.5 per cent; secondary dropout fell to 7.0 per cent from 8.2 per cent.
- Pupil-teacher ratios are 10, 12, 17 and 21 across foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary stages, better than the NEP benchmark of 30:1.
- 69.9 per cent schools have computers and 67.4 per cent have internet; girls make up 48.4 per cent of enrolment.
- Single-teacher schools declined to 1,00,843.
- No State or UT reached Utkarsh, Uttam-1 or Uttam-2; Chandigarh was the top performer, the only one in Uttam-3.

- Delhi, Kerala, Punjab and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu were placed in Prachesta-1.
- The gap between highest and lowest scoring States fell from 51 per cent in 2017-18 to 31.4 per cent.

□ UDISE+ 2025-26

- It covers about 14.67 lakh schools and over 24 crore students.
- Teachers exceeded 1.02 crore; secondary dropout fell to 7.0 per cent.
- Secondary GER rose from 68.5 to 71.7 per cent; 95 per cent of schools have electricity.

□ AISHE

- Higher education GER rose from 23.7 (2014-15) to 30.0 (2023-24).
- Female GER stood at 31.2 in 2023-24 and women are 44 per cent of STEM enrolment.
- AISHE is voluntary, self-reported data.

□ PGI 2.0

- PGI-S grades States on 1,000 points across 70 indicators in six domains; PGI-D grades districts on 600 points.

PGI grade bands

Grade	Score range
Utkarsh	941-1000
Uttam-1 to 3	761-940
Prachesta-1 to 3	581-760
Akanshi-1 to 3	401-580

Uttarakhand Fully Literate under ULLAS

Context: Uttarakhand became India's sixth fully literate State under NEP 2020 and the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme. A State or UT is called fully literate once it reaches a literacy rate of 95 per cent or more.

□ Key Highlights

- Literacy was redefined in 2024 as reading, writing and computing with comprehension, along with digital and financial literacy.
- ULLAS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Education launched in 2022 and running over 2022-27 for non-literate persons aged 15 years and above.
- Its target is 5 crore learners, 1 crore each year, through hybrid mode.
- Learning material is available in 27 languages and delivery uses the ULLAS app and DIKSHA.
- FLNAT assessment certificates are issued jointly by NIOS and the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- Over 2 crore learners have appeared for FLNAT; 3.2 crore learners and 47.7 lakh volunteer teachers are registered.

Allahabad High Court Rejects Hijab Plea in School

Context: The Allahabad High Court dismissed a minor student's plea to wear a hijab with her school uniform. It held that a headscarf was not shown to be an essential religious practice and that schools may prescribe uniforms.

□ Key Highlights

- The Essential Religious Practices test originated in the Shirur Mutt case (1954), a 7-judge bench decision.
- Resham v. State of Karnataka (2022): Karnataka High Court held hijab is not an essential practice.
- Aishat Shifa v. State of Karnataka (2022): the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict (Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia) and referred the matter to a larger bench.
- Amna Bint Basheer v. CBSE (2016): Kerala High Court treated the headscarf as essential and allowed it in exams with extra checks.
- In May 2026 the Karnataka Government issued an order effectively nullifying the February 2022 ban.

□ Court's Reasoning

- A school may set its own dress code if it is uniform, bona fide and non-discriminatory.
- Past non-enforcement does not create a vested right.
- The claim of essential religious practice was a bare assertion without authoritative evidence.
- The student could not show that Article 25 gave an enforceable right against the uniform policy.

BCI-NALSAR Enrolment Row and Powers of BCI

Context: The Bar Council of India directed State Bar Councils to halt enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduates after protests over the CJI's presence at the convocation, then withdrew the directive. The episode raised questions about BCI powers under the Advocates Act, 1961.

□ Key Highlights

- The Advocates Act requires individual consideration of each enrolment application. Peaceful protest or expressing an opinion is not a statutory disqualification.
- In Indian Council of Legal Aid & Advice v. Bar Council of India (1995), the Supreme Court struck down a BCI rule barring enrolment of persons above 45 years.
- The Court held that BCI cannot use its Section 49 rule-making power to create extra disqualifications.
- Enrolment lies primarily with State Bar Councils under Sections 24 to 26.

Bhumika Trust Case: Bar Practice for Judicial Service

Context: In Bhumika Trust v. Union of India (2026), a 2:1 Supreme Court verdict kept the requirement of prior legal practice for entering the judicial service but cut it from three years to one year. Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice A.G. Masih formed the majority, while Justice K. Vinod Chandran dissented.

□ Evolution of the Requirement

- 1993, Second AIJA Case: the Court prescribed three years of Bar practice.
- 2002, Third AIJA Case: on Shetty Commission advice the requirement was abolished.
- 2025: the Supreme Court restored the three-year requirement.

- 2026: the Court reduced it to one year and accepted supervised clerkship as a form of exposure.

□ **Framework Laid Down**

- Transitional period (May 2025 to March 2027): all law graduates may sit the exam; selected candidates are Trainee Judicial Officers paid 50 percent of a JMFC's gross remuneration.
- Training lasts two years: Year 1 at the State Judicial Academy, Year 2 as supervised law clerk (6 months under a Principal District Judge or Higher Judicial Service member and 6 months under a High Court Judge).
- From 1 April 2027, candidates need one year of active Bar practice certified by a senior advocate of at least 10 years' standing.
- The framework runs for 5 years, after which the Supreme Court will review it on empirical data.
- Justice Chandran dissented, preferring the original three-year Bar practice.

DISHA 2.0: Technology-Driven Access to Justice

Context: DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) is a five-year Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Justice that widens access to justice through legal aid, awareness and pro bono services using digital and AI tools. It has an outlay of Rs 255 crore, fully funded through Gross Budgetary Support.

□ **Scheme Details**

- It builds on the earlier DISHA scheme of 2021 to 2026, which reached over 2.37 crore beneficiaries by May 2026.
- It runs from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031 under the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.

□ **Four Components**

- Tele-Law gives free pre-litigation advice through 2.5 lakh Common Service Centres and Nyaya Sahayaks, aided by AI and multilingual access.
- Nyaya Bandhu offers pro-bono legal assistance under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and promotes pro-bono clubs in law colleges.
- The Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme promotes awareness through departments, PSUs, civil society, law universities and media.
- VIDHI-Sanjeevani is a centralised digital platform with a dashboard, integrated with the AI-powered multilingual Nyaya Setu chatbot.

Digital Transformation of the Indian Judiciary and e-Courts

Context: The e-Courts Mission Mode Project, launched in 2007, is converting India's paper-based judiciary into a digital system, with Phase III (2023-27) piloting AI tools. The Chief Justice of India declared Sikkim the first paperless state judiciary in the country.

□ **e-Courts Mission Mode Project**

- It is run by the Department of Justice with the e-Committee of the Supreme Court and implemented through High Courts.
- Phase I (2007-2015) covered basic computerisation, LAN and the Case Information System; Phase II (2015-2023) brought e-filing, e-payments, the National Judicial Data Grid and virtual courts; Phase III (2023-2027) targets complete digital transformation, paperless courts, e-Sewa Kendras and use of AI.
- e-Filing allows online filing with payments, e-signatures, e-Vakalatnama and case tracking.
- The National Judicial Data Grid is a public dashboard on pending and disposed cases across courts.
- 11 High Courts have livestreaming and 31 Virtual Courts handle traffic challans; Nyaya Shruti enables virtual testimony.
- More than 753 crore pages of court records have been digitised.
- The Interoperable Criminal Justice System links police, courts, prisons, prosecution and forensics; related tools include CCTNS, e-Sakshya, e-Summons, e-Prison and NAFIS.
- NSTEP is GPS-enabled and ensures real-time summons delivery.

□ **AI Tools Under Phase III**

- LegRAA assists legal research and analysis.
- ASR-SHRUTI converts voice to text and PANINI handles translation.
- eSCR translates judgments in 18 languages.
- An IIT Madras tool detects petition defects.

Gorkhaland: Committee for Permanent Political Solution

Context: The Centre announced a committee chaired by interlocutor Pankaj Kumar Singh, former deputy National Security Adviser, to draft an agreement for a permanent political solution to the Gorkhaland demand in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas.

□ **Evolution of the Demand**

- 1980s: the movement for a separate State intensified under the Gorkha National Liberation Front.
- 1988: the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council was created through a tripartite agreement.
- 2007: Bills to include the Gorkha Hill Council in the Sixth Schedule lapsed.
- 2011: the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration was established through a tripartite agreement.
- 2017: a 100-day agitation revived the statehood demand.
- 2025: Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed interlocutor.

□ **Possible Solutions**

- A separate State or Union Territory under Article 3.
- A strengthened GTA with greater legislative, administrative and financial powers.

- A Sixth Schedule-type arrangement to protect land, culture and identity.
- The Siliguri Corridor, called the Chicken's Neck, links the North-East to India, so security and strategic interests must be balanced.

Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026

Context: The Centre introduced the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 to replace the ISI Act, 1959. It turns ISI from a society into a statutory body corporate while keeping its status as an Institution of National Importance, but some provisions have drawn objections from faculty and MPs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The President of India becomes the Visitor, with powers to review the Institute, order inquiries and issue binding directions.
- An 11-member Board of Governors is the principal executive body and final decision-maker on academic, administrative, personnel and financial matters.
- The Board has a Chairperson, 2 Central Government representatives, 4 eminent external experts (at least one woman) and 4 ISI representatives.
- The Chairperson is nominated by the Visitor on the Centre's recommendation.
- The Academic Council, headed by the Director, is the principal academic body.
- The Director is the Chief Executive Officer, appointed by the Board with prior approval of the Visitor, and removal also needs the Visitor's approval.
- New centres need prior Central Government approval, and a corpus fund is mandated for long-term sustainability.
- Modernise governance and make ISI a global centre of excellence in statistical sciences.
- Promote interdisciplinary research across statistics, mathematics, economics, computer science and data science.
- ISI is to be treated as a Central Educational Institution for reservation purposes.

Kerala Renamed Keralam by Act of Parliament

Context: The President assented to a Bill renaming Kerala as Keralam, which is now the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026. The change was made under Article 3 of the Constitution, after Cabinet approval and a unanimous resolution of the State Assembly in 2024.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Article 3 allows Parliament to form a new State, increase, diminish or alter the boundaries of a State, and change a State's name.
- The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution in 2024 and sent it to the Centre in June 2024.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs examines it and takes no-objection from Railways, IB, Posts, Survey of India, Registrar General and, where relevant, External Affairs.
- A bill under Article 3 needs the prior recommendation of the President.
- The President must refer the bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views within a specified time, but is not bound by those views.
- The bill is passed by Parliament by a simple majority.
- A constitutional amendment under Article 368 is not required for a name change.
- The First Schedule of the Constitution is amended to replace Kerala with Keralam.

Livestreamed Court Proceedings: Harshita Grover Order

Context: In Harshita Grover v. Union of India (2026), the Supreme Court issued interim directions restricting extraction, circulation and monetisation of livestreamed court proceedings without prior permission. It also proposed a protocol for access through official court archives.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Continue livestreaming open proceedings while excluding narrowly defined sensitive categories.
- Create an authenticated official open archive with standard terms of use.
- Penalise deliberate misrepresentation under existing law, for example contempt of court under Article 129.
- Use digital watermarks, timestamps and authenticated source links to prevent tampering.
- Involve the judiciary, Bar, journalists, platforms and civil society in framing the protocol.

Mission Samriddh Gaon and Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan

Context: Two rural and youth initiatives were launched. The Ministry of Rural Development began Mission Samriddh Gaon on a pilot basis, and the Prime Minister launched the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan.

□ **Mission Samriddh Gaon**

- Pilot areas are Budni block (Sehore) and Khategaon block (Dewas) in Madhya Pradesh.
- Plans will be prepared at family, Gram Panchayat and block levels with convergence of schemes.
- It identifies women farmers and aims to reduce distress migration.

□ **Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan**

- It has a 100-week action plan with a weekly Sunday programme of sports, art, culture, yoga and anti-drug awareness.
- It evolved from the Kashi pilot project and is backed by 125 plus spiritual organisations and NGOs under the Kashi Declaration.
- The Kashi Declaration was adopted on 20 July 2025 in Varanasi and gives a 5-year roadmap.
- NSS was launched in 1969 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; its motto is Not Me But You.

Parliament Productivity in Monsoon Session 2026

Context: The Lok Sabha recorded one of its lowest productivity levels in over two decades during the Monsoon Session 2026 in August, with only two sessions since 2004 functioning worse. Productivity was 15 percent for Lok Sabha and 33 percent for Rajya Sabha by PRS figures, and 19 and 39 percent by government figures. PRS measures it as actual sitting hours divided by scheduled hours.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Lok Sabha productivity was 15 percent of scheduled time and Rajya Sabha 33 percent.
- Government figures put it at 19 percent for Lok Sabha and 39 percent for Rajya Sabha.
- PRS calculates productivity as actual sitting hours divided by scheduled hours multiplied by 100, so it can exceed 100 percent.
- Historic lows: Winter 2010 (LS 5 percent, RS 2 percent), Winter 2013 (LS 8, RS 19) and Winter 2016 (LS 15, RS 18).
- The highest productivity was in the Budget Session 2024: Lok Sabha 148 percent and Rajya Sabha 137 percent.

Political Clearance for Foreign Visits

Context: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's US visit was cancelled after the Ministry of External Affairs denied clearance from the political angle. The case highlights the clearance system for foreign visits by officials.

□ **Key Highlights**

- MEA grants political clearance, processed online through the e-Political Clearance portal since 2016.
- Chief Ministers and State ministers generally need MEA political clearance, FCRA clearance and economic clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs.
- MEA political clearance is a prerequisite for the other clearances.
- Union Ministers need MEA clearance plus the Prime Minister's approval.
- Lok Sabha MPs need the Speaker's clearance and Rajya Sabha MPs the Chairperson's.
- Earlier denials included Arvind Kejriwal's 2022 Singapore trip and Tarun Gogoi's US and Israel visits.

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2026

Context: The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 became law after both Houses passed it and the President assented. It makes delayed registration stricter by adding an official or judicial order requirement.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Act amends Section 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
- For delays of 1 to 2 years, an order from the District Magistrate or Sub-Divisional Magistrate is required after verification and fee payment.
- For delays beyond 2 years, an order from a Judicial Magistrate First Class is required.
- Concerns include added court workload, harder access in remote areas, risk of excluding genuine citizens and no clear rationale for the two-year threshold.

Delayed registration under the 2026 amendment

Delay	Authority needed
1 to 2 years	DM or SDM
Beyond 2 years	Judicial Magistrate First Class

SC Extends Section 85 BNS to Live-in Partners

Context: In Dr. Lokesh B.H. v. State of Karnataka (2026), the Supreme Court held that the penal protection against cruelty to wives also covers women in live-in relationships that are in the nature of marriage. The Court insisted on two conditions: actual cohabitation and an intention to marry.

□ **Key Highlights**

- D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal (2010) likened such a relationship to common-law marriage, needing legal age, voluntary cohabitation and public projection as spouses. Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013) listed non-exhaustive factors such as long cohabitation, shared household, pooled finances and public image as a couple.
- The provision concerned is Section 498A of the IPC, now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
- The offence punishes cruelty by a husband or his relatives with imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine.
- Cruelty includes wilful conduct likely to drive a woman to suicide or gravely endanger her life, limb or health, and harassment to force unlawful demands for property.
- The concept of a relationship in the nature of marriage comes from Section 2(f) of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- The 2026 ruling reaffirmed the Indra Sarma factors and added intent to marry as a prerequisite for criminal liability.

Evolution of live-in relationship jurisprudence

Case	Principle
D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal (2010)	Common-law marriage test
Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013)	Illustrative factors for domestic relationship
Dr. Lokesh B.H. v. State of Karnataka (2026)	Cohabitation plus intent to marry for penal cruelty provision

SC Upholds Hanging as Mode of Execution

Context: A Supreme Court bench dismissed a PIL that called hanging scientifically unreliable and violative of a dignified death under Article 21. The Court held that the challenge offered no fresh evidence to disturb the binding precedent in Deena v. Union of India (1983).

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Law Commission's 35th Report (1967) wanted a certain, humane, quick and decent method but did not recommend replacing hanging.

- The 187th Report (2003) recommended lethal injection as an alternative.
- The Court relied on existing precedent and on Parliament retaining hanging while enacting the BNSS.
- Stare decisis means to stand by things decided.

□ Judicial Precedents

- Rajendra Prasad v. State of U.P. (1979) limited death sentences to exceptional cases.
- Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980), a 5-judge bench, upheld the death penalty and laid down the rarest of rare doctrine.
- Deena v. Union of India (1983) upheld hanging under Section 354(5) CrPC as quick, simple and decent.
- Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab (1996) held that Article 21 does not include a right to die.

SC on Police Custody and Access to FIR

Context: Two Supreme Court rulings clarified criminal procedure. In State of Andhra Pradesh v. Suda Suresh Veera Venkata Naga Raju, the Court read Section 187(2) BNSS to allow police custody in parts, and it directed Ghaziabad Police to give a journalist a copy of an FIR and CCTV footage.

□ Police Custody under BNSS

- Section 187(2) BNSS permits police custody in parts, up to 15 days in aggregate, within the first 40 or 60 days of permissible detention.
- Earlier, custody was confined to a single 15-day window.
- Section 38 BNSS gives access to an advocate but not the advocate's continuous presence during interrogation.

□ Access to FIR

- Section 173(2) BNSS gives the FIR free to the informant or victim but does not mention the accused.
- Section 230 BNSS gives the accused FIR copies after the chargesheet reaches court.
- Youth Bar Association of India v. Union of India (2016) required FIRs to be uploaded within 24 hours, extendable to 48 to 72 hours in exceptional cases.
- FIRs for sexual offences, POCSO and terrorism may be withheld from publication.
- Article 22(1) guarantees knowledge of grounds of arrest, legal counsel and production before a Magistrate within 24 hours.

SC/ST Creamy Layer and Atrocities Rules Reform

Context: The Centre told the Supreme Court it opposes an income-based creamy layer for SC and ST reservation. Separately, a government task force recommended changes to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules on relief and investigation.

□ Key Highlights

- The task force, headed by the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, was constituted in December 2025.
- It recommended raising relief amounts, presently Rs 85,000 to Rs 8.25 lakh and fixed in 2016.
- It suggested counselling for victims, Relief and Rehabilitation Cells in States and UTs, and sending FIRs and chargesheets to officials within 24 hours.
- The NCST separately proposed letting District Magistrates allow dispossessed tribals to use disputed land for livelihood during litigation.

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026

Context: The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was raised to 38 judges including the Chief Justice of India, first by an Ordinance promulgated in May 2026 and then by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026, which received Presidential assent. The aim is to reduce pendency and allow Constitution Benches more regularly.

□ Key Highlights

- The new sanctioned strength is 38 judges including the CJI.
- The Act is deemed effective from 16 May 2026 and replaces the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.
- The strength is governed by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act under Article 124.
- Past strengths: 8 in 1950, 11 in 1956, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1978, 26 in 1986, 31 in 2009 and 34 in 2019.
- Pendency in the Supreme Court was 92,101 cases in January 2026.

□ Judicial Backlog

- Total pending cases exceed 55 million, with about 49.14 million in district courts and 6.42 million in High Courts.
- India has 15 to 22 judges per million people, against the Law Commission's recommended 50.
- About 350 of 1,114 High Court posts are vacant.
- Around 75 per cent of prison inmates are under-trials.
- An All India Judicial Service under Article 312 is suggested as a reform.

Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 and National Tribunals Commission

Context: The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 received Presidential assent and repeals the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021. It sets up a National Tribunals Commission to select and oversee tribunal members, answering long-standing Supreme Court concerns on independence.

□ Key Highlights

- S.P. Sampath Kumar (1987) and L. Chandra Kumar (1997) held that tribunal decisions remain open to High Court review because judicial review is part of the basic structure. Rojer Mathew (2019) recommended an independent statutory National Tribunals Commission (NTC).
- The NTC selects members, reviews tribunal performance, oversees complaints and maintains the National Tribunals Data Grid; its accounts are audited by the CAG.
- It has 5 members: a Chairperson (a Supreme Court Judge or High Court Chief Justice), two judicial members and two technical members with at least 25 years of experience.

- Members hold office for 5 years or until age 70, whichever is earlier.
- Tribunal Chairpersons serve 5 years or until 70; tribunal Members serve 5 years or until 67.
- A search-cum-selection committee recommends one candidate plus one waitlisted candidate per vacancy, and the Centre must appoint within 3 months.
- Removal on grounds of conflict of interest or abuse of position needs an inquiry headed by a Supreme Court Judge nominated by the CJI.
- Madras Bar Association v. Union of India (2025) struck down parts of the 2021 Act for violating separation of powers and directed an independent NTC.
- Vacancies, delays and non-uniform qualifications and tenures had weakened tribunals.

Article 124(3) and Distinguished Jurist Appointment

Context: In September 2026 Supreme Court Judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan questioned why Article 124(3), which allows a distinguished jurist to be appointed as a Supreme Court Judge, has gone unused for over 76 years. He pointed to the Collegium's preference for career judges and Bar Council of India Rule 49. The provision is an exam-relevant route of appointment to the Supreme Court.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Collegium consists only of career judges, who tend to prefer court experience over scholarship.
- Bar Council of India Rule 49 forces advocates who take full-time salaried jobs, such as law teaching, to surrender their licence.
- Direct entry of scholars could complicate seniority and the CJI succession line.
- Countries such as Germany, South Africa, Spain, Italy, Kenya and South Korea appoint legal academics to constitutional courts.
- Prof. Shamnad Basheer's role in Novartis AG v. Union of India on patent law is cited as an example of academic influence.

Article 142 and Quashing of Gen Z Protest Cases

Context: Invoking Article 142, the Supreme Court quashed criminal cases against Gen Z protesters linked to nationwide protests after the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak. The order has tested the limits of the Court's power for complete justice.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Prem Chand Garg v. Excise Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh (1962): Article 142 cannot override the Constitution or Fundamental Rights.
- Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India (1998): the power is plenary and supplementary but cannot supplant substantive law.
- Shilpa Sailesh v. Varun Sreenivasan (2023): the Court can dissolve a marriage on irretrievable breakdown.
- High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of U.P. (2024): Article 142 cannot affect the rights of persons not before the Court.

CBFC's New Film Certification Guidelines

Context: In September 2026 the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified new film certification guidelines for the CBFC under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, superseding the 1991 notification. They make an anti-drug warning mandatory for scenes showing narcotics and formally adopt the age-based markers U/A 7+, 13+ and 16+ from the Cinematograph Rules, 2024.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Scenes showing consumption, use or trafficking of narcotics must carry a mandatory anti-drug warning; earlier guidelines only barred glorification of drug addiction.
- The guidelines formally adopt the age-based markers from the Cinematograph Rules, 2024: U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.
- Other categories remain: U for family viewing, A for adults and S for specialised audiences.
- Film titles must not be provocative, vulgar or offensive.

CVC Annual Report 2025 Findings

Context: The Central Vigilance Commission's Annual Report 2025, in the news in September 2026, points to a large gap between investigation, prosecution and final adjudication in corruption cases. It records 7,229 CBI cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 pending trial, 1,088 CBI vacancies and a CBI conviction rate of 71.71 percent, up from 69.14 percent in 2024.

□ **Key Highlights**

- 7,229 CBI cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are pending trial, with 2,856 delayed over 10 years and 409 over 20 years.
- 14,083 appeals, revisions and writ petitions are pending in High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- The CBI has 1,088 vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 7,300.
- 201 cases await prosecution sanction, and 72 references covering 172 officers await approval under Section 17A.
- The CBI conviction rate rose to 71.71% from 69.14% in 2024.

Census 2027: India's First Digital Census with Caste Enumeration

Context: India's 16th Census, Census 2027, is the country's first fully digital Census and the first to count the caste of all communities nationwide since 1931. Mascots Pragati (female) and Vikas (male) were unveiled, and four digital tools developed by C-DAC were soft-launched.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's first synchronous Census was conducted in 1881 under W.C. Plowden. The Census is a Union List subject governed by the Census Act, 1948, and conducted in two phases since 1971.

- Section 15 of the Census Act, 1948 protects individual records from inspection and use as evidence.

□ Phases and Scope

- The house-listing phase, the first stage, will be held between April and September 2026 in all states and Union Territories.
- The population enumeration, the second stage, is set for February 2027.
- For the first time in independent India, castes of all communities will be counted nationwide, not just Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- It is the first Census after 2011, as the 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19.
- The population enumeration phase has 40 questions against 29 in 2011; new questions on parents' details, nationality and permanent address resemble National Population Register fields and raise privacy and NRC-linkage concerns.

□ Digital Tools

- Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) web application uses satellite imagery to create houselisting blocks.
- HLO mobile application is an offline app for enumerators, works on Android and iOS and supports 16 regional languages.
- Self-Enumeration (SE) portal offers first-time online self-enumeration and generates an SE ID for verification.
- Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal is a centralised platform to plan and monitor operations at sub-district, district and state levels.
- Census as a Service (CaaS) will give ministries a clean, machine-readable and searchable database for evidence-based policy planning.
- Both mascots depict enumerators and symbolise equal participation of women and men.

Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules Amendments

Context: In September 2026 the Department of Consumer Affairs amended the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2026, with the new provisions coming into force from 1 January 2027. The change followed 5,11,196 e-commerce grievances, about 29 percent of those received by the National Consumer Helpline in 2025. It targets misleading search results, dark patterns and pricing claims, and requires country-of-origin details.

□ Key Highlights

- Every e-commerce entity must join the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline.
- The NCH received 17,71,622 grievances in 2025, of which 5,11,196, about 29%, related to e-commerce.
- Platforms cannot manipulate search results in misleading ways and must clearly mark sponsored listings.
- When announcing a price reduction, both the reduced and the earlier price must be shown.
- Entities must follow the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, do a yearly self-audit and display a compliance certificate.
- Imported products must carry importer details and country of origin.

Delhi High Court on Maternity Leave and Job Role

Context: The Delhi High Court held that a woman returning from maternity leave is ordinarily entitled to resume her previous position and cannot be disadvantaged in responsibilities, managerial authority or career prospects.

□ Key Highlights

- The petitioner, Rakhi Bisht, an Accounting Manager at HashiCorp, was moved to a different Treasury role on returning in July 2024.
- If the previous post is genuinely unavailable, a substantially equivalent position in pay, grade, status and authority must be offered.
- The Court awarded Rs 10 lakh compensation plus Rs 1.5 lakh in legal costs.
- It linked maternity protection with Articles 14, 15, 21 and 42.

EVM Totalizers and Supreme Court Notice

Context: In September 2026 the Supreme Court sought the Centre's opinion on introducing totalizers for EVM vote counting while hearing a 2014 PIL seeking mixing of votes across polling stations. A totalizer, developed by BEL and ECIL, aggregates votes from about 14 polling stations so that booth-wise voting patterns are not revealed. Current election laws provide no clear framework for it.

□ Key Highlights

- A totalizer, developed by BEL Bengaluru and ECIL Hyderabad, aggregates votes from about 14 polling stations before counting.
- It connects to the Control Units of 14 EVMs and gives a consolidated candidate-wise result without revealing booth-wise votes.
- Concerns include reduced transparency, as results cannot be matched with Form 17C, and difficulty in detecting faults.
- Current election laws do not provide a clear framework for totalizers.

Gram Sabha Consent and Forest Clearance Dispute

Context: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has told the Ministry of Power that the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has no provision for obtaining Gram Sabha consent for forest clearance. The clarification came after the Power Ministry and NHPC flagged Gram Sabha consent as a bottleneck for infrastructure projects.

□ Key Highlights

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was enacted to correct historical injustice to forest-dwelling communities. It recognises individual and community rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and resources.
- It makes the Gram Sabha the primary authority for initiating the process of determining forest rights.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry for its implementation.

□ **Judicial Dimension**

- In Orissa Mining Corporation v. Ministry of Environment & Forests (Niyamgiri case, 2013), the Supreme Court recognised the Gram Sabha's role in deciding religious, cultural and community rights under the FRA.
- The judgment held that development projects cannot bypass legally recognised community rights.

Hindi Diwas and the Munshi-Ayyangar Formula

Context: Hindi Diwas, observed every year on 14 September, marks the Constituent Assembly's adoption in 1949 of the Munshi-Ayyangar formula on the official language of the Union, associated with K.M. Munshi and N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar. It made Hindi in Devanagari script the official language, with English continuing for 15 years. The provisions are in Articles 343-351 of Part XVII.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The formula is associated with K.M. Munshi and N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar.
- Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the Union, with English continuing for official purposes for 15 years.
- Other Indian languages are recognised through the Eighth Schedule, and the international form of Indian numerals is used for official purposes.
- The provisions are in Articles 343-351 under Part XVII.
- The Official Languages Act, 1963 allowed English to continue alongside Hindi after the 15-year period ended in 1965.
- R.V. Dhulekar advocated Hindi or Hindustani, while Nehru and Maulana Azad noted the difficulty of replacing English immediately.

Ladakh: Hill Councils and Proposed Article 371(K)

Context: The Ladakh administration plans Autonomous Hill Development Councils in all seven districts after five new districts were created in 2026, amid continuing demands for Sixth Schedule status and statehood. Separately, after talks with the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, the Centre has proposed a special constitutional provision, Article 371(K), for the Union Territory.

□ **Hill Councils**

- Only Leh and Kargil had hill councils so far.
- Councils are proposed under Section 3(1) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997, which is deemed in force from 1 June 1995.
- Delimitation of constituencies and amendments to the Act are needed before implementation.
- Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature on 31 October 2019 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- Ladakh hill councils are statutory bodies with mainly administrative and developmental functions, working under the UT administration.
- Sixth Schedule councils are constitutional bodies under Articles 244(2) and 275(1) with legislative, judicial and financial powers.

□ **Proposed Article 371(K)**

- Articles 371 and 371A-371J are in Part XXI, dealing with temporary, transitional and special provisions for specific states.
- The proposed provision is a sui generis framework providing for a directly elected UT-level body.
- It proposes legislative powers over land, culture and language, forests, environment and natural resources, including subjects reserved for the UT under Article 240.
- Executive, financial, planning, police and law-and-order powers are still under negotiation.
- The proposal does not directly address demands for Statehood or Sixth Schedule status.

□ **Nautor Regularisation Rules, 2026**

- The rules give proprietary rights over eligible barren land to landholders.
- They aim to resolve a long-pending land issue affecting thousands of landholders and enable access to institutional credit.

Manipur's Demand for 1951 NRC Baseline

Context: The Manipur government has proposed updating the National Register of Citizens using 1951 as the baseline, subject to approval of the Union Government. The demand is driven by influx from Myanmar after the 2021 coup, ethnic conflict since 2023 and concerns over the forthcoming Census and delimitation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The State reports 24,475 undocumented immigrants detected in border districts, of whom 14,992 were pushed back to Myanmar through diplomatic channels.
- The NRC is a register of Indian citizens; under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003 the Centre can order it using National Population Register data.
- Manipur's traditional permit system for outsiders was abolished on 18 November 1950, which supporters cite for choosing 1951.
- A 1980 Proceedings of Understanding, a November 1994 agreement and the Manipur People's Protection Bill, 2018 also refer to 1951 as the baseline.
- Manipur adopted 1961 as the base year for the Inner Line Permit framework in 2022, showing the contested nature of the baseline.

Minors' Social Media Accounts and Contractual Capacity

Context: A Supreme Court bench led by the CJI sought the Centre's response on a PIL by Just Rights for Children Alliance seeking safeguards against independent social media access by

minors. The Court observed that some firewalls are needed to protect children.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Under Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, a person below 18 is not competent to contract.
- Platforms often let children, sometimes from 13 years, open accounts by accepting terms of service.
- The 13-year threshold used by platforms rests largely on foreign standards, not an Indian legal requirement.
- Section 10A of the IT Act, 2000 recognises electronic contracts but does not give capacity to those otherwise incapable.
- The DPDP Act, 2023 requires verifiable parental consent for processing children's data but does not expressly bar minors from creating accounts.
- The IT Rules, 2021 do not adequately address age verification or parental authentication.

Purification Rituals and Untouchability Under Article 17

Context: A purification ritual held at Haldwani's Ramlila Ground two days after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a rally there has revived a legal debate. The question is whether cleansing a place after a Dalit person's use amounts to untouchability. Courts have said the answer depends on whether the act is rooted in caste-based notions of purity and pollution.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Surya Narayan Choudhary v. State of Rajasthan (1988): the Rajasthan High Court barred purification of Dalit devotees before entry into the Shrinathji Temple, Nathdwara, as it violated Articles 14, 15 and 17.
- Hitesh Verma v. State of Uttarakhand (2020): the Supreme Court held that not every insult to an SC/ST person attracts Section 3(1)(r) of the SC/ST Act; the insult must be linked to the victim's caste identity.
- Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India (2024): the Supreme Court tied untouchability to the caste system and ideas of purity and pollution, and said no stigma can attach to a person's existence, touch or presence.
- Gunjan @ Girija Kumari v. State (NCT of Delhi) (2026): the Supreme Court reiterated that the place must be within public view for an offence under Section 3(1)(r) of the SC/ST Act.

□ **Legal Test**

- The key test is the nexus between the conduct and caste-based notions of purity and pollution.
- Untouchability is more clearly established where a person's touch or presence is treated as polluting because of caste.
- It is also established where a Dalit person faces a caste-specific disability or condition not imposed on others.
- A mere insult is not automatically untouchability; a caste or untouchability connection must exist.

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties and Donations

Context: A media investigation found six Gujarat-based Registered Unrecognised Political Parties received about Rs 1,700 crore in donations in 2023-24, more than the Rs 1,480 crore received by five national parties excluding the BJP.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for registration of parties with the ECI.
- RUPPs must disclose donors giving over Rs 20,000 annually and receive donations above Rs 2,000 through banking channels.
- Of over 2,800 RUPPs, only about 750 contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- The ECI cannot ordinarily de-register parties; Indian National Congress v. Institute of Social Welfare (2002) limited de-registration to cases like fraud.
- The Law Commission's 255th Report recommended de-registration powers for the ECI.

Right to Work and VB-G RAM G Act

Context: A three-judge Supreme Court bench led by the CJI dismissed a petition on minimum wages under rural employment guarantee programmes and sought a fresh petition, while asking whether the Right to Work should stand on par with the Article 21 right to life.

□ **Key Highlights**

- MGNREGA provided up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households on a demand-driven basis.
- The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G, Act, 2025 now replaces that framework.
- Concerns about the new Act include possible dilution of the demand-driven right and a greater fiscal burden on States.
- Article 41, a Directive Principle on the right to work, is not directly enforceable by courts.

Supreme Court on Grounds of Arrest and Re-arrest

Context: In Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol v. State of Punjab (2026), the Supreme Court strengthened safeguards against arbitrary arrest and laid down strict guidelines on re-arrest of a person earlier released because grounds of arrest were not provided.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The appellant was arrested in May 2026 under the POCSO Act, 2012 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. He was produced before the Magistrate beyond 24 hours, violating Article 22(2), and was not given written grounds of arrest, violating Article 22(1).
- Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India (2023): written grounds of arrest must be furnished as a matter of course; Ram Kishor Arora (2023) made this prospective.
- Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi) (2024): violation of Article 22(1) vitiates the arrest and remand, and a later chargesheet cannot cure it.

- Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025): grounds must be communicated meaningfully, else Articles 21 and 22(1) are violated.
- Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra (2025): written grounds must be given for all offences, in a language the arrestee understands.
- The Magistrate declared the arrest illegal and ordered release, but the Punjab and Haryana High Court allowed the agency to seek re-arrest.

TMC Name and Symbol Dispute Before ECI

Context: The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to settle the leadership dispute between Mamata Banerjee and rival leader Ritabrata Banerjee within three months of completion of pleadings, declining to stay the freeze on the party name and symbol.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A split in the All India Trinamool Congress led to rival claims over the name and flowers-and-grass symbol ahead of the Nandigram and Rejinagar bypolls.
- Under Para 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, the ECI froze the name and symbol and gave the factions alternative ones.
- The ECI examines organisational support and the strength among elected MPs and MLAs; majority is not the only test.
- After the 1997 amendment, the losing faction must generally register as a separate party.
- Earlier cases include the Shiv Sena freeze, the NCP name and clock symbol going to the Ajit Pawar faction, and the AIADMK two-leaves dispute.

Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 and Nasha Mukt Bharat

Context: At the 10th Apex-Level NCORD meeting in New Delhi in June 2026, the Union Home Minister released the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029) and the NCB Annual Report 2025. The roadmap aims to make India drug-free by 2029 with a network-focused strategy and measurable timelines.

□ **Vision Document 2026-2029**

- The goals are demand reduction, supply reduction and rehabilitation under the principle detect, disrupt and destroy.
- The focus moves from carriers to dismantling networks, with a campaign to break 100 major interstate and transnational cartels.
- Enforcement, Intelligence and Operations: network-targeted enforcement, container scanners at all major seaports by March 2029 and AI/ML passenger profiling at airports by March 2027.
- Precursors and Synthetic Drugs Control: a national framework to stop diversion of precursor chemicals and dismantle clandestine labs.
- Demand Reduction and Rehabilitation: Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan to reach 50 crore citizens and awareness in 10 lakh schools and colleges by March 2029.
- Capacity Building and Coordination: a new 100 per cent centrally funded scheme for state Anti-Narcotics Task Forces.
- The NCB is the national nodal agency under the NDPS Act, 1985; MANAS runs a 24x7 helpline, 1933.

□ **NCB Annual Report 2025**

- It records over 1.48 lakh cases and seizures above 1,200 tonnes of narcotics.
- Myanmar has overtaken Afghanistan as the leading source of illicit opium.

□ **Achievements (2019 to July 2026)**

- 93,33,987 kg of narcotic and psychotropic substances were seized, valued at Rs 1,53,212 crore.
- Illegal assets worth Rs 3,992 crore were frozen or seized and 128 clandestine labs dismantled.
- BHARATPOL gives direct Interpol contact with 195 countries.
- The MANAS helpline (1933) has engaged over 3.33 lakh citizens.

International News

Current Notes

EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Begins

Context: The European Union began the world's first carbon border tax, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), on 1 January 2026, ending a transitional phase that ran from 2023 and imposing carbon charges on imports of carbon-intensive goods. It aims to prevent carbon leakage and covers cement, aluminium, fertilisers, iron and steel, hydrogen and electricity, so Indian steel, aluminium and cement exports may face higher costs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- CBAM taxes imports from countries with less strict climate policies; it ran in a transitional phase from 2023.
- Its purpose is to prevent carbon leakage, where firms shift production to countries with weaker climate rules.
- Sectors covered are cement, aluminium, fertilisers, iron and steel, hydrogen and electricity.
- Indian exports of steel, aluminium and cement to the EU may face higher costs.

Greenland Dispute Between US and NATO

Context: The United States withdrew its tariff threat linked to Greenland and said that it and NATO had developed a framework for a future arrangement, easing a dispute that had strained the transatlantic alliance.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Greenland lies at the centre of the GIUK Gap (Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom), a key sea passage for tracking submarines in the North Atlantic.
- It hosts the Pituffik Space Base, linked to the US early-warning radar network, and is considered important for the proposed 'Golden Dome' missile defence system.
- It has some of the world's largest untapped rare earth reserves, including Kvanefjeld (which also has uranium) and Kringlerne in south Greenland.
- Denmark signalled it could invoke Article 5 of NATO, and its Prime Minister said Greenland is not for sale.
- Leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, the UK and Denmark issued a joint statement that territorial integrity and borders cannot be compromised.

India's Engagements with UAE, Germany and Weimar Triangle

Context: Visits by the UAE President and the German Chancellor to India, and India's first participation in the Weimar Triangle, expanded cooperation in trade, defence, technology and nuclear energy.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Germany and India signed a joint declaration of intent on a defence industrial roadmap and a 'Track 1.5' dialogue on foreign and security policy. Germany announced visa-free transit for Indian passport holders and agreements on semiconductors and critical minerals.
- India and the UAE agreed to more than double bilateral trade to over 200 billion dollars by 2032.
- They will explore partnership in small modular reactors and nuclear safety following the SHANTI Act, 2025.
- A digital or data embassy will be set up and cooperation on a supercomputing cluster under the IndiaAI Mission was agreed.
- ADNOC Gas signed a 10-year sale and purchase agreement to supply 0.5 MTPA of LNG to HPCL.
- The India-UAE CEPA, signed in 2022, helped trade reach around 100 billion dollars in 2024-25, and the UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination.
- The visit marked 25 years of the strategic partnership (2025) and 75 years of diplomatic relations (2026).
- Bilateral trade crossed 50 billion dollars in 2024, and Germany was India's ninth-largest source of FDI as per data up to 2024.
- The Weimar Triangle is a regional grouping of France, Germany and Poland, formed in 1991 in Weimar, Germany.
- The Weimar Triangle seeks to promote European integration, political dialogue and security cooperation.

India's Free Trade Agreements Network

Context: With the conclusion of a free trade agreement with New Zealand, India now has trade pacts with all Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries except China, part of an aggressive bilateral push to diversify trade and reduce dependence on China.

□ **Key Highlights**

- RCEP covers ASEAN members and their FTA partners Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.
- The India-Oman CEPA, signed in December 2025, removes duties on over 99 percent of Indian exports to Oman and gives duty-free access on 98.08 percent of tariff lines.
- The Oman deal allows longer stay for Indian professionals and 100 percent FDI in key service sectors.
- The India-UK CETA was signed in July 2025 and gives duty-free access to 99 percent of Indian exports.
- Dairy was kept outside the deals with the EU and New Zealand to protect domestic farmers.

Recent India trade agreements

Agreement	Status / Date

India-UAE CEPA	In force since 2022
India-Australia ECTA	Effective December 2022
India-EFTA TEPA	Signed March 2024
India-UK CETA	Signed July 2025
India-Oman CEPA	Signed December 2025
India-New Zealand FTA	Talks concluded December 2025
India-EU FTA	Concluded January 2026

India-EU Free Trade Agreement Concluded

Context: India and the European Union announced the conclusion of negotiations for a free trade agreement, described as the 'mother of all deals', at the 16th India-EU Summit held in India. The EU became India's 22nd FTA partner.

□ Key Highlights

- India and the EU are the fourth and second largest economies respectively, together accounting for 25 percent of global GDP and one-third of global trade. India's goods trade with the EU in 2024-25 was Rs 11.5 lakh crore, with exports of Rs 6.4 lakh crore and imports of Rs 5.1 lakh crore.
- Negotiations began in 2007, were suspended in 2013 and resumed in 2022.
- The texts will go through legal review and translation, then need approval by the European Council and consent of the European Parliament, and ratification by India before entry into force.
- India gets preferential access to European markets on 97 percent of tariff lines, covering 99.5 percent of trade value.
- On 70.4 percent of tariff lines, covering 90.7 percent of India's exports, duties will be removed immediately, benefiting textiles, leather and footwear.
- India offers 92.1 percent of its tariff lines covering 97.5 percent of EU exports, with 49.6 percent of lines getting immediate duty elimination.
- The EU made broad commitments in 144 service sub-sectors, including IT/ITES and professional services.
- A Security and Defence Partnership was also signed, the EU's third in Asia after Japan and South Korea.
- The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism could cost Indian exporters Rs 17,000 to 34,000 crore a year in compliance costs.
- The EU has not granted India 'data secure' status under GDPR, raising compliance costs for Indian digital firms.
- The EU Council and Commission presidents were chief guests at India's 77th Republic Day.
- The EU is a unique economic and political union of 27 members operating as a single market.
- It began in 1951 with six countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- The United Kingdom formally left the EU on 31 January 2020.
- The euro, launched in 1999, is the official currency of 21 EU countries.
- The European Commission was established in 1958 and is headquartered in Brussels.

India-World Bank Country Partnership Framework 2026-31

Context: In January 2026 India and the World Bank signed a new Country Partnership Framework (NCPF) for 2026-2031, under which financial assistance of 8-10 billion dollars is to be made available to India. It focuses on private-sector-led job creation, rural prosperity, urban transformation, investment in people, and energy security with climate resilience.

□ Key Highlights

- The framework focuses on private-sector-led job creation through skill reform, easing barriers for SMEs and creating opportunities for youth and women.
- Strategic goal one is boosting rural prosperity and resilience by creating income opportunities beyond agriculture.
- Goal two is promoting urban transformation, as India's urban population is projected to reach 80 crore by 2050.
- Goal three is investing in people, with a focus on healthcare, education and skills.
- Goal four is strengthening energy security, core infrastructure and climate resilience, including renewable energy and e-mobility.

OECD Side-by-Side Package on Global Minimum Tax

Context: In January 2026 the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting agreed a 'side-by-side' package to coordinate the working of global minimum tax arrangements. The global minimum tax rests on the GloBE model rules and makes large multinationals pay a minimum level of tax in every jurisdiction, discouraging profit shifting. The package includes simplification measures and safe harbours.

□ Key Highlights

- The global minimum tax is based on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) model rules.
- It makes large multinational enterprises pay a minimum level of tax on income in every jurisdiction where they operate, discouraging profit shifting and the race to cut corporate tax rates.
- BEPS refers to tax planning by multinationals that exploits gaps between national tax rules to move profits to low-tax countries, for example through deductible interest or royalty payments.

□ Five Components of the Package

- Simplification measures to reduce compliance burden for multinationals and tax authorities.
- A substance-based tax incentive safe harbour to align global treatment of tax incentives.
- A safe harbour for eligible multinational groups whose parent entities are in eligible jurisdictions meeting minimum tax requirements.
- An evidence-based stocktake process to ensure fair treatment for all Inclusive Framework members.
- Stronger protection of qualified domestic minimum top-up taxes, especially for developing countries' tax base.

Responsible Nations Index Launched in Delhi

Context: The Responsible Nations Index (RNI), which ranks countries on how responsibly they act towards their people, the planet and the global community rather than on raw power, was launched in New Delhi by the World Intellectual Foundation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- RNI was developed by the World Intellectual Foundation with Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIM Mumbai.
- It evaluates 154 countries using 58 indicators grouped into 13 sub-themes and 7 themes, forming 3 core dimensions.
- Singapore ranked first, followed by Switzerland and Denmark, with European countries dominating the top 10.
- India ranked 16th globally and was the highest-placed major Asian country other than Singapore.
- The United States ranked 66th and China 68th, showing a disconnect between economic or military strength and responsibility.

Third Path Doctrine and Global Risks Report 2026

Context: At the World Economic Forum 2026, Canada's Prime Minister outlined the 'Third Path' (Carney Doctrine) for middle powers, while the WEF's Global Risks Report 2026 named geoeconomic confrontation as the most significant global risk.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Third Path rests on value-based realism, cooperation among middle powers against hegemonic powers, and variable geometry, meaning different coalitions for different issues.
- Middle powers include India, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Brazil.
- The Global Risks Report 2026, issued by the World Economic Forum, flags geoeconomic confrontation, state-based armed conflict, extreme weather events and social polarisation as top near-term risks.
- For the 10-year horizon to 2036, the leading risks are extreme weather, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.
- The main risks for India are cyber insecurity, wealth and income inequality, and inadequate public services and social protection.

UNSC Members for 2026 and India's IMO Council Re-election

Context: Five new non-permanent members began their two-year UN Security Council terms on 1 January 2026, while India was re-elected to the IMO Council for 2026-27 in Category B in November 2025. Bahrain, Colombia, DR Congo, Latvia and Liberia replaced Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia. Category B holds the 10 states with the largest interest in seaborne trade.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India was re-elected to the IMO Council for 2026-27 in Category B on 28 November 2025.
- Category B holds the 10 states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade.

□ **UN Security Council**

- Bahrain, Colombia, DR Congo, Latvia and Liberia started two-year non-permanent terms on 1 January 2026.
- They replaced Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia.
- Continuing members until end-2026: Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia.

US Strikes on Venezuela: Operation Absolute Resolve

Context: The United States carried out strikes on Caracas and surrounding areas under 'Operation Absolute Resolve', resulting in the capture of Venezuela's president. The action drew wide criticism as a breach of international law and revived debate about US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Monroe Doctrine was announced in 1823 by US President James Monroe and rested on non-colonisation, European non-intervention and American non-intervention in Europe. The 'Donroe Doctrine', named after Donald Trump and linked to the US National Security Strategy 2025, is an informal label for reasserting American dominance in the Americas.
- The UN Secretary-General expressed deep concern and stressed full respect for the UN Charter, and the UN human rights office rejected the claim that the raid was needed to counter rights abuses.
- Russia, China, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Panama and Cuba criticised the action, while Argentina, Paraguay and Israel praised it.
- India expressed deep concern, reiterated its commitment to sovereignty and non-interference, and called for peaceful dialogue and diplomacy.
- The stated US reasons were drug trafficking, narco-terrorism and organised crime, and the claim that the Venezuelan leader was not legitimate after the disputed 2024 election.
- Venezuela holds about 17 percent of the world's crude oil reserves, the largest anywhere, mostly in the Orinoco Belt.
- Article 2 of the UN Charter obliges states to avoid use of force, except in cases such as self-defence.
- The Gujral Doctrine, based on non-interference and respect for sovereignty, is cited as a model for regional stability.

US Withdrawal from International Organisations

Context: In January 2026 the US President signed a memorandum ending participation and funding for 35 non-UN organisations and 31 UN entities, citing financial burden, sovereignty and an 'America First' approach. The list includes the UNFCCC, IPCC, International Solar Alliance, IRENA, WHO and the UN Human Rights Council, with a second formal exit from the Paris Agreement announced. It matters for global governance and climate cooperation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The United States announced in January 2026, for the second time, its formal exit from the Paris Climate Agreement, and

withdrawals include the UNFCCC, the IPCC, the International Solar Alliance, IRENA and the IUCN.

- Health and gender bodies affected include the WHO (and Gavi), the UN Population Fund and UN Women.
- Peace and development bodies affected include the UN Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund, UNCTAD, UNRWA and UNESCO, from which the US had earlier withdrawn in 1984 and 2017.
- USAID, now dissolved, had a budget of 44.2 billion dollars in 2024, about 42 percent of all humanitarian aid recorded by the UN that year.

AI Impact Summit 2026 and the New Delhi Declaration

Context: The AI Impact Summit in New Delhi produced the voluntary, non-binding New Delhi Declaration on AI, adopted by 88 countries and organisations. India also joined the US-led Pax Silica initiative there.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Switzerland will host the 2027 summit in Geneva.
- Platforms created include Global AI Impact Commons, Trusted AI Commons and the International AI for Science Network.
- Total commitments of $250 billion, including $20 billion for deep-tech research.
- Sarvam AI launched India's first domestically trained multi-billion parameter LLMs.
- Reliance announced Rs 10 lakh crore for AI infrastructure over seven years.
- New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments were announced.
- Sarvam AI launched two LLMs, Gnani.ai launched Vachana text to speech, and BharatGen released Param2 17B, a Mixture-of-Experts model.
- Bharat GI was also unveiled at the summit.
- It followed summits at Bletchley Park (2023), Seoul (2024) and Paris (2025).
- The summit was built on seven Chakras and three Sutras.
- India's M.A.N.A.V. framework: Moral and ethical system, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible and inclusive AI, Valid and legitimate systems.
- The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact is guided by Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya.
- The IT Intermediary Guidelines Amendment Rules, 2026 regulate synthetically generated content.

□ **Summit Lineage**

- 2023 Bletchley Park (UK), 2024 Seoul, 2025 Paris, 2026 New Delhi.
- Pax Silica held its inaugural summit in December 2025.

Arctic Sentry and Conflict Areas in the News

Context: In February 2026 NATO launched Arctic Sentry, a mission led by Joint Force Command Norfolk to strengthen Arctic security, while several conflict locations featured in the news. These included the partially reopened Rafah crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border, Chagos (the UK agreed in 2025 to return it to Mauritius, retaining Diego Garcia on a 99-year lease), and El-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur.

□ **Key Highlights**

- NATO's Arctic Sentry mission, led by Joint Force Command Norfolk, aims to strengthen Arctic security.
- The US Department of Energy dropped the ALARA principle for radiation protection from its directives.
- Rafah crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border partially reopened; the other two crossings are Erez and Kerem Shalom.
- The UK signed an agreement in 2025 to return Chagos to Mauritius while retaining Diego Garcia on a 99-year lease.
- El-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur region saw reported indications of genocide during a siege by a paramilitary group.

BNP's Victory and India-Bangladesh Ties

Context: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Tarique Rahman won a decisive mandate in Bangladesh's elections in February 2026, held after Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024. The Awami League was barred from contesting and Hasina is in India. The result matters for India-Bangladesh ties, as BNP-era relations (2001-2006) were strained over insurgent groups while Hasina's era saw strong counter-terror cooperation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- BNP was founded in 1978 by General Ziaur Rahman.
- The 2001-2006 BNP-Jamaat coalition saw strained relations with India over insurgent groups.
- Hasina's era (2008-2024) saw strong counter-terror cooperation.
- The Awami League was barred from contesting, and Hasina is in India.
- Early signals suggest cautious optimism.

Board of Peace for Gaza

Context: In February 2026 India attended the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace in Washington DC as an observer. The Board is a key part of the US 20-point plan to end the Gaza conflict and is backed by UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025). It is seen as a shift from universal multilateralism towards 'minilateral', leader-centred institutions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Board is backed by UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025).
- Alongside it, the process of forming the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) and the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) has begun.
- It is seen as a shift from universal multilateralism towards 'minilateral', leader-centred institutions.
- Supporters argue that it may be more outcome-oriented than the consensus-based UN system and can involve private sector experts.

End of the New START Treaty

Context: The New START treaty between the US and Russia expired on 5 February 2026, ending five decades of binding

nuclear limits. Signed in 2010 and in force from 2011, it capped deployed warheads at 1,550 and delivery vehicles at 800 with 18 annual inspections, and was extended in 2021 for five years. Its lapse removes the last arms-control treaty between the two powers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Signed in 2010 by Obama and Medvedev and in force from 2011. Capped warheads at 1,550 and delivery vehicles at 800 with 18 annual inspections.
- Extended in 2021 for five years.

□ **Earlier Treaties**

- SALT talks began in 1969 and the ABM Treaty was signed in 1972; the US withdrew in 2002.
- START I (signed 1991, in force 1994) limited warheads to 6,000.
- SORT (2002) cut deployed warheads to 1,700-2,200 by 2012.
- US holds about 5,277 warheads and Russia about 5,449.

India-Brazil Rare Earth Agreement and Trade Target

Context: During President Lula da Silva's visit to New Delhi, India and Brazil signed an agreement on rare earths and critical minerals alongside digital and trade pacts, and raised their trade target to 30 billion dollars by 2030.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Diplomatic relations date from 1948 and a Strategic Partnership was set up in 2006; Brazil is a co-founder of the Global Biofuel Alliance.
- A strategic pact on rare earth and critical minerals to reduce dependence on China's processing dominance.
- Only 30 per cent of Brazil's reserves are explored.
- Agreements on steel mining and mineral supply chains.
- A joint declaration on AI, semiconductors, blockchain and supercomputing.
- Bilateral trade grew over 25 per cent to 15.21 billion dollars in 2025.
- A Joint Declaration on a Digital Partnership for the Future was adopted.
- Trade target raised from 20 billion dollars to 30 billion dollars by 2030.
- Brazil extended business visas for Indian passport holders to 10 years.

India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership

Context: French President Emmanuel Macron visited India, attended the AI Impact Summit and held a bilateral summit with PM Modi in Mumbai. The partnership was elevated from a Strategic Partnership to a Special Global Strategic Partnership, with defence-industrial, nuclear, critical minerals and innovation outcomes.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Ties began in 1947, became a Strategic Partnership in 1998, and the Horizon 2047 roadmap was adopted in 2023. France is India's second-largest defence supplier; exercises include VARUNA, FRINJEX, La Perouse and ORION.
- This was Macron's fourth visit since 2017 and the first official one to Mumbai.
- A new annual Foreign Ministers' Comprehensive Dialogue will track the Horizon 2047 Roadmap.
- The H125 helicopter final assembly line, a Tata-Airbus project, is India's first private-sector helicopter facility.
- MRO hubs are planned for LEAP and M-88 engines, and BEL and Safran will form a joint venture for HAMMER smart munitions.
- The 1992 Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was amended to include BEPS Multilateral Instrument provisions and drop the Most Favoured Nation clause.
- A Joint Declaration of Intent covers critical minerals, and cooperation on Small and Advanced Modular Reactors, high-speed rail and hydrogen trains was agreed.
- Both leaders virtually inaugurated the Airbus H125 helicopter final assembly line at Vemagal, Karnataka.
- The India-France Year of Innovation was launched at the Gateway of India.
- ISRO and CNES continue work on the TRISHNA thermal infrared satellite.
- The 2026 India-France Year of Innovation was jointly inaugurated.
- The two countries co-preside over the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- Bilateral trade was Euro 12.67 billion in 2024-25; UPI has been launched in France.

India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership

Context: PM Modi's two-day state visit to Israel in February 2026 elevated ties to a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity, with 27 outcomes including 17 agreements. These covered critical and emerging technologies, a Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, UPI in Israel, up to 50,000 Indian workers over five years and progress on a Free Trade Agreement. Full diplomatic relations date from 1992.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Full diplomatic relations began in 1992. Modi's 2017 visit created a Strategic Partnership.
- A Critical and Emerging Technologies Partnership covering AI, quantum, cybersecurity and critical minerals.
- A Critical and Emerging Technologies initiative led by both National Security Advisors covers AI, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum, biotechnology and space.
- A quota of up to 50,000 Indian workers over five years was agreed.
- An India-Israel Centre of Excellence in Cybersecurity will be set up in India.
- Agreement to enable UPI in Israel and progress on a Free Trade Agreement.
- Target of 100 Centres of Excellence in agriculture and launch of Villages of Excellence.

- Cooperation on IMEC and I2U2.
- Bilateral trade peaked at $10.77 billion in FY2022-23, excluding defence.

India-US Interim Trade Framework and India-GCC FTA

Context: India and the United States agreed a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement as a stepping stone to the Bilateral Trade Agreement launched in February 2025; US reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods fall from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. Separately, terms of reference were set for an India-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

□ Key Highlights

- A Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation was signed in New Delhi in 2004. India's trade with the GCC was 178.56 billion dollars in 2024-25, about 15.42 per cent of its global trade.
- The six GCC members are UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait; the headquarters is in Riyadh.
- The GCC was established on 25 May 1981 and hosts nearly ten million Indians.

□ Framework Terms

- The additional 25 per cent duty imposed over Russian oil imports has been withdrawn by the US.
- In August 2025 the US had imposed tariffs of up to 50 per cent on India.
- India will cut or remove tariffs on US industrial goods and reduce them on items such as tree nuts, fruit, soybean oil and wine and spirits.
- India plans to buy $500 billion of US goods over five years, including energy, aircraft, precious metals and coking coal.
- The US will remove tariffs on generic pharmaceuticals and gems and diamonds, ease aircraft-related tariffs and give preferential quotas for auto parts.
- Trade in advanced technology including GPUs will expand.
- India-US trade stood at a record 132.2 billion dollars in FY25, and US FDI inflows total 70.65 billion dollars (2000-2025).

□ Agreements on Reciprocal Trade

- ARTs are not signed under GATT Article XXIV and not notified to the WTO.
- Article XXIV requires FTAs to cover substantially all trade and customs unions to adopt a common external tariff.
- Concerns include reduced transparency and no WTO dispute settlement.

Israel-US Strikes on Iran and India's Position

Context: Israel launched a daylight strike on Tehran, joined by the US in Operation Epic Fury, after indirect US-Iran nuclear talks mediated by Oman in Geneva collapsed. Iran hit US-linked bases in the Gulf.

□ Key Highlights

- Iran targeted Al Udeid (Qatar), Al-Salem (Kuwait), Al-Dhafra (UAE) and the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain.
- India urged restraint less than two days after Modi's visit to Israel.
- About 10,000 Indians are in Iran, over 41,000 in Israel and 8 to 9 million in the Gulf.
- Nearly 60 per cent of India's energy imports come from West Asia.

Maritime Forums and Critical Minerals Initiatives

Context: India took over chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and assumed command of Combined Task Force-154. Meanwhile the United States announced FORGE and Project Vault to secure critical minerals supply chains.

□ Maritime Forums

- IONS was established in 2008, initiated by the Indian Navy, and has 25 member nations.
- India took the first-ever command of Combined Task Force-154, a training task force under the Combined Maritime Forces.
- The Combined Maritime Forces is a 47-nation voluntary partnership upholding the rules-based international order.

□ Critical Minerals

- FORGE (Forum on Resource, Geostrategic Engagement) was launched at the inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC with over 50 countries including India.
- FORGE succeeds the Minerals Security Partnership.
- Project Vault creates the US Strategic Critical Minerals Reserve as an independent public-private partnership to buy and store critical minerals and rare earths.

PM Visit to Malaysia

Context: The Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia in February 2026 reinforced the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of August 2024. A Strategic Affairs Working Group and a Su-30 Forum between the air forces were set up, the fifth edition of exercise Harimau Shakti was held, and Malaysia reaffirmed its role as a reliable palm oil supplier and promised solar and hydrogen investment.

□ Key Highlights

- A Strategic Affairs Working Group and a Su-30 Forum were set up between the air forces.
- The fifth edition of exercise Harimau Shakti was held.
- Malaysia reaffirmed its role as a reliable palm oil supplier and Malaysian firms will invest in solar and hydrogen.

Reform of the Global Trading System

Context: The head of the World Trade Organization highlighted the need to reform the global trading system, which faces geopolitical, logistical, green and institutional pressures. The WTO's dispute settlement system and negotiating function remain stalled.

□ Key Highlights

- The WTO Appellate Body is largely non-functional because the United States has blocked appointment of new judges.

- The Doha Development Agenda, started in 2001, remains unfinished after 25 years.
- The consensus rule lets any single member block a decision.
- Advanced economies argue that large emerging economies like China and India should not get Special and Differential Treatment.
- Measures like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism are seen as green trade barriers by developing countries.

Seychelles President's Visit to India

Context: The President of Seychelles visited India in February 2026; Seychelles will become a full member of the Colombo Security Conclave and India announced a 175 million dollar package. Seychelles also agreed to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The visit matters because Seychelles is central to SAGAR and Vision MAHASAGAR and hosts India's Assumption Island surveillance plans.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Seychelles will become a full member of the Colombo Security Conclave, which includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives and Bangladesh.
- It agreed to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and to recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia.
- India will help build digital public infrastructure and a hydrographic unit, and announced a package of 175 million dollars.
- Seychelles is central to SAGAR and Vision MAHASAGAR and is the site for India's Assumption Island surveillance plans.

US Supreme Court Curbs IEEPA Tariffs

Context: In February 2026 the US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling, struck down President Trump's tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 1977. The Court held that the sweeping tariffs exceeded presidential authority since Congress holds the power to levy tariffs. IEEPA is mainly used for sanctions and asset freezes and does not mention tariffs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Court held that the sweeping tariffs exceeded presidential authority since Congress holds the power to levy tariffs.
- IEEPA is primarily used for sanctions and asset freezes and does not mention tariffs.
- Trump was the first President to use it for broad tariffs.

Balendra Shah Sworn In as Nepal's Prime Minister

Context: Balendra Shah, 35, was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister by President Ram Chandra Poudel, ending the transition that followed last September's Gen Z protests that toppled the K.P. Sharma Oli government.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The protests demanded clean governance and an end to corruption.
- An interim government led by former Chief Justice Sushila Karki ran Nepal in the interim.
- Shah is described as the youngest PM in Nepal's recent history.

Canadian PM Mark Carney Visits India

Context: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited India, the first bilateral visit by a Canadian PM since Justin Trudeau in 2018. The visit aimed to rebuild trust after the 2023 dispute over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar and boosted energy cooperation including uranium.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India and Canada share a Strategic Partnership since 2018. Over 1.8 million people of Indian origin live in Canada, nearly 5% of its population.
- Bilateral trade was 8.66 billion dollars in 2024-25.
- India exports pharmaceuticals, steel, seafood, garments and electronics and imports pulses, fertilisers, coal, crude and precious stones.

□ **Uranium Context**

- India's ore grade ranges from 0.02% to 0.45% against a global average of 1 to 2%, while some Canadian mines reach 15%.
- More than 70% of India's uranium needs are imported.
- Annual need was about 1,884 tonnes in 2025 and is projected at around 5,400 tonnes after nuclear expansion.
- Uranium production is concentrated in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

India as First Responder: Fuel and Aid to Neighbours

Context: Amid fuel disruption from the West Asia conflict in March 2026, India sent 5,000 MT diesel to Bangladesh and 38,000 MT petroleum to Sri Lanka, 2.5 tonnes of medical supplies to Kabul, and extended its 2021 pulses MoU with Myanmar by five years. The steps reflect India acting as a first responder under Neighbourhood First and the MAHASAGAR vision.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India supplied 5,000 MT diesel to Bangladesh through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, operational since 2023; Bangladesh has bought diesel from Numaligarh since 2015.
- India shipped 38,000 MT petroleum to Sri Lanka, reflecting Neighbourhood First and the MAHASAGAR vision.
- MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime and Holistic Approach for Security and Growth Across Regions.
- India sent 2.5 tonnes of medical supplies to Kabul after an airstrike hit a 2,000-bed drug rehabilitation hospital.
- The 2021 MoU with Myanmar on Urad (2.5 lakh tonnes) and Tur (1 lakh tonnes) was extended five years beyond 2025-26, with 1 lakh tonnes extra Tur allowed for 2026-27.

India-Finland Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability

Context: PM Modi and Finnish President Alexander Stubb elevated bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability during talks in New Delhi in March 2026. The partnership covers artificial intelligence, 6G, clean energy, quantum computing, defence, space, semiconductors and critical minerals. Past cooperation includes Nokia, the Chenab rail bridge design and the Numaligarh bamboo-to-bioethanol refinery.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Artificial intelligence and 6G telecommunications.
- Clean energy and quantum computing.
- Defence, space, semiconductors and critical minerals.
- Past cooperation includes Nokia, the Chenab rail bridge design and the Numaligarh bamboo-to-bioethanol refinery in Assam.

Iran's Power Structure and Velayat-e-Faqih

Context: Following the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei in March 2026, attention turned to Iran's political system built on Khomeini's doctrine of velayat-e-faqih, or rule of the jurisprudent. The 1979 Constitution created the post of Supreme Leader with authority over political and religious affairs, and the Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader. The IRGC, created after the 1979 Revolution, is a key power centre.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The 1979 Constitution created the post of Supreme Leader with authority over political and religious affairs.
- After Khomeini's death in 1989, amendments abolished the post of Prime Minister and gave its functions to the President and Speaker of Majlis.
- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was created after the 1979 Revolution and supports Hamas and Hezbollah.
- The Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader.

UNGA Slave Trade Resolution and New Arab League Chief

Context: The UN General Assembly recognised the enslavement of Africans in the transatlantic slave trade as the 'gravest crime against humanity' in a resolution proposed by Ghana. Separately, Egypt's Nabil Fahmy was approved as Arab League Secretary-General.

□ **UNGA Resolution**

- It urges states to consider apologising and contributing to a reparations fund, with no amount specified.
- It calls for return of looted cultural artefacts.
- UNGA resolutions are not legally binding.

□ **Arab League**

- Nabil Fahmy, a former Egyptian Foreign Minister, takes over on 1 July 2026 for a five-year term.
- He succeeds Ahmed Aboul Gheit, whose second term ends on 30 June.

US Section 301 Investigations Against India

Context: The United States launched Section 301(b) investigations covering India and other economies, one on excess manufacturing capacity and another on forced labour safeguards across 60 countries. It follows the US Supreme Court striking down IEEPA tariffs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 lets the USTR probe unfair foreign trade practices and impose retaliatory tariffs.
- USTR identified solar modules, petrochemicals, steel, textiles, healthcare products, construction materials and automobiles.
- The US estimates its deficit with India at 58 billion dollars in 2025, whereas Indian data shows 42.2 billion dollars.
- India-US trade reached 131.84 billion dollars in 2024-25.
- After the court ruling, a temporary 10% tariff for 150 days was imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974.

US-Israel-Iran Conflict: Khamenei Killed, Gulf Energy Hit

Context: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 86, was killed in an attack by US and Israeli forces; his son Mojtaba Khamenei was later chosen as successor. The war spread to Gulf energy sites and the Indian Ocean.

□ **Key Highlights**

- An Interim Leadership Council of three members took over before the Assembly of Experts chose Mojtaba Khamenei.
- Israel struck South Pars; Iran then hit Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City.
- The US bombed military installations on Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub.
- Iran fired two Khorramshahr-4 missiles at Diego Garcia, about 4,000 km away; an SM-3 interceptor was used in response.
- A US submarine torpedoed Iranian warship IRIS Dena near Sri Lanka's EEZ, killing at least 80 sailors, after it returned from MILAN-2026 and the International Fleet Review.

WTO MC14 at Yaounde Ends Without Consensus

Context: The 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon ended inconclusively, mainly because the US wanted a five-year moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions while others accepted only the customary two-year extension. India also blocked the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement.

□ **E-commerce Moratorium**

- The moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has existed since 1998 and has effectively lapsed.
- India has opposed extending the moratorium since the beginning.

- Developing nations argue they lose revenue as physical goods become digital downloads.

□ **What Was Agreed**

- Negotiations on fisheries subsidies for distant-water fleets continue, with recommendations targeted for MC15.
- Decisions on integrating small economies and on special and differential treatment under SPS and TBT agreements were adopted.
- WTO reform work plan and LDC package were not finalised.

□ **IFD Agreement**

- 129 of 166 members backed adoption, but India alone blocked its incorporation into the WTO.
- India argues plurilateral deals create a two-tier WTO and distract from agricultural subsidies and public stockholding.
- Around 98 of the 129 supporters are also part of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker's Visit to India

Context: Austrian Federal Chancellor Dr. Christian Stocker made an official visit to India, the first by an Austrian Chancellor in 42 years. It followed PM Modi's July 2024 visit to Austria and reaffirmed the Enhanced India-Austria Partnership.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A Letter of Intent set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and a Cybersecurity Dialogue was launched.
- A Letter of Intent on Cooperation in Military Matters gives an institutional framework for defence industrial cooperation.
- A partnership was welcomed between India's Centre for UN Peacekeeping and Austria's Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT).
- A Fast-Track Mechanism will address problems faced by investors in both countries.
- The MoU on road infrastructure cooperation was renewed, and pumped storage and green hydrogen were named priority areas.
- A bilateral space industry seminar will be held in Vienna in autumn 2026.
- A joint Letter of Intent covers dual vocational training and recognition of vocational qualifications.

BRICS 2026: India's Chair, Chair's Summary and Membership

Context: India holds the BRICS Presidency in 2026 under the theme Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability. A meeting of deputy foreign ministers on the Middle East and North Africa ended with a Chair's Summary rather than a Joint Statement, exposing divisions over the US-Israel war on Iran.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A Joint Statement needs consensus of all members; a Chair's Summary is issued only by the host.
- BRICS has 11 members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Indonesia.
- Iran is under attack while Saudi Arabia and the UAE host US bases and were hit by Iranian missiles.
- The BRICS 2026 theme is Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability.
- BRICS+ expanded in 2023 to include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Iran.
- Among new members, only Egypt and Iran joined the December 2025 call for STI proposals.
- The lead role rotates annually with the presidency; there is no permanent secretariat or fund-management body.

OCI Extended to Sixth Generation in Sri Lanka

Context: During a two-day visit to Sri Lanka, Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan announced that OCI eligibility for the Indian diaspora in Sri Lanka extends from the 4th to the 6th generation. The MHA also notified 14 more seaports for e-visa entry.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Eligibility will be based on documents issued by Sri Lankan authorities.
- India's $450 million aid package for Cyclone Ditwah was highlighted.
- The OCI scheme began in 2005 through amendments to the Citizenship Act, 1955, and is not dual citizenship.
- OCI holders get a lifelong multiple-entry visa but have no voting rights, cannot hold constitutional posts and cannot buy agricultural land.
- The 14 new e-visa seaports include seven in Gujarat (Alang, Bedi Bandar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Hazira, Pipavav, Mandvi), three in Tamil Nadu, two in Andhra Pradesh and two in Odisha (Paradip, Dhamra).
- India has 114 immigration check posts, and e-visa is available to citizens of 207 countries, excluding China, Pakistan, Yemen and Iran.
- E-visa validity ranges from 1 month to 5 years.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung Visits India

Context: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung visited New Delhi and held talks with PM Modi, advancing the India-South Korea Special Strategic Partnership. Agreements covered trade, technology, maritime affairs and culture, summed up as 'chips to ships, talent to technology'.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Diplomatic relations were established in 1973 and upgraded to a Special Strategic Partnership in 2015.
- India's Act East Policy and South Korea's New Southern Policy both treat the Indo-Pacific as a priority.
- The K9 Vajra-T artillery gun, built in India with South Korean technology, is a key defence co-production example.
- Cooperation is widening into AI, shipbuilding and semiconductors.

- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been in force since 2010 and trade rose by about 90% in 15 years.
- The Queen Suriratna memorial in Ayodhya symbolises historical links.

UAE Exits OPEC and OPEC+

Context: The United Arab Emirates decided to leave OPEC and the wider OPEC+ alliance effective 1 May, ending nearly six decades of membership. The move came amid oil market disruption from the US-Iran conflict and reflects both security and economic motives.

□ **Key Highlights**

- OPEC was founded in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The UAE joined in 1967, initially through Abu Dhabi.
- OPEC+ was formed in 2016 by OPEC and 10 major non-OPEC producers such as Russia, Mexico and Kazakhstan.
- OPEC+ produces roughly 40% of the world's crude oil and accounts for about 60% of internationally traded petroleum.
- OPEC currently has 12 members including the UAE before exit.

US-Iran Two-Week Ceasefire and Impact on India

Context: A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran was announced by President Trump shortly before his deadline, with Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi agreeing soon after. Talks in Islamabad later collapsed and the US began a blockade of Iranian ports, leaving the Strait of Hormuz and India's energy security at the centre of concern.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The ceasefire eased threats against Iran's energy infrastructure and the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Islamabad talks were the first high-level political contact between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- The talks broke down over Iran's nuclear programme, control of the Strait of Hormuz and frozen assets.
- Iran refused to give up its stockpile of more than 440 kg of 60% enriched uranium and asked for release of $27 billion of frozen revenue held in seven countries.
- Iran's 10-point plan was narrowed to three core issues: sanctions relief, enrichment rights and control of the Strait.

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and SAI Summit

Context: India hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Bharat Mandapam under its 2026 Chairmanship, though a joint statement remained elusive due to Iran-UAE tensions. The 5th BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions Summit was held in Bengaluru.

□ **Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

- It was the biggest multilateral meeting India hosted since the Gulf conflict began on 28 February 2026.
- India reiterated the two-state solution and called for a sustained ceasefire in Gaza.
- India urged safe and unimpeded maritime flows through the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea.
- It flagged unilateral coercive measures as inconsistent with international law.

□ **5th BRICS SAI Leaders' Summit**

- It was held in Bengaluru and convened by CAG K. Sanjay Murthy.
- The theme was Ease of Living with a Focus on Urban Mobility.
- Members adopted the Bengaluru Declaration and the BRICS SAI Work Plan 2027-28.

India-Cyprus Strategic Partnership

Context: Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides visited New Delhi in May 2026 and ties were elevated to a Strategic Partnership. Cyprus currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Both sides aim to double bilateral investment in five years and set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, with Cyprus condemning the Pahalgam attack and forming a Friends of IMEEC grouping within the EU.

□ **Key Highlights**

- PM Modi described Cyprus as an investment gateway between India and Europe, and both aim to double bilateral investment in five years.
- An MoU links the Cyprus Defence and Space Industries Cluster with SIDM, and a cybersecurity dialogue will be set up.
- A Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was created; Cyprus condemned the Pahalgam attack.
- Cyprus has formed a Friends of IMEEC grouping within the EU.
- Direct flights between the two countries will start soon.

India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership

Context: On the last leg of his European tour, PM Modi and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni raised India-Italy ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, anchored by the Joint Strategic Plan of Action 2025-29.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The bilateral trade target is 20 billion euros by 2029, up from 14.25 billion euros.
- Tata Motors' 3.8 billion euro acquisition of Iveco Group is the largest Indian investment in Italy.
- Italy opened a SIMEST office in Delhi with a 500 million euro funding line, and SACE added 200 million euros for SMEs.
- A Defence Industrial Roadmap covers co-development, co-production and technology transfer in helicopters, naval platforms, electronic warfare and MRO.
- An India-Italy Innovation Centre was proposed, with cooperation on AI, quantum, space and civil nuclear energy.

□ **IMEEC and Connectivity**

- Italy backed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and sees itself as its western anchor.
- The first IMEEC Ministerial Meeting is to be held in 2026.
- The Sparkle-Airtel Blue-Raman submarine cable connecting to Genoa has been activated; Blue links Italy, Greece and Israel while Raman links Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman and India.

India-Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Context: During Vietnamese President To Lam's visit to New Delhi, India and Vietnam raised their relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. A new trade target of 25 billion dollars by 2030 was set.

□ **Key Highlights**

- To Lam is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and visited within a month of becoming President.
- The trade target is 25 billion dollars by 2030, against the present 16.4 billion dollars.
- Thirteen agreements were signed, including an RBI and State Bank of Vietnam MoU on digital payments and QR-based cross-border transactions.
- An MoU on radioactive and rare earth minerals was signed, along with cooperation in digital public infrastructure, AI, 6G, space and critical minerals.
- Market access is to be widened for Indian grapes and pomegranates and Vietnamese durians and pomelos.

Indian Ocean Dialogue and IORA

Context: The Indian Ocean Dialogue, a Track 1.5 conference, was co-hosted by IORA and India's MEA and organised by ICWA in Delhi in May 2026, with the West Asia war dominating concerns. The Indian Ocean Rim Association, formed in 1997, has 23 member states and 12 dialogue partners, and India chairs it for 2025-2027. IORA supports India's MAHASAGAR vision.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association was formed in 1997 and has 23 member states and 12 dialogue partners. India chairs IORA for 2025-2027.
- Pakistan has never been admitted as its refusal to grant India Most Favoured Nation status contravenes the charter's sovereign equality principle.
- IORA supports India's MAHASAGAR vision and Indo-Pacific strategy.
- Priority areas include maritime safety, trade and investment, fisheries, disaster risk management, tourism, academic cooperation, blue economy and women's empowerment.

Lipulekh Pass and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Dispute

Context: In May 2026 India announced resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lipulekh Pass from June to August 2026, prompting a formal protest from Nepal's new government. Lipulekh lies at the India-Nepal-China tri-junction. Nepal cites the Treaty of Sugauli (1816) to claim Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani, while India calls the claim unjustified and prefers bilateral dialogue.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Lipulekh lies at the India-Nepal-China tri-junction, and India has used it for the Yatra since 1954.
- Nepal cites the Treaty of Sugauli (1816) to claim Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani east of the Mahakali River and published a new map in 2020.
- India calls the claim unjustified and prefers bilateral dialogue.
- China resumed trade via Lipulekh in 2025.

Modi in Netherlands: Chola Plates Returned

Context: PM Modi made a state visit to the Netherlands on 16-17 May 2026 as the first leg of a four-nation European tour. Ties were upgraded to a Strategic Partnership and the Netherlands returned 11th-century Chola copper plates.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The tour covered the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, and came after the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and a new India-EU Security and Defence Partnership.
- Modi held talks with Dutch PM Rob Jetten at The Hague; it was his second visit after 2017.
- Seventeen MoUs were signed, including the WAH framework on Water, Agriculture and Health.
- A Tata Electronics and ASML semiconductor fabrication project was the headline agreement; ASML has a near-monopoly on EUV lithography machines.
- The Netherlands joined the Global Biofuel Alliance, a Joint Working Group on Renewable Energy was set up and an India-Netherlands Green Hydrogen Roadmap was launched.

□ **Chola Copper Plates**

- The plates, also called the Anaimangalam or Leiden Plates, date from the reign of Rajaraja Chola I (985-1014 AD).
- They comprise 21 large and 3 small plates, weigh about 30 kg and carry Sanskrit and Tamil texts on land grants, governance and taxation.
- They were taken to the Netherlands in 1712 by Florentius Camper when Nagapattinam was under Dutch control.
- Their return followed a 14-year diplomatic effort.

Modi in Sweden, Norway and India-Nordic Summit

Context: PM Modi visited Sweden on 17-18 May and Norway on 18-19 May 2026. Ties with Sweden became a Strategic Partnership, and with Norway a Green Strategic Partnership, while he attended the Third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo.

□ **Sweden**

- It was his first visit in eight years; the last was in April 2018 for the first India-Nordic Summit.
- Ties were elevated to a Strategic Partnership and a Joint Action Plan for 2026-2030 was endorsed.

- Bilateral trade in goods and services was 7.75 billion dollars in 2025, and over 280 Swedish companies operate in India.

□ **Norway**

- It was the first standalone bilateral visit by an Indian PM in 43 years, after Indira Gandhi in 1983.
- The Green Strategic Partnership rests on four pillars: clean energy, climate resilience, blue economy and green shipping.
- MoUs covered ISRO and the Norwegian Space Agency, digital public infrastructure, digital health, and AI research.
- Norway announced it will join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- India's Arctic station Himadri has hosted over 400 scientists since 2008.
- Modi received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit from King Harald V.

□ **Third India-Nordic Summit**

- Leaders of Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden attended.
- India and the United States are the only countries engaging the Nordic bloc at summit level.
- Earlier summits were held at Stockholm in 2018 and Copenhagen in 2022.

PM Modi's UAE Visit and 5 Billion Dollar Investment

Context: PM Modi held talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi in May 2026, during which the UAE announced 5 billion dollars of investment in India. A framework agreement for a strategic defence partnership was finalised, and an 8 exaflop supercomputing cluster, a Vadinar ship-repair cluster and a larger UAE role in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves were agreed.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A framework agreement for a strategic defence partnership was finalised.
- Cochin Shipyard and Drydocks World signed an MoU on a ship-repair cluster at Vadinar.
- C-DAC and G42 will set up an 8 exaflop supercomputing cluster.
- The Virtual Trade Corridor was operationalised under the MAITRI framework.
- Investments include up to 1 billion dollars by ADIA and NIIF, 3 billion dollars by Emirates NBD in RBL Bank, and 1 billion dollars by International Holding Company in Sammaan Capital.

□ **Energy**

- The UAE is India's fourth-largest crude supplier and largest LPG supplier, meeting about 40 per cent of LPG needs.
- UAE participation in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves will rise to 30 million barrels; SPR sites are Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur.
- IOCL and ADNOC agreed a long-term LPG supply deal.

Project Freedom and the Strait of Hormuz Crisis

Context: In May 2026 the US announced Project Freedom to end Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz but suspended it a day later after merchant ships and two US destroyers were attacked. Trump cited progress in negotiations with Iran. The Strait carries about 20 per cent of global oil, so the crisis matters for energy security and maritime strategy.

□ **Key Highlights**

- About 20 per cent of global oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Trump cited progress in negotiations with Iran as the reason for suspension.
- Iran has used drones and mines as asymmetric tools.
- The US had earlier run Operation Earnest Will in 1987-88 with convoy escorts.

Russia-China Ties and Putin's Beijing Visit

Context: Russian President Putin visited Beijing in May 2026, days after Trump, producing a joint statement and over 40 agreements. Xi warned against unilateral and hegemonic countercurrents without naming the US, and both leaders backed a multipolar order. China accounts for about 32 per cent of Russia's trade, and the deepening partnership narrows India's strategic space.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Xi warned against unilateral and hegemonic countercurrents without naming the US, and both leaders backed a multipolar order.
- China accounts for about 32 per cent of Russia's trade, roughly 228 billion dollars of 700 billion dollars in 2025.
- Trade is increasingly settled in yuan and rouble.

Trump-Xi Beijing Summit 2026

Context: US President Donald Trump visited China to meet President Xi Jinping, his first China visit of the second term and the first by a sitting US President since 2017. The summit was overshadowed by the West Asia crisis and produced tentative steps rather than a breakthrough.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It was the seventh in-person meeting between Trump and Xi.
- Trump travelled with over a dozen American CEOs.
- Both sides agreed on the need to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and support free flow of energy.
- They agreed to set up a Board of Trade and a Board of Investment allowing Chinese investment in non-sensitive sectors.
- The US cleared 10 Chinese firms to buy Nvidia H200 chips.
- Both sides discussed an AI Safety Dialogue.

□ **Points of Friction**

- Taiwan was the sharpest point of contention, and the 11 billion dollar US arms deal announced in December 2025 irritates Beijing.

- The US objects to Chinese rare earth restrictions, while China objects to American semiconductor export controls.
- Any concessional US-China tariff deal could set the baseline for US-India trade deal talks.

UN Secretary-General Election 2026

Context: In May 2026 four candidates presented themselves in informal dialogues at the UN General Assembly for the next Secretary-General: Michelle Bachelet, Rebeca Grynspan, Macky Sall and Rafael Grossi. The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the Security Council's recommendation, where the P5 hold effective veto, and the post rotates among regions, with Latin America and the Caribbean next in turn.

□ **Process**

- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the Security Council's recommendation, where the P5 hold effective veto.
- Since 1981 incumbents have limited themselves to two terms.
- The post rotates among regions, and the current turn is Latin America and the Caribbean.

□ **Candidates**

- Michelle Bachelet is former President of Chile and ex-UN human rights chief.
- Rebeca Grynspan heads UNCTAD.
- Macky Sall is former President of Senegal.
- Rafael Grossi heads the IAEA.

World Health Assembly Resolution on Stroke

Context: In May 2026 the 79th World Health Assembly adopted its first-ever resolution on stroke, recognising it as a major global public health challenge. Titled 'Reducing the burden of stroke', it was proposed by Chile, Egypt, Georgia, Palestine, Paraguay and Tunisia at the WHO Executive Board in February 2026. It calls for stroke registries, stroke units, rehabilitation and telemedicine, and mandates WHO to develop technical guidance.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The resolution is titled 'Reducing the burden of stroke: Strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health-system readiness'.
- It was proposed by Chile, Egypt, Georgia, Palestine, Paraguay and Tunisia at the 158th WHO Executive Board session in February 2026.
- It stresses population-level control of hypertension, diabetes, obesity and dyslipidaemia, and defines stroke-ready facilities.
- It calls for national stroke registries, stroke units, rehabilitation and telemedicine.
- WHO is mandated to develop technical guidance for member states.
- In India nearly 1 in 7 stroke patients is below 45 and only 1 in 5 reaches hospital in time.

11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi

Context: The 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in New Delhi on 26 May 2026 with Jaishankar, Rubio, Motegi and Penny Wong. It announced initiatives on connectivity, maritime surveillance, energy security and critical minerals, but the joint statement named no host or date for the next Leaders' Summit.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Quad is an informal grouping of India, the US, Japan and Australia that began as coordination of relief after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Shinzo Abe formally proposed it in 2007 and it was revived in 2017.
- The Quad pledged to link all Pacific Island Forum countries, including Fiji, by undersea cables by 2026 and to advance port infrastructure in Fiji under the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership.
- The Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC) Initiative, initially focused on the Indian Ocean, will enable real-time information sharing using members' combined surveillance capabilities.
- A Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security will identify cooperation in technology, policy, market analysis and emergency response exercises.
- The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework is a 20 billion dollar effort to coordinate investment in mining, processing and recycling.
- India will host a coast guard-led Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission under the Wilmington Declaration, after the first mission from Palau to Guam.
- The members announced collaboration on next-generation communication standards, specifically 6G.
- A separate India-US Strategic Critical Minerals Cooperation Framework was signed on the sidelines.
- It has six leader-level working groups: Climate, Critical and Emerging Technologies, Cyber, Health Security Partnership, Infrastructure, and Space.
- The Quad has no permanent secretariat, treaty obligations or dedicated funding.

□ **Leaders' Summit Uncertainty**

- The 6th Quad Leaders' Summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware, in September 2024.
- The summit due in India has been delayed since 2024, and the joint statement named no host or date.

52nd G7 Summit at Evian and India's Partnership Role

Context: The 52nd G7 Summit was held in Evian-les-Bains under France's presidency, with the theme Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity. The Indian Prime Minister attended as a special invitee and pitched partnerships based on solidarity rather than a donor-recipient model.

□ **Summit Outcomes**

- Leaders called for reform of development finance and debt management, including strengthening the IMF-World Bank 3-Pillar Approach.
- They urged coordinated action against the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda.
- They committed to cancer research, including reducing lung cancer mortality and improving access to paediatric cancer data.
- The G7 welcomed the US-Iran nuclear agreement and backed a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- A G7+ Ports Network was announced to combat maritime drug trafficking and related illicit financial flows.

□ **India at the Summit**

- India said the world faces a shortage of trust rather than resources, worsened by misuse of trade and technology.
- India's approach was described as rooted in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and a humanity-first outlook.
- PM Modi joined the Outreach Session and several bilateral meetings.
- It presented India-Africa cooperation as a model of South-South cooperation.
- India expressed concern over disrupted trade routes, called for safe sea routes and seafarer protection, and backed freedom of navigation under international law.

BRICS Indore Declaration on Agriculture

Context: Under India's 2026 BRICS Presidency, the 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at Indore unanimously adopted the BRICS Indore Declaration, the first such meeting to include Partner Countries along with Members. Separately, the 2nd BRICS Culture Working Group met in Varanasi to discuss joint UNESCO nominations.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Jim O'Neill coined BRIC in 2001, and the first BRIC summit was held in Russia in 2009. The New Development Bank was created at the 2014 Fortaleza summit with 100 billion dollars of authorised capital, alongside a 100 billion dollar Contingent Reserve Arrangement.
- Partner countries are Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.
- BRICS has no permanent secretariat.

□ **Indore Declaration**

- It sets four priority areas: food security, trade, climate and technology.
- Food security stresses farmer-centric governance, income resilience and nutrition.
- Trade covers stable supply chains and coordination, climate covers regenerative and climate-resilient farming, and technology covers innovation in food systems.
- The theme was Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.
- A Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems will work mainly virtually, coordinated by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority.
- Members backed the proposed BRICS Grain Exchange and launched BRICS AGRIN, a network for seeds, genetic resources and agricultural inputs.
- A BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture will be coordinated initially by ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram.
- A BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture will be coordinated initially by IIT Delhi.

□ **Culture Working Group**

- The BRICS Culture Working Group met in Varanasi and considered joint nominations, including an India-China proposal.
- Shared heritage includes Ramayana traditions with Indonesia and Buddhist scriptures with China.

China-Bangladesh Talks on Teesta Project

Context: Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman received an assurance from China during his June 2026 Beijing visit for the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project. The move raises strategic concerns for India.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Bangladesh Water Development Board and POWERCHINA extended an MoU under the interim government led by Md. Yunus.
- Winter flows in the Teesta fall sharply between December and February when paddy and vegetables are sown.
- The Teesta originates from Cholamu (Tso Lhamu) Lake at 5,100 metres in Sikkim; Gajoldoba Barrage in West Bengal is a key Indian structure.
- A 2010 interim sharing deal collapsed in 2011 over objections from the West Bengal Chief Minister.
- The project area near Nilphamari and Rangpur lies close to India's Siliguri Corridor.

Critical Minerals: India-US Framework, India-UK Observatory

Context: India signed a framework with the United States on securing supply in mining and processing of critical minerals and rare earths, and formally launched an India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory.

□ **India-US Framework**

- The framework builds on earlier US-led initiatives such as Pax Silica and FORGE.
- It covers financing, recycling and diversification of supply chains for critical minerals and rare earths.
- Rare earth elements are 17 elements: scandium, yttrium and the 15 lanthanides.
- China holds 49 per cent of reserves, produces 69 per cent of rare earths and controls 90 per cent of processing and refining.
- China also commands 99 per cent of gallium refining and 58 per cent of global lithium refining.

□ **India-UK Observatory**

- The Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) was announced during the 2025 India-UK Prime Ministers' engagement and formalised by a Research Collaboration Agreement in March 2026.
- It is a joint initiative of TEXMiN (TTRP, DST), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and the University of Cambridge.
- It will monitor global critical mineral supply chains and support the National Critical Mineral Mission.

Global Peace Index 2026 and Human Rights Alliance

Context: In June 2026 India ranked 127th among 163 countries in the Global Peace Index 2026, published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, while the UN human rights office (OHCHR) launched a Global Alliance for Human Rights ahead of the UDHR's 80th anniversary. Iceland topped the index for the 19th consecutive year and Russia ranked last.

□ **Global Peace Index 2026**

- The index is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace.
- Iceland ranked first for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia and Ireland.
- Russia ranked last, preceded by Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine and Israel.
- It uses 23 indicators across Societal Safety and Security, Ongoing Conflict, and Militarisation.

□ **Global Alliance for Human Rights**

- It was launched by OHCHR as a long-term effort leading to the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2028.
- Its guiding principles are Imagine, Dialogue and Act.
- The UDHR was adopted in 1948.

IMEC, CPEC 2.0 and Areas in News

Context: West Asian conflict has strengthened the logic of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor while complicating it, and China and Pakistan agreed to speed up CPEC 2.0; border points such as Lipulekh and the Padma barrage also featured.

□ **IMEC**

- IMEC was announced at the 2023 G20 Summit under India's presidency; signatories are India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the EU.
- It has an East Corridor linking India to the Arabian Gulf and a North Corridor from the Gulf to Europe.
- It is estimated to cut transport time by 40 per cent and logistics costs by 30 per cent.
- Risks include the Iran conflict, disruption near the Strait of Hormuz and strained Israel-Arab ties.

□ **CPEC**

- CPEC is the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, launched in 2015, and links Gwadar Port to Kashgar in Xinjiang.
- Gwadar Port was officially inaugurated in 2016.
- India opposes CPEC as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

□ **Areas in News**

- Bangladesh approved the Padma barrage in Rajbari district, as the 1996 Ganga Water Sharing Treaty nears expiry in December 2026.
- India-China border trade via Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand will resume after six years.
- Other India-China trade passes are Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh and Nathu La in Sikkim.

India-France Nice Summit and Innovation Roadmap 2030

Context: PM Modi made his seventh official visit to France since 2014, holding a bilateral summit with President Macron in Nice on the way to the G7 Summit at Evian. It was the first formal summit since ties were raised to a Special Global Strategic Partnership in February 2026, and the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 was adopted on 14 June 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A High-Level Mechanism will aim to double bilateral trade from 16 billion to 32 billion dollars in five years.
- France is India's third largest EU trading partner, with trade of 15.81 billion dollars in 2025-26.
- An India-France Economic Security Dialogue will be launched.
- A National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics will be set up in Kanpur.
- Both agreed to co-design, co-develop and co-produce advanced defence platforms.
- ISRO and CNES will deepen cooperation in human spaceflight and space situational awareness.
- India's SHANTI Act opens room for cooperation in small and advanced modular reactors.
- France operationalised visa-free airport transit for Indian nationals.

□ **Innovation Roadmap 2030**

- It aligns with the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation, the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, Viksit Bharat 2047 and France 2030.
- Pillar I on Trusted AI covers AI governance, child safety online and secure data sharing linking India's DEPA with French trusted data spaces.
- Pillar II on academic mobility supports France's target of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030 and expands the 2018 Mutual Recognition of Qualifications framework.
- Pillar III on technological sovereignty includes the InnoXchange Bridge startup corridor, the India-France Innovation Network (IFIN) digital tool and an aeronautical training campus at Kanpur with MSDE.
- Pillar IV on global health includes an ICMR and France's Health Data Hub pilot for consent-based health data sharing.
- UPI will be expanded at airports in Nice and Paris.

India-Oman CEPA Comes into Force

Context: The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force on 1 June 2026. It gives Indian exporters wide duty-free access and opens a gateway to the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Bilateral trade rose from 8.94 billion dollars in FY2023-24 to 11.18 billion dollars in FY2025-26.
- Before the CEPA only 15.33% of Indian exports entered Oman duty-free under MFN.
- Oman now offers duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value.
- Oman made binding market access commitments for Indian professionals in accounting, engineering, IT, healthcare, education and consulting.
- The deal raises intra-corporate transferee quotas and includes provisions for AYUSH and traditional medicine.
- India offers tariff liberalisation on 77.79 per cent of tariff lines, covering 94.81 per cent of imports from Oman, while protecting dairy, oilseeds and cereals.
- Oman also allows 100 per cent FDI for Indian firms in major services.

□ **Strategic Location**

- Sohar is an industrial hub near the Strait of Hormuz.
- Duqm is a deep-sea port on the Arabian Sea where India has access to a special economic zone.
- Salalah is a major transshipment hub linking the Gulf and East Africa.

India-Slovakia Comprehensive Partnership

Context: PM Modi's visit to Bratislava, the first by an Indian PM since Slovakia's independence in 1993, raised ties to a Comprehensive Partnership. Agreements were signed on defence, technology, labour mobility and counter-terrorism.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's formal ties with Slovakia began in 1993 after Czechoslovakia dissolved peacefully. Slovakia is a member of the EU and NATO.
- A Letter of Intent in defence aims at joint development and production of equipment.
- Priority trade areas include automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, green technology and electronics.
- An MoU on Digital Technology and an India Chair on Artificial Intelligence at a Slovak university were agreed.
- An MoU on Labour Migration provides structured movement of workers.
- Bilateral trade reached 1.28 billion euros in 2024.

Myanmar President's First Visit to India

Context: Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing paid his first official visit to India from 30 May to 3 June 2026, with connectivity, trade and security cooperation as the main themes. Both sides reaffirmed completing the Kaladan Multi-Modal Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, agreed to facilitate trade including the Rupee-Kyat settlement mechanism, and Myanmar assured its territory will not be used against India's security interests.

□ **Key Highlights**

- He began the visit at Bodh Gaya, praying at the Mahabodhi Temple, Mahabodhi Meditation Centre and Sujata Temple.
- Both sides reaffirmed the importance of completing the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, linking Mizoram to Sittwe port, and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.
- They agreed to facilitate trade including the Rupee-Kyat settlement mechanism.
- Myanmar assured that its territory will not be used against India's security interests.
- Mekong Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students will rise from 36 to 100 from 2026.
- The Rupee-Kyat settlement mechanism was operationalised in 2024.
- The India-Myanmar border is 1,643 km long, and projects include the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Project.

PM Modi's State Visit to Seychelles

Context: PM Modi's state visit to Seychelles lifted ties to a strategic partnership and marked 50 years of diplomatic relations. It also strengthened India's MAHASAGAR vision for the Indian Ocean Region.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India announced a 175 million dollar Special Economic Package: 125 million dollars as a rupee Line of Credit and 50 million dollars as grant.
- MoUs covered UPI, healthcare, agriculture, Exim Bank cooperation, shipping, space, an extradition treaty and a Line of Credit.
- India gifted the fast attack vessel PS Lespwar to the Seychelles Coast Guard and agreed to refit PS Zoroaster.
- Modi became the first Indian PM to address the National Assembly of Seychelles and received the Guardian of the Blue Horizon honour.
- Seychelles decided to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- An Assam Regiment contingent of 32 personnel took part in Seychelles' 50th National Day on 29 June 2026.

PoK Protests and the Reserved Seats Controversy

Context: At least 15 people were killed in violent protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir a month before local elections. The immediate trigger was a Pakistan Supreme Court verdict upholding 12 refugee seats in the 53-member PoK Assembly.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The protests are led by the Joint Awami Action Committee, a coalition of traders, professionals and activists.
- Unrest began in 2023 over electricity bills, wheat subsidy shortages and bureaucratic dominance.

- Of 53 seats, local voters directly elect 33; 12 are refugee seats voted outside PoK, with 5 for women, 1 for ulama, 1 for overseas Kashmiris and 1 for technocrats.
- India has condemned the police brutality and called for accountability.

□ India's Parallel

- India keeps 24 seats in the J&K Assembly for PoK, but they remain vacant, whereas Pakistan fills the corresponding seats.

UN Commission Report on Gaza

Context: A UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry concluded that Israel deliberately targeted Palestinian children in Gaza, establishing genocidal intent. The commission is chaired by Justice S. Muralidhar of India.

□ Key Highlights

- The Commission on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel was set up in May 2021 by a UNHRC resolution.
- Justice S. Muralidhar retired in 2023 as Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court.
- A UN commission cannot impose penalties but its findings can be evidence before international courts.

□ Genocide in Law

- Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention defines genocide as acts committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
- Five acts are listed, including killing, causing serious harm, imposing conditions of life to destroy the group, preventing births and forcibly transferring children.
- The same definition appears in Article 6 of the Rome Statute.
- Proving intent is the main hurdle.

US-Iran Memorandum Ending the West Asia War

Context: The US and Iran signed a 14-clause MoU, the US at the Palace of Versailles and Iran in Tehran, ending 40 days of war and over 60 days of naval blockade. It opens a 60-day window for negotiating a final agreement.

□ Key Highlights

- Ceasefire on all fronts including Lebanon, and a US commitment of non-interference in Iran's internal affairs.
- The US naval blockade of Iranian ports is withdrawn and remaining carrier groups near Hormuz to leave.
- Iran guarantees unconditional transit passage for commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz; Iran and Oman will jointly define its future administration.
- A 300 billion dollar reconstruction fund for Iran and full sanctions relief in the final deal.
- More than 100 billion dollars of frozen Iranian assets to be unfrozen, with 12 billion already released through banks in Qatar and the UAE.

□ Nuclear and Institutional Terms

- Iran reaffirms it will not develop nuclear weapons and keeps the nuclear status quo for 60 days.
- Iran retains its 60% enriched uranium stockpile; both sides agree to downblend enriched material under IAEA supervision.
- The 60-day window can be mutually extended, a monitoring mechanism is set up and the final deal is to be endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution.

□ Hormuz Navigation Fees

- UNCLOS Articles 37 to 44 govern straits used for international navigation and guarantee transit passage that cannot be impeded or suspended.
- The Corfu Channel case (UK v. Albania, 1949) held that ships enjoy passage through international straits in peacetime.
- Iran dropped its per-transit toll but continues a navigation fee and environmental protection charge, raising legal questions.

16th India-Japan Annual Summit

Context: Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited New Delhi for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, her first visit to India as PM. The summit strengthened the Special Strategic and Global Partnership, concluding a Joint Declaration on Economic Security and announcing cooperation on defence, AI, energy and mobility.

□ Key Highlights

- Ties were established in 1952 and upgraded to Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014. Bilateral trade was about $27 billion in FY25-26 against a $67 billion Japanese investment target by 2035.
- A Joint Declaration on Economic Security covers semiconductors, critical minerals, ICT and AI, clean energy and pharmaceuticals.
- The AI partnership was raised to a Strategic R&D Partnership; IndiaAI Mission is linked with Japan's GENIAC initiative.
- The first India-Japan defence co-development project covers the naval radio antenna UNICORN.
- The Next Generation Mobility Partnership was operationalised; it covers railways, automobiles, aviation, shipbuilding, ports and logistics.
- The Cooperative Biogas for Growth Initiative will build 1,000 biogas and fertiliser plants, and a clean ammonia project in Odisha receives support.
- The Next Generation Mobility Partnership targets 2027 commercial operations on the priority section of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail using E10 Shinkansen trains.
- Japan announced investment of 10 trillion yen in India over the next decade.
- A Joint Statement on Energy Resilience was signed between India's petroleum ministry and Japan's METI.
- MoCs were signed on geology and mineral exploration, batteries, and pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- The India-Japan Cooperative Biogas for Growth initiative targets 1,000 biogas and organic fertiliser plants using dairy cooperative networks.

- Defence engagement includes ACSA, 2+2 dialogues and exercises JIMEX, Malabar and Dharma Guardian.
- The two sides target 5 lakh two-way exchanges, including 50,000 skilled Indian workers to Japan over five years.

59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ARF and EAS

Context: A series of ASEAN-led ministerial meetings was held in Manila, where the Philippines chairs ASEAN in 2026 under the theme 'Navigating Our Future, Together'. They included the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum and the 21st East Asia Summit foreign ministers' meeting.

□ Key Highlights

- ASEAN was founded in 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration, has 11 members including Timor-Leste, and is headquartered in Jakarta. ARF was set up in 1994 with 27 participants; India has been a member since 1996.
- Ministers marked the first year of implementing ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
- Guidelines were adopted for engagement of ASEAN with High Contracting Parties under the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation; Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Sweden acceded to the TAC.
- Turkiye became ASEAN's 12th Dialogue Partner; Germany and Qatar became Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
- They reaffirmed the aim to finalise the South China Sea Code of Conduct with China within the year and backed the Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar.
- The 33rd ARF adopted the Manila Plan of Action 2026-2036.
- EAS began in 2005 with 19 participants; India has been a member since inception.
- 2026 is the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation; India will host the 7th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Kochi and an EAS Maritime Heritage Festival at Lothal.

Act East Policy and ASEAN Centrality

Context: In July 2026 the Quad extended 'unwavering support' to ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), a concept that anchors India's Act East Policy. Announced in 2014 as the successor to the 1991 Look East Policy, Act East rests on Commerce, Culture, Connectivity and Capacity Building. AOIP, adopted in 2019, views the Indian and Pacific Oceans as one interconnected space.

□ Act East Policy

- It was announced in 2014 as the successor to the 1991 Look East Policy.
- It rests on four Cs: Commerce, Culture, Connectivity and Capacity Building.
- It positions Northeast India as the gateway to Southeast Asia.
- Connectivity projects include the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, about 30 per cent of which is incomplete, and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Project.
- India-ASEAN trade was $128 billion in 2025-26, with a deficit of roughly $45 billion a year.

□ ASEAN Centrality and AOIP

- ASEAN Centrality was first codified in the 2008 ASEAN Charter and places ASEAN at the core of regional forums like the East Asia Summit and ARF.
- The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) was adopted in 2019 and views the Indian and Pacific Oceans as one interconnected space.
- AOIP has four priority pillars: maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN SDGs 2030 and economic cooperation.

BRICS Guwahati Declaration on Drug Trafficking

Context: Heads of anti-drug agencies of BRICS nations met for two days in Guwahati under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship and adopted the Guwahati Declaration. India proposed a network-centric strategy against transnational drug syndicates.

□ Key Highlights

- India urged zero tolerance and real-time intelligence sharing across borders.
- India outlined a three-year anti-drug roadmap (2026-29) to dismantle whole criminal networks, run mass awareness campaigns and strengthen treatment and rehabilitation.
- Proposals include a BRICS Virtual Workshop Group, cross-border training and a real-time intelligence network.
- BRICS now includes Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Indonesia besides Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- MANAS, the National Narcotics Helpline (1933), was launched on 18 July 2024 under the Narcotics Control Bureau with the Digital India Corporation.
- It allows anonymous reporting and is linked with the 14446 de-addiction helpline.

Chabahar Port Under US Sanctions Strain

Context: The US sanctions waiver on India's Chabahar Port project in Iran expired on 26 April 2026 with no sign of renewal, amid the US-Iran war. During the conflict a US strike on the port raised concern in India, but the external affairs ministry clarified that the Shahid Beheshti terminal, which India operates, was not damaged.

□ Key Highlights

- India and Iran first agreed to develop the port in 2003. In 2016 PM Modi visited Tehran and pledged $500 million.
- Chabahar lies on the Gulf of Oman in southeastern Iran and has two terminals, Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti; India develops Shahid Beheshti.
- It lets India bypass Pakistan to reach Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- Pakistan's China-funded Gwadar port, opened in November 2016, lies about 140 km east of Chabahar.
- Chabahar is the southern node of the International North-South Transport Corridor, a 7,200 km network linking Russia and India via Iran.

- Chabahar received Rs 400 crore in the previous financial year but nothing in Union Budget 2026-27.
- The US withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, but India got an exemption.

India-Australia 3rd Annual Summit and Uranium Deal

Context: PM Modi visited Australia for the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit with PM Anthony Albanese. The Administrative Arrangement to operationalise the 2014 Civil Nuclear Agreement was finalised, opening Australian uranium exports to India.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The nuclear Administrative Arrangement closes a 12-year gap and allows Australian uranium for peaceful use.
- Both sides will speed up talks on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and a Bilateral Investment Treaty, building on ECTA.
- The PACTS partnership on cyber, critical technologies and supply chains was launched, and a trilateral ACITI framework with Canada was signed.
- A TKDL access agreement between CSIR and IP Australia protects traditional knowledge from bio-piracy.
- A rooftop solar training academy at Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar will train 2,000 women and youth.
- Australia will return three Tamil Nadu antiquities: a Nandi sculpture, a bronze trident with Bhadrakali and a six-headed Skanda.
- A new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation and a Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap were adopted.

□ **India's Uranium Position**

- India targets 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 and has opened the sector to more private participation.
- Reserves are about 4.3 lakh tonnes of uranium oxide across 47 deposits; Uranium Corporation of India Ltd mines at Jaduguda, Turamdih and Tummalapalle.
- PHWRs run on natural uranium, while light water reactors at Tarapur and Kudankulam use fully imported enriched uranium.
- India is also diversifying supply to Canada and Kazakhstan.

India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement Enters into Force

Context: The India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement came into force in July 2026. It replaces the 1996 India-Israel Bilateral Investment Treaty, which India terminated in 2017, and follows India's 2015 Model BIT text. It protects investors of both countries, preserves governments' right to regulate for public health, environment and welfare, and allows investor-state international arbitration.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India approved a new Model BIT text in 2015, replacing the 1993 model. Budget 2025-26 announced a review of the BIT framework.
- It protects investments made by investors of both countries in each other's territory.
- Investors who suffer losses because of war, armed conflict or civil unrest get non-discriminatory treatment on compensation.
- Governments keep the right to regulate for public health, environment, security and public welfare.
- Disputes can be resolved through investor-state international arbitration.
- Under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969, a treaty and an agreement have no substantive legal difference.

India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership and Roadmap to 2030

Context: PM Modi visited Auckland, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years, and met NZ PM Christopher Luxon. The two countries elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership and endorsed a Roadmap to 2030.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Roadmap has six pillars: political and diplomatic engagement; defence and security; trade and economic cooperation; people, culture and sport; education, research, science, technology and disaster management; and regional and multilateral cooperation.
- An annual Maritime Security Dialogue was set up and cooperation under the IPOI maritime security pillar was noted.
- A Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and an India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue were established.
- An NDMA-National Emergency Management Agency MoU covers preparedness and response.
- A Joint Action Plan on Sport and cooperation in Antarctic research were agreed.
- CTF-150 cooperation in 2025 had New Zealand in command and India as deputy command.
- The target is to double bilateral trade to NZ$7 billion by 2030.
- A Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement was signed for reciprocal naval refuelling and maintenance.
- New Zealand joined the Maritime Security Pillar of IPOI and the Global Biofuels Alliance.

India-UK CETA Comes into Force

Context: The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) took effect on 15 July 2026, a year after signing, along with the Double Contribution Convention. It is India's first comprehensive trade deal with a developed country.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The agreement covers 30 chapters including digital trade, government procurement, MSMEs, labour, environment and gender.
- India reduces tariffs on about 90 per cent of products: 30.3 per cent of trade value immediately, 47 per cent in phases and 12.1 per cent through quotas.
- The UK eliminates tariffs on 99 per cent of Indian exports.

- Tariffs on British cars fall from up to 110 per cent to 30 per cent in year one and 10 per cent by year five, with an initial quota of 20,000 vehicles.
- Tariffs on British alcoholic drinks fall from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, then to 40 per cent by year ten.
- For the first time in an Indian FTA, UK exporters can self-declare origin of goods.

Indian Ocean as an Ocean of Opportunity

Context: During his State Visit to Seychelles, the Prime Minister described India's vision of making the Indian Ocean an 'Ocean of Opportunity' based on mutual respect, trust and shared maritime responsibility.

□ **Why the Indian Ocean Matters**

- Nearly 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and about 70 per cent by value moves by sea.
- India has a coastline of about 11,099 km and an EEZ of more than 23 lakh sq km, supporting over 50 lakh fishers in 13 maritime States and UTs.
- The region has three main chokepoints: the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb.
- India imports about 85 per cent of its crude oil and 51 per cent of its gas needs.
- The Bay of Bengal records over 80 per cent of cyclone deaths despite seeing only 5 per cent of global cyclones.

□ **India's Approach**

- SAGAR has been expanded into MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region supports maritime domain awareness.
- India engages through IORA, IPOI, BIMSTEC, the Colombo Security Conclave, IONS and the Quad.
- Operation Sagarbandhu delivered relief to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah.

NATO Ankara Summit

Context: NATO's 32 member countries met in Ankara, Turkiye, to review progress since the 2025 Hague Summit. Leaders reaffirmed collective defence under Article 5 and backed the commitment to spend 5 per cent of GDP on defence by 2035.

□ **Key Highlights**

- NATO was founded in 1949 through the Washington Treaty and is headquartered in Brussels. Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024) are the latest members.
- Members reaffirmed an ironclad commitment to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.
- The Hague defence commitment sets a floor of 5 per cent of GDP on defence by 2035, up from the earlier 2 per cent pledge.
- Leaders declared unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- They pledged a high-capacity, Europe-wide defence industrial base.

Operation Amistad and India-Venezuela Ties

Context: In July 2026 India launched Operation Amistad, a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) mission, to help earthquake-stricken Venezuela; 'Amistad' means friendship in Spanish. Two IAF C-17 aircraft carried a field hospital unit and over 35 tonnes of relief supplies. It adds to earlier Indian HADR operations such as Maitri, Dost, Karuna, Sadbhav and Brahma, and Venezuela became India's third-largest oil supplier in May 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Two Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft carried a field hospital unit and over 35 tonnes of relief supplies.
- Earlier Indian HADR operations include Maitri (Nepal), Dost (Turkiye and Syria), Karuna (Myanmar), Sadbhav (Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam) and Brahma (Myanmar).

□ **India-Venezuela Ties**

- India-Venezuela trade was 678.94 million dollars in FY 2025-26, with Indian exports of 210 million dollars.
- Venezuela became India's third-largest oil supplier in May 2026.

PM Modi's State Visit to Indonesia

Context: PM Modi made a State Visit to Indonesia, advancing the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Agreements covered space, minerals, maritime safety, defence, steel and rare earths, and he received Indonesia's highest civilian honour.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India will supply two batteries of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and an Astra missile cooperation agreement was signed; Indonesia is the first country to sign a pact importing Astra Mk 1 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles for its Su-30 fleet.
- SAIL and PT Krakatau Steel agreed a joint venture for stainless-steel slabs.
- IIM Bangalore will open its first overseas campus in the Singhasari SEZ, Malang, East Java.
- PM Modi received the Bintang Adipurna, Indonesia's highest civilian honour.
- A joint conservation project was launched for Prambanan Temple, Yogyakarta, a 9th-century Hindu complex.
- India expressed interest in integrated development of Sabang Port, close to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Indonesia Open Network (ION), modelled on ONDC, was launched, and an RBI-Bank Indonesia QR payment linkage was agreed.
- 2026-27 was declared the Tagore-Dewantara Year, marking a century of Rabindranath Tagore's 1927 visit.
- India gifted a replica of the Nalanda Copper Plate (c. 860 CE) to a museum at Muara Jambi.

Pax Silica and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

Context: India joined the US-led Pax Silica initiative in February 2026 and, with 34 other countries, signed a US-led Joint Statement on AI Opportunity at the second Pax Silica

Summit in Washington, D.C. Separately, Spain joined India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

□ **Pax Silica**

- Pax Silica was launched by the United States in 2025 as a non-binding strategic alliance on supply chains for AI, semiconductors and critical rare-earth minerals.
- It seeks to reduce coercive dependence on a single nation, primarily China.
- Members aim to secure technology supply chains, explore joint investment and protect sensitive technologies.
- India joined the initiative at the India AI Impact Summit in February 2026.
- Pax Silica aims to build a secure, innovation-based technology supply chain covering semiconductors and AI infrastructure, critical minerals and energy, advanced manufacturing, and computing and data logistics.
- Current members include Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Israel.
- India also signed an India-Germany Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership declaration of intent in 2026.

□ **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**

- IPOI is a non-treaty-based voluntary arrangement promoting an open and free Indo-Pacific and a rules-based regional order.
- India launched it in 2019, and it was presented at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok.
- It builds on India's 2015 SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- It has seven pillars, including maritime security, maritime ecology, capacity building and resource sharing, and disaster risk reduction and management.
- It works in convergence with AIIPOIP, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Quad Foreign Ministers in Manila and BIMSTEC NSA Meet

Context: The Quad foreign ministers met in Manila on the sidelines of ASEAN meetings, following their May 2026 meeting in New Delhi. Separately, BIMSTEC national security chiefs met in New Delhi, hosted by NSA Ajit Doval.

□ **Quad Highlights**

- The earlier Delhi meeting announced the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (including port infrastructure in Fiji) and the Indo-Pacific Energy Security initiative.
- Cooperation under the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative continues.
- Ministers reaffirmed a free and open Indo-Pacific and support for ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- Uncertainty persists over whether the Quad Leaders' Summit will be held in Delhi this year.

□ **5th BIMSTEC NSA Meeting**

- Members pledged joint action on terrorism and organised crime.
- Guidelines for the maritime component of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief were adopted.
- Guiding principles for conduct of maritime law enforcement agencies at sea were endorsed.
- BIMSTEC approaches its 30th anniversary next year.

US-Israel-Lebanon Trilateral Framework

Context: In July 2026 the United States, Israel and Lebanon signed a trilateral framework to end hostilities between Israel and Lebanon and to disarm Hezbollah in phases, though Hezbollah has rejected the agreement. The Lebanese Army will take full control once Hezbollah is verified to have given up weapons, Israeli forces will withdraw progressively, and a US-supported Military Coordination Group will monitor the process.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Lebanese Army will take full control once Hezbollah is verified to have given up weapons and military infrastructure.
- Israel Defense Forces will withdraw progressively from occupied areas of southern Lebanon.
- A US-supported Military Coordination Group will monitor the process.
- The US pledged $100 million in humanitarian aid through the UN and over $30 million for the Lebanese Armed Forces.
- The US signed a 30-year civil nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia under Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954, allowing enrichment up to 20 per cent without the IAEA Additional Protocol.

World in Brief: UPI in Cambodia, Australia Social Media Ban and More

Context: Foreign developments from the past year that are relevant to India were reported. NIPL partnered with ACLEDA Bank to launch UPI in Cambodia in June 2026, taking UPI acceptance to nine countries, and Australia became the first country to ban social media for under-16s from December 2025. Bangladesh began loading uranium fuel at its first nuclear plant in April 2026, so 'first' facts are likely exam material.

□ **Payments and culture**

- NIPL partnered with ACLEDA Bank to launch UPI in Cambodia (June 2026); UPI is now accepted in nine countries including Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE and Qatar.
- A life-size Swami Vivekananda statue, the first in the US, was unveiled in Seattle on 11 April 2026.
- A bust of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was unveiled at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, on 26 November 2025.

□ **Energy and policy**

- Bangladesh began loading uranium fuel at its first nuclear plant in April 2026, set to become the 33rd nuclear power country.

- China began operating the world's largest compressed-air energy storage plant (2.4 GWh) in Jiangsu in January 2026.
- Australia became the first country to ban social media for under-16s, effective 10 December 2025.

BRICS Meetings Under India's Chairship

Context: India hosted several BRICS ministerial meetings in 2026 under its chairship theme Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, including the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi and the 14th Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Chennai, which adopted the Chennai Declaration. BRICS represents about 49.5 percent of world population and 40 percent of global GDP.

□ **Meetings**

- The 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi was chaired by Bhupender Yadav.
- Its priorities were sustainable lifestyles, afforestation and disaster resilience, circular economy and climate adaptation.
- BRICS represents about 49.5 percent of world population, 40 percent of global GDP and 26 percent of trade.
- The 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Chennai adopted the Chennai Declaration.
- The 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum focused on rule of law for economic resilience.

□ **UN Secretary-General Race**

- The UNSC held an informal straw poll for the next Secretary-General whose term begins on 1 January 2027.
- Rebeca Grynspan, Carolyn Birkett and Rafael Grossi are believed to have done well, favouring a Latin American candidate.

Energy Security Amid the Strait of Hormuz Crisis

Context: The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz forced India to reshuffle its LNG and LPG sourcing between May and July 2026, raising dependence on the United States. Qatar's LNG supplies fell over 91 percent as the US, Nigeria and Oman replaced it, and 67 percent of India's LPG now comes from the US, up from about 10 percent. The episode highlights energy-security vulnerabilities.

□ **LNG**

- India's LNG imports rose in May-July 2026 as the US, Nigeria and Oman replaced Qatar.
- Qatar's supplies fell over 91 percent; the UAE's fell 34.4 percent.
- India relies on LNG for about half its gas needs, with roughly 60 percent historically through Hormuz.

□ **LPG**

- 67 percent of India's LPG now comes from the US, up from about 10 percent.
- West Asian LPG imports fell nearly 85 percent between February and June 2026.
- India is the world's second-largest LPG importer and has a long-term deal for 2.2 million tonnes for 2026.
- Experts suggest diversifying to Australia, Argentina, Nigeria and Angola.

India's Bilateral Engagements in August 2026

Context: In August 2026 India signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation with Japan, held the 27th IRIGC-TEC with Russia in Moscow, added 11 ports for e-visa entry (total 88) and reviewed engagement with the Taliban, whose appointed diplomats staff Afghan missions in India without formal recognition. The developments are exam-relevant for India's bilateral diplomacy and its India-Russia trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation; the first Japanese fighter aircraft participation in an exercise in India is planned in Veer Guardian 26.
- Jaishankar attended the 27th IRIGC-TEC in Moscow; the India-Russia trade target is USD 100 billion by 2030 and trade was USD 59.86 billion in FY 2025-26.
- The Centre added 11 ports for e-visa entry, taking the total to 88; Pakistani nationals are excluded.
- The e-visa facility began in 2014 and now serves 172 countries.
- Five years after Kabul's fall, Afghan missions in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad are staffed by Taliban-appointed diplomats but India has not given formal recognition.
- The US Senate passed a bill allowing 100 percent tariffs on top buyers of Russian oil or gas.
- The US sanctioned four India-based companies under Operation Economic Outcast over Iranian petroleum trade.
- Nauru renamed itself the Republic of Naoero.
- WHO declared Uganda free of Ebola after a 42-day monitoring period.

India-China 25th Special Representatives Talks

Context: NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 25th round of Special Representatives talks in Beijing, producing an eight-point consensus on boundary delimitation and border management. India also marked 27 Arunachal Pradesh locations on its official map.

□ **SR Talks Outcomes**

- SR talks began in October 2003.
- The Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management under WMCC will finalise their Terms of Reference.
- Two new hotlines will be set up in the Eastern and Middle sectors.
- Three border trading points reopened and Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra batches increased.
- The 26th SR round will be held in India in 2027.

□ **Arunachal Names**

- India identified 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh by standard Indian names on the Survey of India map.
- China's lists: 6 names in 2017, 15 in 2021 and 11 in 2023, totalling 112 across six batches by April 2026.
- India rejects the renaming as fictitious.

India-Uzbekistan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Context: PM Modi made a two-day state visit to Uzbekistan, where the relationship was raised to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He then went to Bishkek for the 26th SCO Summit on 31 August to 1 September.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The visit is part of India's Connect Central Asia policy framed in 2012. India's interests include INSTC connectivity, Kazakh uranium and the proposed TAPI pipeline.
- A long-term uranium supply arrangement from Uzbekistan supports India's civil nuclear programme.
- Bilateral trade is about USD 1.3 billion (2025) with a target of USD 5 billion by 2030.
- Uzbekistan removed visas for Indian citizens for stays up to 30 days and UPI payments are set to become usable there.
- A Letter of Intent was signed for restoring the Buddhist sites of Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa at Termez.
- 100 Lal Bahadur Shastri Hindi scholarships and an ICCR Sanskrit Chair at Tashkent State University were announced.
- India announced a USD 1 million grant for afforestation in the Aral Sea region.
- The Dustlik joint exercise is the bilateral military exercise.

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

Context: Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Mecca (Makkah) Joint Defence Agreement, treating an attack on any signatory as an attack on all three. It builds on the September 2025 Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The full text is not public; only a joint press release has been issued.
- Its four pillars are a collective deterrence clause modelled on Article 51 of the UN Charter, joint training, intelligence sharing and defence-industrial integration.
- There is no integrated command, standing joint force, common budget or nuclear-sharing clause.

18th BRICS Summit and New Delhi Declaration

Context: BRICS adopted the New Delhi Declaration at its 18th summit held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. India, as host and chair, bridged differences after BRICS foreign ministers failed to issue a joint statement in May amid Iran-UAE differences.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The declaration condemned unilateral coercive measures and opposed unilateral Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms.
- It condemned the April 2025 Pahalgam attack in the strongest terms and recognised the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group.
- It avoided any mention of a common BRICS currency and promoted trade settlement in local currencies.
- India's proposed BRICS Risk Lab at GIFT City is to be taken forward.
- It expressed deep concern over West Asia, backed the Gaza ceasefire and a two-state solution with 1967 borders.

□ **Indian Initiatives**

- A BRICS repository for Digital Public Infrastructure with pilot projects was proposed.
- A BRICS Training Hub Network and Centres of Excellence on mental well-being will be coordinated by NIMHANS, Bengaluru.
- The India Centre for BRICS Industrial Competencies was welcomed to support MSMEs.
- A new BRICS Task Force on Growth and Development and a BRICS-NDB Knowledge Portal were announced.

26th SCO Summit and Bishkek Declaration

Context: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation held its 26th summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 31 August to 1 September 2026, marking 25 years of the grouping, and leaders adopted the Bishkek Declaration. It condemned terrorism with no double standards, expressed deep concern over the West Asia crisis, condemned strikes on Iran, and called for an inclusive government in Afghanistan and reform of global governance.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It condemned terrorism in all forms and said double standards are unacceptable, urging a central UN role.
- Members agreed to counter use of the internet for terrorist purposes and to coordinate on information security and cybercrime.
- It expressed deep concern over the West Asia crisis, condemned strikes on Iran and backed members' right to peaceful nuclear energy.
- It called for a just settlement of the Palestine question and reform of global governance.
- It flagged unlimited build-up of global missile defence and criticised unauthorised satellite internet services in member states.
- It called on Afghanistan to form an inclusive government and was silent on Russia's role in the Ukraine war.

Belgian PM's Visit and India-Belgium Defence Ties

Context: India and Belgium agreed to deepen cooperation in defence, intelligence-sharing, trade, semiconductors, fintech and renewable energy during Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever's visit, the first by a Belgian PM in two decades.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Bilateral trade reached 13.01 billion US dollars in 2025-26.
- Belgian FDI inflows into India were about 4.2 billion US dollars between April 2000 and December 2025.

- The two sides exchanged a Letter of Intent for structured defence cooperation covering training, R&D, joint exercises, maritime security and defence industry.
- About 15 Belgian defence companies engaged with Indian industry.

□ Defence Industrial Projects

- Lachaussee and Tembo Classic Engineering will set up an ammunition line with annual capacity of about 100 million rounds under a 50 million euro project.
- Exail Belgium and Larsen & Toubro will cooperate on autonomous systems for mine-countermeasure vessels, initially for 12 vessels and potentially 59.
- Other areas include 70 mm rockets, counter-drone systems, electro-optical systems for Arjun tanks and the Zorawar light tank.

Hague Court Ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty

Context: The Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled that the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty remains fully in force and that India must keep observing it. India rejected the ruling, as it had earlier rejected an award on the treaty, saying the Court was illegally constituted and its pronouncements null and void.

□ The Treaty

- The treaty was brokered by the World Bank in 1960.
- Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are primarily allotted to India; Indus, Jhelum and Chenab primarily to Pakistan.
- India retains rights on the western rivers for domestic use, irrigation and run-of-the-river hydropower.
- Dispute mechanisms are the Permanent Indus Commission, a Neutral Expert and a Court of Arbitration.
- India sought modification in 2023 and review and modification in 2024.

□ The Ruling

- India announced on 23 April 2025, after the Pahalgam attack, that the treaty would be held in abeyance.
- The Court held that the treaty has no mechanism for unilateral suspension and abeyance cannot suspend it.
- It imposed interim limits on India's concreting of the dam wall and power intake at the Ratle project on the Chenab.
- The limits last until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision, expected around July 2027.
- India calls the Court's pronouncements null and void and has not taken part in its proceedings.
- The award reportedly concerns maximum pondage.

India's Overseas Military and Strategic Presence

Context: India's network of surveillance, naval-access and training facilities across the Indian Ocean region and neighbourhood was in the news in September 2026, supporting maritime domain awareness and strategic reach. Key examples are the Madagascar Coastal Surveillance Radar station (2007), the Maldives coastal radar network, IMTRAT at Haa in Bhutan (1962) and Indian Navy access to the RSS Singapura-Changi Naval Base in Singapore.

□ Key Highlights

- The Madagascar Coastal Surveillance Radar station, set up in 2007, is India's first overseas electronic surveillance facility.
- The Maldives has 10 coastal radar stations linked to India's network, controlled from Vilimale.
- IMTRAT at Haa in western Bhutan, established in 1962, is India's oldest military training mission abroad.
- Indian Navy ships can use RSS Singapura-Changi Naval Base for docking and refuelling at the eastern end of the Strait of Malacca.

Select Indian overseas facilities

Facility	Location
Assumption Island coastal surveillance	Seychelles
Coastal Surveillance Radar station	Northern Madagascar
Agalega Island radar and runway	Northern Mauritius
Duqm naval access	Oman
Kankesanthurai Harbour	Northern Sri Lanka
Surkhet Airport (air force base training)	Western Nepal
IMTRAT	Haa, Bhutan
Changi Naval Base access	Singapore

PNS Hunain Collision with Indian Warship

Context: Pakistan Naval Ship Hunain, a Yarmook-class corvette, made an unsafe high-speed approach to an Indian Navy warship in the North Arabian Sea, causing a minor collision. India called it unacceptable and a violation of Article 10 of the 1991 bilateral agreement.

□ Key Highlights

- The incident happened about 120 nautical miles from the Gulf of Oman.
- The Indian ship, on routine surveillance, suffered no damage while PNS Hunain was damaged.
- It was the second such incident since June 2011, when PNS Babur brushed past INS Godavari in the Gulf of Aden.
- The 1991 agreement concerns advance notice of military exercises.
- Analysts describe the act as a grey-zone tactic similar to China's in the South China Sea.

Pakistan-China Boundary Pact and the Shaksgam Valley

Context: In September 2026 Pakistan and China formalised a boundary in a Himalayan region that India claims, signing the Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, and India rejected the move as having no legal basis. It covers the Shaksgam Valley, a tract of about 5,180 sq km in the northern Karakoram, which Pakistan ceded to China in 1963 while India claims it as part of Ladakh.

□ Key Highlights

- The arrangement covers the Shaksgam Valley, a tract of about 5,180 sq km.

- The valley, also called the Trans-Karakoram Tract, lies in the northern Karakoram just north of the Siachen Glacier.
- Pakistan ceded the territory to China in 1963, while India claims it as part of Ladakh.
- India holds that it belonged to the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and was illegally occupied by Pakistan and then ceded.
- Experts see no immediate implication for the LAC.
- China Southern Airlines resumed Guangzhou-New Delhi flights from 21 September after a six-year suspension.

Rajnath Singh's Sri Lanka Visit and Defence MoUs

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Sri Lanka in September 2026, the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister in nearly 40 years, and three defence MoUs were signed. They cover upgradation of L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force, NCC cooperation and cooperation between the National Defence Colleges. India had pledged a 450 million dollar reconstruction package under Operation Sagar Bandhu after Cyclone Ditwah.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The MoUs cover upgradation of L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force, NCC cooperation and cooperation between the National Defence Colleges.
- India had earlier pledged a 450 million dollar reconstruction package under Operation Sagar Bandhu after Cyclone Ditwah in late 2025.
- Three Bailey bridges built by Indian defence forces were virtually inaugurated in Kurunegala and Batticaloa districts.

UK Recognises India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

Context: The UK recognised India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme as a qualifying criterion for pricing relief under its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, reducing the tax burden on Indian exporters.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The relief depends on the effective carbon price to which the goods were subject.
- Liable persons must still meet evidence and verification requirements.
- The India-UK comprehensive economic and trade partnership was implemented in July 2026.
- Bilateral merchandise trade was 25.1 billion dollars in 2025-26 and services trade 35.4 billion dollars in 2024.

UN Adopts Equal Earth Map Resolution

Context: The UN General Assembly adopted the Togo-led Correct the Map resolution, shifting from the Mercator projection toward the Equal Earth projection. India supported the principle but objected to how a new UN world map depicts Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The resolution was backed by 164 countries including India, opposed by the US, with six abstentions.
- Mercator, introduced in 1569 by Gerardus Mercator, exaggerates areas far from the equator; Greenland appears similar to Africa though it is far smaller.
- The new UN map shows the Arunachal northern border as an Indian Line and the southern border as a Chinese line.
- It separates Aksai Chin from Ladakh, against India's position that it is part of Ladakh.

US Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026

Context: The US passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which lets the President impose tariffs up to 100% on countries buying Russian oil and gas. The bill has been signed into law and matters for India, as Russia supplies nearly half its crude.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The tariff power applies to the five largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, reduced from an original proposal of 500%.
- The US Trade Representative would identify targeted countries and recommend rates.
- Targeted countries would typically get 180 days to cut imports or negotiate.
- India imported about 2.08 million barrels a day of Russian crude in August 2026, around 45% of its oil imports.
- India imports over 88% of its crude needs.

Conferences, Summits and Meetings 2025-26: Year-wise List

Context: Important conferences, summits and ministerial meetings held in India and abroad during 2025-26 are arranged year-wise in a single list, with venue and remarks or themes. Questions in the exam often ask about the host country, venue, theme or outcome of such summits, so this consolidated list helps revise them quickly in one place rather than scattered across months.

Conferences and Summits in 2025

Event	Venue	Remarks
National Tribal Literary Fest 2025 (11-12 Nov)	New Delhi	National Tribal Research Institute and Tribal Affairs Ministry
Tribal Business Conclave 2025 (12 Nov)	New Delhi	Organised by the Ministry of Culture and DPIIT with FICCI
13th International Tourism Mart (13-16 Nov)	Gangtok, Sikkim	Tourism Ministry and Sikkim government
10th International Gita Mahotsav (15 Nov-5 Dec)	Kurukshetra, Haryana	Inaugurated by CM Nayab Singh Saini
World Telecommunication Development Conference (17-28 Nov)	Baku, Azerbaijan	Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity
India International Space Conclave (18-19 Nov)	New Delhi	Organised by Indian Space Association
6th International	New Delhi	Smart agri-food

Agronomy Congress (24-26 Nov)		systems
Vision for Sujalam Bharat Summit (28-29 Nov)	Bharat Mandapam, Delhi	Ministry of Jal Shakti
World Summit on Disaster Management (28-30 Nov)	Dehradun	Uttarakhand Council for Science and Technology
Earth Summit 2025 (5-6 Dec)	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	Inaugurated by Amit Shah

Conferences and Summits in 2026

Event	Venue	Remarks
4th 1 Billion Followers Summit (9-11 Jan)	Dubai	Content for Good
2nd Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (11-12 Jan)	Rajkot	Inaugurated by PM Modi
UP Regional AI Impact Conference (12-13 Jan)	Lucknow	IndiaAI and MeitY with UP government
1st International Conference on Green AI (24-25 Jan)	Dubai	Harnessing AI for environmental sustainability
2nd Global Buddhist Summit (24-25 Jan)	New Delhi	International Buddhist Confederation with Ministry of Culture
World Governments Summit (3-5 Feb)	Dubai	Shaping Future Governments
6th National Crop Nutrition Summit (5-6 Feb)	Mumbai	Agri input manufacturing hub
3rd International AYUSH Conference (15-17 Feb)	Dubai World Trade Centre	Evidence-based AYUSH for mind-body health
India-AI Impact Summit (16-20 Feb)	Bharat Mandapam, Delhi	Welfare for All, Happiness of All
BioAsia 2026, 23rd edition (17-18 Feb)	HITEX, Hyderabad	TechBio Unleashed
AI4Agri 2026 Summit (22-23 Feb)	Jio World Centre, Mumbai	Hosted by Maharashtra government
Tourism Leadership Summit (24 Feb)	New Delhi	US-India Partnership Forum with Sankala Foundation
25th World Sustainable Development Summit (25-27 Feb)	Taj Palace, New Delhi	Vision, Voices and Values for Sustainable Development
National Arogya Fair (25-28 Feb)	Shegaon, Maharashtra	Ministry of Ayush
ANVESH-2026 (26-28 Feb)	Sonipat, Haryana	NIFTEM-K
Mobile World Congress (2-5 Mar)	Barcelona	Indian delegation led by Jyotiraditya Scindia
International Malaria Conference (7-9 Mar)	New Delhi	Driving malaria elimination and beyond
9th International Santal Conference (7 Mar)	Darjeeling	Graced by President Murmu
Strategic Communication Conclave (7 Mar)	Lucknow	Indian Army Central Command, first-ever
GeodCon-26 (11-13 Mar)	INSA, New Delhi	First national conference on geodesy, IIT Kanpur
11th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law (16 Mar)	Bharat Mandapam	Competition Commission of India
Sahityotsav (30 Mar-4 Apr)	New Delhi	Indian Literature: The Cradle of Cultures
3rd Global Conference of Meditation Leaders (3-5 Apr)	Bharat Mandapam	Meditation for Holistic Living and Peaceful World
World Border Security Congress (14-16 Apr)	Vienna	Indian delegation led by ADG Anand Prakash Badola
6th Sujal Gram Samvad (22 Apr)	-	Jal Shakti; chaired virtually by C. R. Patil
11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (26 May)	New Delhi	Hosted by S. Jaishankar
Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (6-7 Jun)	Lalitpur, Nepal	Beyond Borders: South Asian Literature
11th International Police Expo (24-25 Jun)	Bharat Mandapam	Nexgen Exhibitions
3rd Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling (2-5 Jul)	Bharat Mandapam	GCPRS
17th Toy Biz International B2B Exhibition (4-7 Jul)	Bharat Mandapam	Toy Association of India
WSIS Forum 2026 (6-10 Jul)	Geneva	-
Global Dialogue on AI Governance, 1st session (6-7 Jul)	Geneva	-
13th AITIGA Joint Committee (6-10 Jul)	Vanijya Bhawan, Delhi	ASEAN-India trade in goods
NATO Summit (7-8 Jul)	Ankara, Turkiye	-
3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting (11-12 Jul)	Nagpur	Chaired by Nitin Gadkari
National Conference on Legal Education and Regional Languages (11 Jul)	Bar Council of India, Delhi	-
NextGen Administrative and e-Gov Reforms (13-14 Jul)	Shillong	DARPG with Meghalaya government
Bharat Tex 2026 (14-17 Jul)	Bharat Mandapam	Bharat Tex Trade Federation
India-EU TTC, 3rd ministerial (15 Jul)	Brussels	-
India-Belgium Strategic Dialogue, 1st (15 Jul)	Brussels	-
Saushrutam 2026 (15-17 Jul)	New Delhi	Hosted by AIIA
4th National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct (15-16 Jul)	New Delhi	ESG-led Transformation for Viksit Bharat
5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs meeting (16 Jul)	New Delhi	-
12th National Committee on Dam Safety (17 Jul)	Dr. Ambedkar International Centre	-
8th BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services (20-21 Jul)	Virtual	Best practices in criminal adjudication
16th BRICS Health Ministers (22-24 Jul)	Chandigarh	-
2nd Bharat Green	New Delhi	FICCI; India as global

Hydrogen Summit (23 Jul)		hydrogen hub
33rd ASEAN Regional Forum (23 Jul)	Manila	-
BRICS statistical offices heads (3-4 Aug)	Lucknow	Ministry of Statistics (MoSPI)
2nd National Port Security Conference (6 Aug)	New Delhi	-
16th BRICS Trade Ministers (7 Aug)	Jaipur	-
11th BRICS Culture Ministers (7-8 Aug)	Bhopal	-
BRICS ICT Track (17-21 Aug)	Pune	Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future
12th BRICS Communications Ministers (21 Aug)	Pune	Chaired by Jyotiraditya Scindia
BRICS Youth Ministers (22 Aug)	Visakhapatnam	Youth Affairs Department
BRICS Sports Ministers (23 Aug)	Visakhapatnam	-
G20 Innovation Ministers (1-2 Sep)	Chapel Hill, USA	Hosted by US Commerce Dept and OSTP
7th Global Fintech Fest (8-11 Sep)	Mumbai	Agentic AI, tokenisation, quantum
27th World Knowledge Forum (8-10 Sep)	Seoul	Co-Intelligence Order
BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (9-10 Sep)	Mumbai	-
Global Dryland Congress (10-12 Sep)	New Delhi	South-South cooperation for dryland agriculture
69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (13-19 Sep)	Cape Town	Indian delegation led by Harivansh
G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial (14-16 Sep)	Houston, USA	-
World Circular Economy Forum (15-18 Sep)	Gandhinagar	Transition for People and Prosperity
3rd BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine (16-17 Sep)	Goa	Ministry of Ayush; AIIA Goa nodal institute
6th National Pharmacovigilance Week (17-23 Sep)	-	Promoting Rational Use of Medicines
17th Kathakali Festival (18-20 Sep)	Chennai	Kadha Rasa Sangama
Conference on Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics (19-20 Sep)	Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi	Inaugurated by PM Modi
India International Water Week (22-26 Sep)	Bharat Mandapam	Climate Resilient Water Management
11th AIIB Annual Meeting (28-29 Sep)	Doha, Qatar	Tomorrow's Infrastructure: Impact and Innovation
5th Kautilya Economic Conclave (3-5 Oct)	New Delhi	Resilience in an Age of Flux
153rd IPU Assembly (5-9 Oct)	Arusha, Tanzania	Indian delegation led by Harivansh
10th India Mobile Congress (7-10 Oct)	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi	Scale Without Boundaries
8th Windergy India (7-9 Oct)	Chennai	Inaugurated by Pralhad Joshi
World Health Summit (11-13 Oct)	Berlin	From Crisis to Resilience
1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting (13 Oct)	New Delhi	Chaired by Amit Shah
25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (19-20 Oct)	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Led by Rajnath Singh
14th India Chem 2026 (22-24 Oct)	Mumbai	Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub
India Mining Week (15-17 Nov)	Yashobhoomi	-

Conferences and Summits in 2027

Event	Venue	Remarks
India Energy Week 2027 (28-31 Jan 2027)	Kolkata	Unlocking Innovation. Securing Energy. Shaping Tomorrow

Military Exercises 2025-26: Complete Year-wise List

Context: All bilateral and multilateral military exercises of Indian forces during 2025-26 are arranged year-wise in one place, with partner country, venue and dates, since exercise names and partners are regularly asked. The 29th Malabar exercise brought together India, Japan, Australia and the US around Guam, and Exercise Garuda Shakti is an India-Indonesia special forces drill. Operation Sagar Bandhu was relief to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah.

□ Key Highlights

- The 29th Malabar exercise brought together India, Japan, Australia and the US, held around Guam in the Northern Pacific.
- Operation Sagar Bandhu was India's humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah caused severe floods.
- Exercise Garuda Shakti is an India-Indonesia special forces drill; Garuda is an India-France air exercise.
- Exercise Ajeya Warrior is the India-UK army exercise; Harimau Shakti is with Malaysia.
- Dosti is a trilateral coast guard exercise involving India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Khanjar with Kyrgyzstan was held at Missamari, Assam; Vajra Prahar with the US is a special forces exercise at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- Exercise Cyclone-IV is the India-Egypt special forces drill held at Anshas, Egypt.
- Vayu Shakti is the Indian Air Force's firepower demonstration at Pokhran, Jaisalmer.
- CINBAX-II is an India-Cambodia exercise held in Kampong Speu Province.
- Pitch Black is Australia's multinational air-combat exercise at RAAF Darwin, Tindal and Amberley.

- Maitree is the India-Thailand army exercise; Udara Shakti is the IAF-Royal Malaysian Air Force exercise.
- Sudarshan Shakti-V was a counter-hijack mock drill at IGI Airport; Cy-Vajra was a cyber exercise of UP Police.
- SIMBEX is the Singapore-India maritime bilateral exercise, held at Visakhapatnam (33rd edition).
- Austrahind is India-Australia; Mountain Guardian is India-UAE; Kazind is India-Kazakhstan.
- SAREX is the national maritime search and rescue exercise, held off the Paradip coast, Odisha.
- SLINEX-26 with Sri Lanka and Samudra Laksaman with Malaysia are naval exercises.
- INS Trishul went to Toulon, France for the 24th edition of Varuna; the exercise began in 1993 and was renamed Varuna in 2001.
- The IAF will host Tarang Shakti-26 from 26 September to 12 October at Jodhpur; the first edition was in 2024 with 11 countries.
- Eight countries are flying assets in Tarang Shakti-26 and 32 attend as observers.
- Veer Guardian 2026 at Jodhpur was the second edition of the IAF-JASDF exercise; the first was in 2023 at Hyakuri Air Base.
- Yudh Abhyas has been held annually since 2004; the 22nd edition was at Auli, Uttarakhand and Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

Exercises in 2025

Exercise	Partner(s)	Venue	Dates
Malabar-2025 (29th)	India, Japan, Australia, USA	Guam, Northern Pacific	10-18 Nov
Mitra Shakti-2025 (11th)	India-Sri Lanka	Belagavi, Karnataka	10-23 Nov
Vinbax-2025 (6th)	India-Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam	11-27 Nov
Garuda-25 (8th)	India-France	Mont-de-Marsan, France	16-27 Nov
Ajeya Warrior-25 (8th)	India-UK	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan	17-30 Nov
Surya Kiran-2025 (19th)	India-Nepal	Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand	25 Nov-8 Dec
Operation Sagar Bandhu	India to Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka (Cyclone Ditwah relief)	28 Nov
Ekuverin-2025 (14th)	India-Maldives	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	2-15 Dec
Garuda Shakti-2025 (10th)	India-Indonesia	Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, HP	3-12 Dec
Harimau Shakti-2025 (5th)	India-Malaysia	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan	5-18 Dec
Desert Cyclone-II	India-UAE	Abu Dhabi, UAE	18-30 Dec

Exercises in 2026

Exercise	Partner(s)	Venue	Dates
ICG-JCG Joint Exercise	Indian Coast Guard-Japan Coast Guard	Mumbai	15-17 Jan
Dosti (17th)	India, Maldives, Sri Lanka	Maldives	16-19 Jan
Khanjar (13th)	India-Kyrgyzstan	Missamari, Assam	4-17 Feb
Vajra Prahar (6th)	India-USA	Special Forces Training School, Bakloh	24 Feb-16 Mar
Lamitiye (11th)	India-Seychelles	Seychelles Defence Academy	9-20 Mar
Cyclone-IV	India-Egypt	Anshas, Egypt	9-17 Apr
DIVEX (4th)	Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy	Colombo	21-28 Apr
CINBAX-II	India-Cambodia	Kampong Speu, Cambodia	4-17 May
Cy-Vajra	Uttar Pradesh Police	-	7-13 Jul
Tiger Lightning	USA-Bangladesh	Bangladesh	19-31 Jul
Pitch Black	Multinational air-combat	Darwin, Tindal, Amberley (Australia)	20 Jul-7 Aug
Southern Readiness 26-2	Multinational maritime security training	Kochi	20-23 Jul
India-US Navy EOD Exercise (8th)	Indian Navy-US Navy	Southern Naval Command, Kochi	10-14 Aug
Maitree (15th)	India-Thailand	Surat Thani, Thailand	18-31 Aug
Samudra Laksaman (4th)	Indian Navy-Royal Malaysian Navy	Lumut, Malaysia	9-12 Sep
Colombo Security Conclave Table Top Exercise	CSC members	Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam	9-11 Sep
SLINEX-26 (13th)	India-Sri Lanka	Off Visakhapatnam	17-21 Sep
Kazind	India-Kazakhstan	Oskemen, Kazakhstan	28 Sep-11 Oct
Mountain Guardian	India-UAE	Chaubatia, Uttarakhand	5-18 Oct
SAREX-2026	National maritime SAR exercise	Off Paradip, Odisha	8 Oct
Austrahind (5th)	India-Australia	Thiruvananthapuram	19 Oct-1 Nov
SIMBEX-2026 (33rd)	India-Singapore	Visakhapatnam	21-26 Oct
Vayu Shakti 2026-27	Indian Air Force	Pokhran Range, Jaisalmer	Feb
Udara Shakti	IAF-Royal Malaysian Air Force	Subang, Malaysia	Aug
Sudarshan Shakti-V	Counter-hijack and anti-terror mock drill	IGI Airport, New Delhi	Aug

Other Exercises Noted (Service-wise)

Exercise	Service
Yudh Abhyas	Army
Cope India	Air Force
Tiger Triumph	Tri-Services
Sea Defenders	Coast Guard

Economy

Current Notes

Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025

Context: The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 was released on National Milk Day (26 November 2025), based on the Integrated Sample Survey run from March 2024 to February 2025 and giving livestock output for 2024-25. Milk production was 247.87 million tonnes, up 3.58%, with India first in the world, and eggs reached 149.11 billion, with India second globally. It matters for livestock questions.

□ Economy of livestock

- Livestock GVA grew by nearly 195% at current prices between 2014-15 and 2023-24.
- It formed 31% of agricultural GVA and 5.5% of national GVA in 2023-24.
- Livestock product exports were Rs 66,249 crore in 2024-25, led by meat items such as bovine meat and edible offal.

□ Production in 2024-25

- Milk: 247.87 million tonnes, up 3.58%; India ranks first in the world. Per capita availability rose from 319 to 485 g/day. Top five states give 54.09% of output.
- Eggs: 149.11 billion, up 4.44%; India is second globally. Per capita availability rose from 62 to 106 eggs a year; commercial poultry gives 84.49%.
- Meat: 10.50 million tonnes, up 2.46%; India is fourth globally; poultry is about half.
- Wool: 34.57 million kg, up 2.63%.

Top producing states (share)

Product	Leading states
Milk	Uttar Pradesh 15.66%, Rajasthan 14.82%, Madhya Pradesh 9.12%, Gujarat 7.78%, Maharashtra 6.71%
Eggs	Andhra Pradesh 18.37%, Tamil Nadu 15.63%, Telangana 12.98%, West Bengal 10.72%, Karnataka 6.67%
Meat	West Bengal 12.46%, Uttar Pradesh 12.20%, Maharashtra 11.57%, Andhra Pradesh 10.84%, Telangana 10.49%
Wool	Rajasthan 47.85%, Jammu & Kashmir 22.88%, Gujarat 6.22%, Maharashtra 4.75%, Himachal Pradesh 4.30%

Coking Coal Declared a Critical and Strategic Mineral

Context: Coking coal has been added to Part D of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, which lists critical and strategic minerals. The move recognises its role in mineral security and the steel sector.

□ Key Highlights

- It empowers the Centre to regulate mines and develop mineral resources. It provides for District Mineral Foundations (DMF) and the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).
- About 95 percent of the steel sector's coking coal requirement is met through imports, causing heavy outflow of foreign exchange.
- The decision is expected to speed up approvals, improve ease of doing business and hasten exploration and mining, including deep-seated deposits.
- Coking coal is a key raw material for blast furnace steelmaking and is also used in cement, chemicals and petrochemicals.
- Estimated reserves are 37.37 billion tonnes, mainly in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.
- The 2023 amendments removed 6 minerals from the list of 12 atomic minerals, allowed the Centre to auction mineral concessions for critical minerals exclusively, and introduced exploration licences for deep-seated and critical minerals.
- Related initiatives include Mission Coking Coal, 100 percent FDI in commercial coal mining and 39 first-mile connectivity projects.

Credit-Linked Sub-Schemes under Export Promotion Mission

Context: In January 2026 two pilot credit-linked sub-schemes were launched under the export promotion component of the Export Promotion Mission, to ease credit access for exporters. The Interest Subvention Sub-Scheme gives a 2.75 percent base interest subsidy on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit, while the Collateral Support Sub-Scheme, run with CGTMSE, offers guarantee cover of up to 85 percent for micro and small exporters.

□ Interest Subvention Sub-Scheme

- Gives a 2.75 percent base interest subsidy on pre- and post-shipment export credit in Indian rupees.
- Additional incentive for exports to notified low-representation or emerging markets.
- Maximum annual support of Rs 50 lakh for FY 2025-26.
- Eligible tariff lines are those on a positive list at HS 6-digit level, covering about 75 percent of India's tariff lines.

□ Collateral Support Sub-Scheme

- Implemented with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Guarantee cover of up to 85 percent for micro and small exporters and up to 65 percent for medium exporters.
- Ceiling of Rs 10 crore of outstanding guaranteed credit per exporter per financial year.

Export Preparedness Index 2024

Context: In January 2026 NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, assessing the export readiness of Indian states and Union Territories. The index, first published in 2020, supports the goal of 1 trillion dollars of merchandise exports by 2030 and Viksit Bharat @2047. States are graded as Aspirers, Challengers or Leaders, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat among top large states.

□ Key Highlights

- The first edition of EPI was published in 2020, and the index supports the goal of 1 trillion dollars of merchandise exports by 2030 and Viksit Bharat @2047.
- States are split into two groups, large states and small states, north-eastern states and UTs, and graded as Aspirers, Challengers or Leaders.
- Top performers among large states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- Top performers among small states, north-eastern states and UTs are Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Goa.
- Uttar Pradesh's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme is cited as a policy strength, while the lack of a wide NABL laboratory network limits its ability to meet global food safety standards.
- The Export Promotion Mission was announced in 2025 to strengthen competitiveness of MSMEs, first-time exporters and labour-intensive sectors.
- Export Facilitation Centres are being set up across the country.
- The Districts as Export Hubs initiative was started in 2019.
- Union Budget 2026-27 removed the Rs 10 lakh per-consignment value cap on courier exports.

EPI pillars and weightage

Pillar	Weightage
Export infrastructure	20%
Business ecosystem	40%
Policy and governance	20%
Export performance	20%

India Becomes World's Largest Rice Producer

Context: In January 2026 India overtook China to become the world's largest rice producer, with output of about 150 million tonnes; it is also the largest rice exporter, shipping 20.1 million metric tonnes in 2024-25. Rice is grown from 8 to 30 degrees N latitude and needs 100-150 cm rainfall, and Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal lead state-wise production.

□ Key Highlights

- Rice is grown from 8 degrees N to 30 degrees N latitude and up to about 2,500 metres above sea level. It needs 100-150 cm rainfall, high humidity and temperatures of about 30 degrees C by day and 20 degrees C at night.
- In 2024-25 India exported 20.1 million metric tonnes of rice.
- Top destinations for Indian rice include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Benin and the UAE.
- State-wise production share in 2024-25: Uttar Pradesh 13.8 percent, Telangana 11.6 percent, West Bengal 10.6 percent, Punjab 9.5 percent and Chhattisgarh 7 percent.
- The government registered two new artificial cattle breeds, Karan Fries and Vrindavani, which give higher milk yields.
- Indigenous breeds recognised include Medini (Jharkhand), Rohilkhandi (Uttar Pradesh) and Melghati (Maharashtra).
- It grows best in impermeable subsoil with pH between 5.5 and 6.5 and needs standing water for about three-quarters of its growing season.
- Aman is the winter rice, sown in June-July and harvested in November-December.
- Aus is the autumn rice, sown in May-June and harvested in September-October.
- Boro is the summer rice, grown between November and May, often in areas that stay wet in winter.

India's FDI Inflow in FY 2024-25

Context: Government data showed India's FDI inflows rose to USD 81.04 billion (provisional) in FY 2024-25, up 14% from USD 71.28 billion, with services leading and Maharashtra the top destination. Services was the top recipient of equity at 19%, and Maharashtra took 39% of equity inflows. The sectors and states topping the FDI chart are common exam questions.

□ Key Highlights

- Inflow rose from USD 36.05 bn (2013-14) to 81.04 bn (provisional) in 2024-25, up 14% from 71.28 bn.
- Services was the top recipient of equity (19%), then computer software and hardware (16%) and trading (8%).
- Services FDI rose 40.77% to USD 9.35 bn; manufacturing FDI grew 18% to USD 19.04 bn.
- Maharashtra had 39% of equity inflows, then Karnataka (13%) and Delhi (12%).
- Source countries: Singapore 30%, Mauritius 17%, USA 11%.
- Eleven years 2014-25 brought USD 748.78 bn, a 143% rise over the earlier eleven years (USD 308.38 bn).

NITI Aayog Framework on Affordable Housing

Context: In January 2026 NITI Aayog released a report providing a flexible definition of affordable housing and recommendations to promote it. It defines affordable housing as a unit up to 60 sq m carpet area and Rs 60 lakh in metropolitan cities, and up to 90 sq m and Rs 45 lakh elsewhere. It recommends earmarking 10 percent of residential land, transit-oriented zoning and rental housing policies.

□ Key Highlights

- Zoning: at least 10 percent of all residential land in master plans should be earmarked for affordable housing, as in Vienna and South Korea.
- Transit-oriented development: areas near metro and public transport stations should be zoned for mixed use, combining offices, commercial space and affordable housing.

- Reservation: projects above 10,000 sq m built-up area or 5,000 sq m plots should reserve 10-15 percent built-up area for EWS/LIG housing.
- Rental housing: states should adopt dedicated rental housing stock policies through PPP, in line with the Affordable Rental Housing component of PMAY-U 2.0.

□ Definition

- In metropolitan cities, a unit with carpet area up to 60 sq m and price up to Rs 60 lakh is affordable.
- In non-metropolitan areas, a unit with carpet area up to 90 sq m and price up to Rs 45 lakh is affordable.
- PMAY-Urban 2.0 (2024) defines affordable housing by a similar carpet area and price not exceeding Rs 45 lakh.

RB-IOS 2026: Unified Ombudsman Scheme from July

Context: The Reserve Bank has issued the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026, a revised grievance redress mechanism for customers of RBI-regulated entities. It takes effect on 1 July 2026.

□ Key Highlights

- The aim is a low-cost, quick and non-adversarial alternative mechanism to resolve complaints against RBI-regulated entities such as banks and NBFCs.
- RBI may appoint officers as RBI Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman, normally for a term of three years.
- RBI will set up a Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) to receive and process complaints.
- There is no ceiling on the value of a dispute that can be brought before the Ombudsman.
- The Ombudsman can award compensation of up to Rs 30 lakh.
- Complaints can be filed for deficiency in service caused by an act or omission of the regulated entity.
- Either party can appeal to the appellate authority within 30 days of the decision.
- Each regulated entity must name a Principal Nodal Officer at its head office.

RBI Revises PSL Norms; Bank NPAs at Multi-Decade Low

Context: The RBI issued the Reserve Bank of India (Priority Sector Lending - Targets and Classification) Directions, 2025. Separately, its report on trend and progress of banking showed gross NPAs of Indian banks at a multi-decade low.

□ PSL Directions, 2025

- Priority sector lending aims to give weaker sections and underdeveloped sectors easy access to credit.
- Banks must now obtain certification from external auditors so that the same underlying loan is not claimed as PSL by both the parent bank and an intermediary such as an NBFC or cooperative.
- The PSL target for Small Finance Banks is cut from 75 percent to 60 percent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC).
- Bank loans to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for onward lending to cooperatives are now formally classified as PSL.
- Banks may meet PSL targets through co-lending, and export credit to agriculture and MSMEs counts as PSL.

□ NPA Position

- Gross NPA ratio fell to 2.1 percent by the end of 2025, and the net NPA ratio fell to 0.5 percent by March 2025.
- The gross NPA ratio had peaked at 11.18 percent in 2018.
- A loan becomes an NPA when interest or principal stays unpaid for 90 days after the due date.
- Net NPA equals gross NPA minus provisions.
- Key tools against NPAs include the IBC 2016, the SARFAESI Act 2002, Asset Reconstruction Companies, Debt Recovery Tribunals and the Indradhanush plan for public sector bank recapitalisation.

Social Security Schemes: APY, NPS Vatsalya, PM SVANidhi

Context: In January 2026 the Union Cabinet extended the Atal Pension Yojana to 2030-31, PFRDA issued guidelines for NPS Vatsalya 2025, and PM SVANidhi was expanded with a credit card facility for street vendors. APY guarantees a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 from age 60 to non-taxpayers aged 18 to 40, with more than 8.66 crore members. These are core social security schemes.

□ Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Launched in 2015 under the Ministry of Finance and administered by PFRDA under the National Pension System.
- Open to bank account holders aged 18 to 40 who are not income tax payers.
- Guarantees a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 from age 60.
- On the subscriber's death the spouse gets the pension, and the nominee receives the accumulated corpus after both.
- Contributions get tax benefit under Section 80CCD(1).
- Government co-contribution was available only for members who joined between 1 June 2015 and 31 March 2016.
- As of 19 January 2026, more than 8.66 crore members have joined.

□ NPS Vatsalya Scheme, 2025

- PFRDA issued guidelines; the nodal ministry is the Ministry of Finance.
- It aims to build a saving habit in children from an early age and promote long-term disciplined investment for their future pension.

□ PM SVANidhi

- Launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic to give collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors.
- Loan tranches are Rs 15,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000, with a 7 percent interest subsidy on working capital loans.
- Digital transaction cashback of up to Rs 1,600 is offered.

- Vendors who repaid the second tranche, or took the third tranche, are now eligible for a special credit card with a limit of Rs 30,000.
- Credit guarantee is managed by CGTMSE.

States' Startup Ranking Framework 5.0 and National Startup Awards 5.0

Context: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) announced results of the fifth round of the States' Startup Ranking Framework and the fifth National Startup Awards, with 34 States and UTs taking part in the ranking. Gujarat was Best Performer in Category A. Startup India completed ten years in January 2026, so ranking categories and toppers are likely exam facts.

□ **Startup ecosystem facts**

- Startup India completed ten years on 16 January 2026; 16 January is National Startup Day (declared 2022).
- India is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with over 2 lakh startups and nearly 125 unicorns.

□ **SRF 5.0 results**

- Best Performer, Category A: Gujarat.
- Best Performers, Category B: Arunachal Pradesh and Goa.
- Top Performers, Category A: Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- Top Performer, Category B: Himachal Pradesh.
- Leaders in Category B: Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- National Startup Awards 5.0 had 20 award categories, including Tier-II/III cities and deep-tech.

Three-Year PPP Project Pipeline

Context: The Department of Economic Affairs prepared a three-year pipeline of public-private partnership projects to streamline infrastructure development, in line with the Rs 12.2 lakh crore public capital expenditure announced in Union Budget 2026-27.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The pipeline includes 852 projects of Union infrastructure ministries and states/UTs, with a combined project cost above Rs 17 lakh crore.
- Public capex rose from Rs 2 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 11.2 lakh crore in BE 2025-26.
- The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), headed by the Secretary, DEA, recommended 129 projects worth Rs 5.6 lakh crore between 2014-15 and 4 December 2025.
- India is consistently among the top five countries in private participation in infrastructure and accounts for over 90 percent of such investment in South Asia, per World Bank PPI report 2024.
- Under AMRUT 2.0, 10 percent of projects in cities with over 10 lakh population must be through PPP.
- Vadhavan deep-draft port is being developed under PPP.
- Viability Gap Funding can cover up to 40 percent of capex for economic sector projects.
- Social sector projects can receive up to 80 percent of capex and up to 50 percent of operating expenditure for five years.
- The India Infrastructure Project Development Fund was notified in 2022 to finance transaction advisers.
- A proposed Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund was announced in Union Budget 2026-27.

PPP investment models

Model	Feature
BOT	Private partner builds, operates and transfers to government
LOT	Existing asset leased to private sector, operated and transferred back
BOOT	Build, own, operate and transfer after recovering investment
EPC	Government pays contractor to design, procure and build
HAM	40% paid by government, 60% by developer

Biopharma SHAKTI Mission

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, announced Biopharma SHAKTI (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) to make India a global biomanufacturing hub, with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore over five years. It includes three new NIPERs, upgrade of seven existing ones, over 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites and a stronger CDSCO, complementing the BioE3 Policy.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Biologics are medicines made from living sources, and biosimilars are highly similar copies of them. India's bioeconomy grew from 10 billion dollars (2014) to 165.7 billion dollars (2024), with a 300 billion dollar target for 2030; it contributes 4.25 per cent to GDP.
- The outlay is Rs 10,000 crore over five years.
- Three new NIPERs will be set up and seven existing ones upgraded.
- A network of over 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites will be created.
- CDSCO will get a dedicated scientific review cadre to meet global standards.
- Three new NIPERs and upgrade of seven existing ones.
- More than 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites.
- Strengthened CDSCO for faster evaluation of complex biologics.
- It complements the BioE3 Policy and the PRIP scheme.
- The National Biopharma Mission, implemented by BIRAC, is co-funded by the World Bank.
- India allows 100 per cent FDI under automatic route for greenfield pharma and up to 74 per cent for brownfield.
- Biologics are medicines made from living cells.
- Biosimilars are highly similar and equally safe and effective versions.

Budget 2026-27: Direct and Indirect Tax Proposals

Context: Part B of Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, brings the Income Tax Act, 2025 into force from 1 April 2026 and proposes a range of simplification, relief and customs measures. Direct tax changes include TCS falling to 2 per cent on overseas tour packages and LRS remittances for education and medical, while customs duty on dutiable personal-use imports falls from 20 to 10 per cent.

□ Direct Taxes

- Income Tax Act, 2025 takes effect from 1 April 2026.
- Interest awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal to a natural person is exempt from tax.
- TCS on overseas tour packages, and on education and medical remittances under LRS, falls to 2 per cent.
- Time for revising returns extends to 31 March; ITR 1 and 2 filing stays at 31 July and non-audit business cases get till 31 August.
- A six-month foreign asset disclosure scheme for small taxpayers.
- IT services get a single category with a 15.5 per cent safe harbour margin and a Rs 2,000 crore threshold; foreign cloud companies using Indian data centres get a tax holiday till 2047.
- STT on futures rises to 0.05 per cent and on options premium to 0.15 per cent.
- APAs are to be completed within 2 years, extendable by 6 months.
- The Liberalised Remittance Scheme allows resident individuals to remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year and was introduced in 2004.

□ Indirect Taxes

- Customs duty on dutiable goods imported for personal use falls from 20 to 10 per cent.
- Basic customs duty is exempted on 17 drugs, and seven more rare diseases are added for import relief.
- Duty exemption on nuclear power project imports extends till 2035.
- BCD exemption for capital goods used in critical mineral processing.
- Customs Integrated System to roll out in two years and the Rs 10 lakh cap on courier exports is removed.

Budget 2026-27: Manufacturing, MSME and Infrastructure Measures

Context: Union Budget 2026-27 proposed a two-track manufacturing strategy, building capabilities in technology-intensive sectors while sustaining labour-intensive industries, alongside new MSME and infrastructure measures including a Rs 20,000 crore CCUS outlay.

□ Manufacturing

- Biopharma SHAKTI (Rs 10,000 crore) to build a biologics and biosimilars ecosystem, and India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 for fabrication, packaging, equipment, materials and full-stack Indian IP.
- Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme outlay raised from Rs 22,919 crore to Rs 40,000 crore.
- Dedicated Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and three Chemical Parks.
- A scheme to revive 200 legacy industrial clusters, a Construction and Infrastructure Equipment scheme and a container manufacturing scheme of over Rs 10,000 crore.
- Integrated textile programme including the National Fibre Scheme, Samarth 2.0 and the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative.

□ MSME and Finance

- A Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund and Rs 2,000 crore top-up to the Self-Reliant India Fund.
- TReDS mandatory for CPSE purchases from MSMEs, with CGTMSE guarantees for invoice discounting.
- A High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat and restructuring of PFC and REC.
- A Rs 100 crore incentive for municipal bond issues above Rs 1,000 crore.

□ Infrastructure and Energy

- Public capital expenditure rises about 9 per cent to Rs 12.2 lakh crore; a new Dedicated Freight Corridor from Dankuni to Surat.
- Twenty new National Waterways in five years, starting with NW-5 in Odisha.
- Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme to lift the share of waterways and coastal shipping from 6 to 12 per cent by 2047.
- Rs 20,000 crore over five years for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage.
- Seven high-speed rail corridors, and Rs 5,000 crore per City Economic Region over five years.

Budget 2026-27: Social Sector, Education and Tourism Announcements

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, grouped its second and third kartavyas around health, education, tourism, farmers, Divyangjan and the Purvodaya States. Announcements include five Regional Medical Hubs, three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda, a National Institute of Design in eastern India, development of fifteen archaeological sites, and dedicated programmes for cashew, cocoa and coconut.

□ Health and Education

- Five Regional Medical Hubs with private partnership and 100,000 allied health professionals in five years.
- Three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda and an upgraded WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar.
- NIMHANS-2 in northern India and Emergency and Trauma Care Centres in every district hospital.
- A new National Institute of Design in eastern India, five University Townships and a girls' hostel in every district.

- Upgrade of four telescope and planetarium facilities including the National Large Solar Telescope and Himalayan Chandra Telescope.

□ **Tourism, Culture and Sports**

- Fifteen archaeological sites including Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur and Leh Palace to be developed.
- National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid and a pilot to train 10,000 guides at 20 iconic sites.
- NCHMCT to become the National Institute of Hospitality.
- Khelo India Mission for a decade-long sports transformation.
- Buddhist Circuits scheme for Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

□ **Farmers and Inclusion**

- Integrated development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars; Mission Amrit Sarovar has built 68,827 sarovars.
- Dedicated programmes for cashew, cocoa, coconut, walnuts, almonds and Indian sandalwood.
- Bharat-VISTAAR AI tool, SHE-Mart outlets in every district, Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana and Divyang Sahara Yojana.
- East Coast Industrial Corridor with a node at Durgapur and 4,000 e-buses for Purvodaya States.

CAG's State Finances Report 2023-24

Context: The Comptroller and Auditor General released the second edition of its State Finances 2023-24 publication, a consolidated analysis of all 28 states with a ten-year trend from 2014-15 to 2023-24. The Economic Survey 2026 also cautioned about unconditional cash transfers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- States' own tax revenue is the biggest component, contributing about 47 percent of revenue receipts over the decade.
- Share in central taxes and duties contributed 28 percent, grants-in-aid 17 percent and non-tax revenue 8 percent.
- The share of states in central taxes rose from 21.34 percent in 2014-15 to 29.77 percent in 2023-24.
- In 2023-24, 16 states had a revenue surplus while 12 had a revenue deficit.
- In 2023-24, 18 states had a fiscal deficit above the 3 percent of GSDP limit recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- Committed expenditure such as salaries, pensions and interest absorbed 51.76 percent of revenue expenditure in 2023-24.

Champion MSMEs under Budget 2026-27

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, set a three-pronged approach of equity, liquidity and professional support to create Champion MSMEs. TReDS use becomes mandatory for CPSE purchases, backed by CGTMSE guarantees for invoice discounting and GeM-TReDS integration, and Corporate Mitras will help with compliance. MSMEs account for 31.1 per cent of GDP and 48.58 per cent of exports.

□ **Key Highlights**

- TReDS use becomes mandatory for CPSE purchases, with CGTMSE guarantees for invoice discounting, GeM-TReDS integration and asset-backed securities for receivables.
- Corporate Mitras will help MSMEs with compliance.
- TReDS was created by the RBI in 2018; only MSMEs can be sellers.
- MSMEs account for 31.1 per cent of GDP and 48.58 per cent of exports.

Ease of Doing Business Reforms in India

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, reaffirmed Ease of Doing Business as a pillar of growth. India's last World Bank ranking, in the Doing Business Report 2019, was 63rd, an improvement of 79 places in five years. Reforms include the Regulatory Compliance Burden initiative, the Jan Vishwas Act 2023 decriminalising 183 provisions, SPICe+ and ULIP.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India ranked 63 in the Doing Business Report 2019, an improvement of 79 places in five years.
- Business registrations grew about 27 per cent between 2020-21 and 2025-26.
- The Regulatory Compliance Burden initiative of 2020 helped cut around 47,000 compliances.
- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 Acts.
- The Sabka Bima, Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025 amended three insurance laws.
- SPICe+ merges 10 services such as DIN, PAN, TAN and GSTIN, and ULIP integrates over 35 systems.

Female Labour Force Participation and Lakhpati Didi

Context: Raising female labour force participation to around 55 per cent by 2050 is seen as critical for sustaining growth. The government also achieved 3 crore Lakhpati Didis ahead of schedule and set a new goal of 6 crore by March 2029.

□ **Female Participation**

- India fell from 129th to 131st in the WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2025 and ranked in the bottom five on economic participation.
- Women are 43 per cent of STEM graduates but about 27 per cent of the STEM workforce.
- Women spend 363 minutes a day on unpaid work against 123 for men.
- The Labour Codes provide up to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and creche promotion.

□ **Lakhpati Didi**

- It was launched in 2023 under DAY-NRLM by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- A Lakhpati Didi earns over Rs 1 lakh annual household income, with at least Rs 10,000 monthly over four seasons or cycles.
- The 3 crore target for March 2027 was met a year early.

- Support includes Revolving Fund of Rs 20,000-30,000 and Community Investment Fund up to Rs 2.5 lakh per SHG.

Gig Workers and Platform Economy

Context: In February 2026 major delivery aggregators agreed to drop the 10-minute delivery deadline, bringing the welfare of gig workers into focus. The Code on Social Security, 2020 gave the first legal definition of gig and platform workers and requires aggregators to contribute to a social security fund. The Economic Survey 2025-26 estimated gig workers at over 2 percent of the workforce.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Rajasthan passed a platform-based gig workers bill in 2023 and Karnataka one in 2025. Spain's Rider Law of 2021 treated food delivery couriers as employees.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020 gave the first legal definition of gig workers and platform workers.
- Aggregators must contribute 1 to 2 percent of annual turnover to a social security fund, capped at 5 percent of payments to such workers.
- Gig workers register on the e-Shram portal and receive a Universal Account Number, making benefits portable across platforms.
- The Economic Survey 2025-26 estimated gig workers at over 2 percent of the workforce, and about 40 percent earn below Rs 15,000 a month.
- The number rose from 77 lakh in FY21 to 120 lakh in FY25, and NITI Aayog projects 2.35 crore by 2029-30.
- Union Budget 2025-26 announced health cover under PM-JAY for around 1 crore gig workers.
- The EU Platform Work Directive was adopted in 2024.
- The ILO began formal discussion in 2025 on international standards for decent work in the platform economy.

Grain Storage and PACS Expansion

Context: The government fast-tracked doubling the credit target of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to strengthen grain storage, while it aims to cover all panchayats with multipurpose PACS or dairy and fisheries cooperatives over five years.

□ **Grain Storage**

- Third Advance Estimates 2024-25 put foodgrain production at a record 353.96 million tonnes.
- Storage capacity for central pool grains with FCI and State agencies was 917.83 lakh tonnes on 1 July 2025.
- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was launched in 2020.
- The Shanta Kumar Committee (2014) recommended Negotiable Warehouse Receipts.

□ **PACS**

- Single-State PACS fall under Entry 32 of State List; multi-state under Entry 44 of Union List.
- PACS sanctioned: 79,630; newly registered: 32,802; digitised: 61,478.
- The National Cooperation Policy 2025 expands membership and leadership roles for women.

India's New GDP Series with Base Year 2022-23

Context: MoSPI released a new series of National Accounts Statistics on 27 February 2026, shifting the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. It uses new data sources and double deflation, raising real growth estimates but lowering nominal GDP.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Private corporate GVA is allocated by activity-wise revenue share instead of the company's main activity.
- Household estimates use ASUSE and PLFS annually instead of extrapolation.
- GST data is used for regional output, corporate value addition and identifying active companies.
- Banks are measured with RBI's STRBI data and NBFCs with Ministry of Corporate Affairs data.
- Double deflation applies separate price adjustments to inputs and outputs, replacing the single deflator method.
- Supply and Use Tables are integrated into national accounts.

□ **Impact**

- FY26 real GDP growth is projected at 7.6 per cent in the second advance estimates against 7.4 per cent under the old series.
- Nominal GDP for FY26 is Rs 345.47 lakh crore, about 3.3 per cent lower than earlier; FY24 and FY25 were revised down by about 3.8 per cent each.
- FY26 fiscal deficit rises to 4.51 per cent of GDP from 4.36 per cent, and FY27 debt-to-GDP is 57.5 per cent against 55.6 per cent.
- GDP in 2025-26 is about $3.8 trillion at Rs 90.98 per dollar.
- India plans to move to SNA 2025 at its next base revision; a back series will take nearly a year.

National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0

Context: In February 2026 the Finance Minister launched the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0, based on the Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30 developed by NITI Aayog, with a monetisation target of Rs 16.72 lakh crore over FY26 to FY30. NMP 1.0 (2021) had achieved 89 per cent of its Rs 6 lakh crore target. NMP 2.0 covers 12 sectors, with highways at 26 per cent.

□ **Key Highlights**

- NMP 1.0 (2021) targeted Rs 6 lakh crore over FY22-FY25 and achieved 89 per cent.
- NMP 2.0 covers 12 sectors, and its potential, including Rs 5.8 lakh crore of private investment, is 2.6 times that of NMP 1.0.
- Highways account for 26 per cent, power 17 per cent, and railways and ports 16 per cent each.
- It focuses on core assets and considers DBFOT-type PPP models; non-core assets are included only where further development is planned, and pure commercial sale of land is excluded.
- The Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation under the Cabinet Secretary monitors progress.

- Proceeds flow to the Consolidated Fund, PSUs or port authorities, State Consolidated Funds (mines and coal royalty) and direct private investment.
- The Vijay Kelkar Committee (2012) first suggested asset monetisation; the National Land Monetisation Corporation handles non-core CPSE assets.

NMP 2.0 sector shares

Sector	Share of target
Highways	26%
Power	17%
Railways	16%
Ports	16%
Coal	13%

New CPI Series with Base Year 2024

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the new Consumer Price Index series with base year 2024, replacing the 2012 base. The first reading for January 2026 showed headline inflation of 2.75 percent.

□ **Key Highlights**

- CPI uses the Laspeyres index formula and the Combined CPI is used as the headline inflation measure. RBI targets inflation at 4 percent with a band of plus or minus 2 percent based on CPI (Combined).
- All-India annual inflation for January 2026 was 2.75 percent, with rural at 2.73 percent and urban at 2.77 percent.
- Food inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index was 2.13 percent and housing inflation was 2.05 percent.
- The new basket has 358 items, with goods rising from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50.
- Weights are drawn from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24, and data are collected using tablets through CAPI.
- Rural rent is included in the housing index for the first time, while government and employer-provided housing is excluded.
- E-commerce prices are included for 12 large cities with population above 25 lakh, and online sources are used for airfares and OTT subscriptions.
- The basket also adds online media and streaming services and CNG/PNG fuels, and adopts COICOP 2018 with 12 divisions at the first level.
- A linking factor is calculated using 2025 as the overlap year when both the 2012 and 2024 series are available.
- MoSPI plans to revise the base year every 3 to 5 years.

CPI 2024 versus CPI 2012

Feature	CPI 2024	CPI 2012
Base year	2024	2012
Items in basket	358	299 items for price collection
Weight source	HCES 2023-24	CES 2011-12
Classification	COICOP 2018 (12 divisions)	COICOP 1999 (6 groups)
Data collection	CAPI on tablet	Paper schedules
Food and beverages weight	36.75%	45.86%

Orange Economy in Union Budget 2026-27

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, proposed measures for the Orange (creative) Economy, including AVGC content creator labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges and a new National Institute of Design in eastern India. The term Orange Economy was coined by Ivan Duque Marquez and Felipe Buitrago in 2013, and creative exports exceeded 11 billion dollars in 2023-24.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The term Orange Economy was coined by Ivan Duque Marquez and Felipe Buitrago in their 2013 book. The UN General Assembly declared 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.
- AVGC content creator labs will be set up in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges with the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai.
- The AVGC sector is projected to need 2 million professionals by 2030.
- A new National Institute of Design will come up in eastern India; India has seven NIDs.
- Creative exports rose 20 per cent in 2023-24 to over 11 billion dollars.
- The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 introduced anti-piracy provisions.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Progress

Context: Around 30 lakh households have rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, as reported in February 2026. The Central Sector Scheme of MNRE, launched in 2024, targets one crore households by 2027 and aims to provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month. Subsidy is capped at Rs 78,000 and collateral-free loans at about 7 per cent are available up to 3 kW.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of MNRE, launched in 2024.
- It aims to provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month.
- Subsidy is Rs 30,000 to 60,000 for 1-2 kW and Rs 60,000 to 78,000 for 2-3 kW, capped at Rs 78,000 above 3 kW.
- Collateral-free loans at about 7 per cent are available up to 3 kW.
- One Model Solar Village will be created in each district.

Rare Earth Corridors and Chemical Parks

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, announced dedicated corridors in four States (Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) for rare earth permanent magnets and three new chemical parks backed by Rs 600 crore. Both aim to reduce import dependence, as India imported 60 to 80 per cent by value of REPMs from China during 2022-25.

□ **Rare Earth Corridors**

- Corridors will be developed in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for mining, processing, research and manufacturing.

- India imported 60 to 80 per cent by value of REPMs from China during 2022-25.
- The REPM Manufacturing Scheme of Rs 7,280 crore targets 6,000 MTPA capacity.
- The National Critical Minerals Mission and MMDR Amendment Acts of 2023 and 2025 support the sector.

□ **Chemical Parks**

- Three new chemical parks are backed by Rs 600 crore.
- The chemical industry contributes 7 per cent of GDP and India is the 6th largest chemical producer globally.

Textiles, Capital Goods and Electronics Components

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, announced an integrated textile programme with five parts, a CIE scheme for capital goods and a larger outlay of Rs 40,000 crore for the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) under MeitY. It also raises the export obligation period for garment, footwear and leather exporters from 6 to 12 months. These target manufacturing and export competitiveness.

□ **Textiles**

- The integrated programme has five parts: National Fibre Scheme, Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme, National Handloom and Handicraft Programme, Tex-Eco Initiative and Samarth 2.0.
- The Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative supports khadi and handloom.
- Export obligation period for garment, footwear and leather exporters rises from 6 to 12 months.

□ **Capital Goods and Electronics**

- ECMS outlay rises to Rs 40,000 crore under MeitY.
- Capital goods contribute about 12 per cent of manufacturing output.
- India became a permanent member of the Washington Accord.
- The National Capital Goods Policy 2016 aimed at 20 per cent share in manufacturing by 2025.

Union Budget 2026-27: Fiscal Numbers and Three Kartavyas

Context: The Union Budget 2026-27, the first prepared in Kartavya Bhawan, is framed around three kartavyas: sustaining growth, fulfilling aspirations and building capacity, and inclusive development under Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas. It targets a fiscal deficit of 4.3 per cent of GDP.

□ **Budget Estimates**

- Non-debt receipts are Rs 36.5 lakh crore and total expenditure Rs 53.5 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipts of the Centre are Rs 28.7 lakh crore.
- Gross market borrowing is Rs 17.2 lakh crore and net market borrowing from dated securities Rs 11.7 lakh crore.
- Public capital expenditure is raised to Rs 12.2 lakh crore.
- Debt-to-GDP is 55.6 per cent in BE 2026-27 against 56.1 per cent in RE 2025-26, with a target of 50 per cent (plus or minus 1) by FY31.

□ **Structure**

- Part A covers the economy overview, expenditure framework, new schemes and fiscal estimates.
- Part B contains tax proposals.
- The first kartavya covers six growth areas: manufacturing in 7 strategic sectors, legacy industrial clusters, Champion MSMEs, infrastructure, energy security and City Economic Regions.

BHAVYA: 100 Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks

Context: In March 2026 the Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) with Rs 33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks, in partnership with states and private players. Plug-and-play parks have land, utilities and approvals pre-developed. The scheme builds on Industrial Smart Cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme, where NICDC is implementing 20 projects across 13 states.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It builds on Industrial Smart Cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme.
- NICDC under DPIIT is implementing 20 projects across 13 states.
- Plug-and-play parks have land, utilities and approvals pre-developed.

CCEA Approves Rs 1,718.56 Crore MSP Support for Cotton

Context: In March 2026 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Rs 1,718.56 crore funding to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for MSP operations of the 2023-24 season. MSP for 2023-24 was Rs 6,620 per quintal for medium staple and Rs 7,020 for long staple cotton. MSP is fixed on CACP recommendations, and CCI, set up in 1970 under the Ministry of Textiles, is the nodal agency.

□ **Key Highlights**

- MSP for 2023-24: Rs 6,620 per quintal for medium staple and Rs 7,020 for long staple cotton.
- MSP is fixed on CACP recommendations; CCI is the nodal agency.
- CCI was established in 1970, is under the Ministry of Textiles and is headquartered in Navi Mumbai.
- 2023-24 area was 114.47 lakh hectares with production of 325.22 lakh bales.

Index of Economic Freedom 2026

Context: The Heritage Foundation released the 32nd annual Index of Economic Freedom in March 2026, ranking India 132nd with a score of 52.5, in the 'mostly unfree' band. The Washington-based foundation has published it since 1995 using 12 indicators in four policy areas. Singapore tops with 84.4 and

North Korea is last, so the publisher, categories and toppers matter.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Published since 1995 by the Washington-based Heritage Foundation; 12 indicators grouped in four policy areas. 2026 edition released March 2026; ranks 176 countries (184 economies covered).
- Singapore tops with 84.4; North Korea last (176th) with 3.1, a 'repressed' economy.
- India is 132nd with 52.5, in the mostly unfree category.
- Neighbours: Pakistan 152nd, China 154th, Maldives 158th, Myanmar 164th (all repressed); Sri Lanka 144th, Bangladesh 120th, Nepal 129th.

□ **Categories**

- Free (80+): only four countries - Singapore, Switzerland, Ireland, Australia.
- Mostly free (70-79.9): 27 economies, e.g. Luxembourg 6th, Denmark 7th, Norway 8th, New Zealand 12th, USA 22nd, UAE 23rd, Germany 24th, UK 29th, Japan 30th.
- Moderately free (60-69.9): 58 economies, e.g. Austria, Belgium, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, France, Italy.
- Mostly unfree (50-59.9): 57 economies, e.g. India, Mexico, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Russia.
- Repressed (below 50).

Top five

Rank	Country	Score
1	Singapore	84.4
2	Switzerland	83.7
3	Ireland	83.3
4	Australia	80.1
5	Taiwan	79.8

NITI Aayog Fiscal Health Index 2026

Context: In March 2026 NITI Aayog released the second edition of the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 assessing state finances; states account for nearly one-third of general government debt. The first edition covered 18 major states, and this edition adds 10 North-Eastern and Himalayan states, ranked separately. The index uses sub-indices such as Quality of Expenditure, Fiscal Prudence and Debt Sustainability.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index and Debt Sustainability.
- The first edition covered 18 major states; this edition adds 10 North-Eastern and Himalayan states, ranked separately.
- States are categorised as achievers, front runners, performers and aspirational.

NMDC Iron Ore Record and NIIF Second Fund

Context: In March 2026 NMDC became the first Indian miner to produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a financial year (FY 2025-26), while NIIF raised 750 million dollars for its second private markets fund. NMDC is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel, incorporated in 1958, and NIIF, founded in 2015 as a Category II AIF, is 49% government-held.

□ **NMDC**

- Incorporated in 1958; a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel and India's largest iron ore producer.
- It runs India's only mechanised diamond mine at Panna, Madhya Pradesh.

□ **NIIF**

- Founded in 2015 as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund; the government holds 49%.
- Governing Council chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- Its first private markets fund raised about 600 million dollars in 2019.

Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order and LPG Shortage

Context: The Centre invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to issue the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order amid supply fears from the West Asia conflict, as LPG shortages exposed gaps in India's storage.

□ **Priority Framework**

- Priority 1: 100% of past six-month average to domestic PNG, CNG, LPG production and pipeline needs.
- Priority 2: fertiliser plants get 70%.
- Priority 3: tea industries and grid-connected industrial units get 80%.
- Priority 4: City Gas Distribution entities must give industrial and commercial consumers 80%.

□ **LPG Vulnerabilities**

- About 90% of India's LPG imports cross the Strait of Hormuz.
- Imports meet about 60% of demand; consumption is about 3 million tonnes monthly, making India the second-largest consumer.
- India has 33 crore LPG connections, about 10 crore added since 2017 under PM Ujjwala Yojana.
- Underground caverns exist at Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam, totalling 1.4 lakh tonnes, under two days of consumption.

RELIEF Scheme, Small Hydro Scheme and PM E-DRIVE Revision

Context: In March 2026 the government launched the Rs 497 crore RELIEF export scheme (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) for exporters to the Gulf and neighbours, the Cabinet approved a Small Hydro Power Development Scheme with an outlay of Rs 2,584.60 crore, and PM E-DRIVE guidelines were revised. RELIEF operates under the Export Promotion Mission and offers ECGC-linked risk cover.

□ **RELIEF under Export Promotion Mission**

- Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation covers exports to the Gulf and neighbours such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iran and Yemen.

- Component 1 (Rs 56 crore) gives 100% risk cover over ECGC cover for 14 February to 15 March 2026.
- Component 2 (Rs 159 crore) encourages ECGC cover, up to 95% of losses, for 16 March to 15 June 2026.
- Component 3 (Rs 282 crore) gives MSME exporters up to 50% reimbursement, ceiling Rs 50 lakh.

□ **Small Hydro and PM E-DRIVE**

- Small Hydro scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31: outlay Rs 2,584.60 crore for about 1,500 MW.
- PM E-DRIVE: e-two-wheeler subsidy for registrations up to 31 July 2026, e-three-wheelers up to 31 March 2028.
- Price caps: Rs 1.5 lakh for e-two-wheelers and Rs 2.5 lakh for e-three-wheelers; total outlay Rs 10,900 crore.

Rice Fortification Suspended Under PMGKAY

Context: In March 2026 the government temporarily discontinued rice fortification under PMGKAY and allied schemes after an IIT Kharagpur study found fortified rice loses micronutrients during prolonged storage. Rice stays in storage for two to three years, with annual allocation of 372 LMT. Foodgrain entitlements, PDS, ICDS and Mid-Day Meal operations are not affected.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Rice stays in storage for two to three years.
- Annual allocation is 372 LMT while central pool availability is projected at 674 LMT.
- Foodgrain entitlements, PDS, ICDS and Mid-Day Meal operations are not affected.

Energy Statistics India 2026 and Renewable Capacity

Context: The National Statistics Office released Energy Statistics India 2026, showing rapid growth in renewable capacity alongside continued import dependence. India also recorded its highest annual wind capacity addition in FY 2025-26.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's renewable generation potential exceeds 4.7 million MW, with solar about 71% and wind close to 25% as of March 2025.
- Installed renewable capacity rose from 90,134 MW in March 2016 to 2,29,346 MW in March 2025, a CAGR of 10.93%.
- Per-capita energy consumption rose from 15,296 MJ in FY16 to 18,096 MJ in FY25.
- Transmission and distribution losses fell from 22% in FY16 to about 17% in FY25.
- Credit to the renewable sector rose from Rs 1,688 crore in 2021 to Rs 10,325 crore in 2025.
- India targets 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net zero by 2070.
- As on 31 March 2026, non-fossil capacity was 283.46 GW including 274.68 GW renewables and 8.78 GW nuclear.
- Renewables comprised 150.26 GW solar, 56.09 GW wind, 11.75 GW bio-energy, 5.17 GW small hydro and 51.41 GW large hydro.
- India ranks 3rd globally in installed renewable capacity.
- Wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW in FY 2025-26 was the highest ever, mainly from Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Income-tax Act, 2025 Comes into Force

Context: The Income-tax Act, 2025 replaced the Income-tax Act, 1961 from 1 April 2026, with simpler language and structure. It has 536 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules, and replaces the concepts of Assessment Year and Previous Year with a single 'Tax Year'. CBDT notified the Income-tax Rules, 2026, and Form 130 replaces Form 16, which are key exam facts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Concept of Assessment Year and Previous Year replaced by a single 'Tax Year'.
- New Act has 536 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules.
- Income-tax Rules, 2026 notified by CBDT; Form 130 replaces Form 16 as the TDS certificate.
- TDS and TCS provisions consolidated in sections 392, 393 and 394.
- Effective zero tax up to Rs 12 lakh under the new regime; standard deduction Rs 75,000.
- Gross direct tax collection in 2025-26 was Rs 7.99 lakh crore.

India Slips to 6th Largest Economy in IMF Outlook

Context: The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projects India's 2026 GDP at $4.15 trillion, behind Japan and the UK, placing India sixth. The IMF expects India to recover the fourth position in 2027.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's 2026 GDP is projected at $4.15 trillion, up from $3.92 trillion in 2025.
- Japan is projected at $4.38 trillion and the UK at $4.27 trillion.
- India overtook the UK in 2022 to become the fifth largest economy.
- In 2025 NITI Aayog's CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said India had overtaken Japan to be fourth.
- Germany overtook Japan before India could overtake Germany.
- The IMF expects India to retake fourth place in 2027 and become third by 2031.

PMGSY-III Extended and New Cabinet Infrastructure Approvals

Context: In April 2026 the Union Cabinet extended PMGSY-III up to March 2028 with a higher outlay of Rs 83,977 crore, approved the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore, and cleared two hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh. PMGSY-III, launched in 2019,

focuses on Through Routes and Major Rural Links, and the Insurance Pool aims to reduce dependence on foreign underwriters.

□ **Key Highlights**

- PMGSY-III, launched in 2019, focuses on consolidating Through Routes and Major Rural Links to markets, higher secondary schools and hospitals.
- Its outlay is revised to Rs 83,977 crore from Rs 80,250 crore.
- The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool has a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore and aims to reduce dependence on foreign underwriters.
- It fits within Maritime India Vision 2030.
- The CCEA approved Rs 40,176 crore for the Kamala (Rs 26,069.5 crore) and Kalai-II (Rs 14,105.83 crore) hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% free power and an extra 1% for the Local Area Development Fund from each project.

RBI Draft Norms: Digital Fraud, BCs, Bad Loans

Context: The RBI released a discussion paper on preventing digital fraud, proposed restructuring the Business Correspondent framework, and revised bad loan classification rules to meet global standards from 1 April 2027.

□ **Key Highlights**

- About 28 lakh cyber frauds worth Rs 22,931 crore were reported in 2025 on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.
- Most are authorised push-payment frauds, where victims initiate payments under deception, limiting recovery on instant systems like UPI, IMPS, NEFT and RTGS.
- The RBI proposed that UPI and internet banking features may be disabled by default in newly opened accounts.
- Banks may be required to give clearer fraud alerts and faster reporting channels.
- Revised rules on classification, definition and recovery of bad loans take effect from 1 April 2027.

□ **Business Correspondents**

- Business Correspondents serve remote areas and support financial inclusion; there were over 16 lakh as of June 2025.
- Draft norms introduce differentiated BC outlets, tighter governance and formal remuneration standards, to apply from 1 July once finalised.
- Banks must display grievance redressal and Ombudsman details at BC outlets.

Startup India at Ten: Recognition, Fund of Funds 2.0 and Deep-Tech Norms

Context: Startup India completed ten years on 16 January 2026, observed as National Startup Day. The government relaxed norms for deep-tech startups, notified Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 and recorded the highest-ever startup recognition in a single year in FY 2025-26.

□ **Startup India Framework**

- The Startup India initiative was launched on 16 January 2016, and the date was declared National Startup Day in 2022.
- An entity is a startup for up to 10 years from incorporation if its turnover has not crossed Rs 200 crore in any financial year.
- The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0, launched in 2016) is managed by SIDBI with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore; FFS 2.0 has now been notified to mobilise venture and growth capital.
- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme has Rs 945 crore for proof of concept, prototype and market entry.
- Other pillars include the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups, the Startup India Hub, the MAARG mentorship portal, the Investor Connect portal and the States' Startup Ranking Framework.
- NIDHI under the Department of Science and Technology alone has created over 1,30,000 jobs.

□ **Deep-Tech Startups**

- DSIR revised its Industrial R&D Promotion Programme to drop the requirement of three years of continuous operation for deep-tech startups.
- Deep-tech startups are recognised for 20 years from registration instead of 10.
- Their turnover limit is raised to Rs 300 crore.
- The Research, Development and Innovation scheme supports strategic technologies and a deep-tech Fund of Funds.

□ **FY 2025-26 Record**

- More than 55,200 startups were recognised in FY 2025-26, up 51.6% from 36,400, and direct jobs rose 36.1% from 3,66,870 to 4,99,400.
- Recognised startups exceed 2.23 lakh and have created over 23.36 lakh direct jobs; nearly 48% have at least one woman director or partner.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Gujarat lead as hubs.
- Orders to startups on GeM rose from over Rs 14,103 crore to over Rs 19,190 crore.

Tata Dholera Fab SEZ and Semiconductor SEZs

Context: A special economic zone for Tata's semiconductor fabrication unit at Dholera, Gujarat was notified in April 2026, and it is described as the country's first commercial chip fab. The Cabinet had cleared the project in February 2024, with Rs 91,000 crore proposed investment. The notification, along with SEZs for units at Dholera and Surat, matters for questions on India's semiconductor push.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Crystal Matrix Ltd at Dholera: integrated compound semiconductor fab plus ATMP unit.
- Suchi Semicon Pvt. Ltd. at Surat: OSAT (outsourced assembly and test) facility.

□ **Dholera Fab SEZ**

- Developer: Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.; location Dholera, Gujarat.
- Union Cabinet cleared the fab project on 29 February 2024; SEZ notified on 9 April 2026.
- Area 66.166 hectares; planned capacity 50,000 wafer starts per month.
- Proposed investment Rs 91,000 crore; about 21,000 jobs expected.
- Supports electronics hardware, software and IT/ITES; an AI-enabled fabrication facility.

SEZs notified after 2025 regulatory easing

Entity	Notified	Area	Investment	Jobs	Activity
Micron Semiconductor Technology India, Sanand	23 Jun 2025	37.64 ha	Rs 13,000 cr	20,786	Assembly, testing, marking, packaging
Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster, Dharwad	23 Jun 2025	11.549 ha	Rs 100 cr	4,360	Electronics components
CG Semi, Sanand	23 Sep 2025	11.541 ha	Rs 2,150 cr	1,911	OSAT
Kaynes Semicon, Sanand	26 Sep 2025	18.44 ha	Rs 681 cr	2,020	OSAT
Tata Semiconductor, Dholera	9 Apr 2026	66.166 ha	Rs 91,000 cr	21,000	AI-enabled fab

ECLGS 5.0 Credit Guarantee Scheme

Context: The Union Cabinet approved the fifth version of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to ease liquidity stress caused by the West Asia situation, targeting additional credit of Rs 2.55 lakh crore.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Guarantees are provided through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- Rs 5,000 crore of the total is earmarked for the airline sector.
- Eligible borrowers are MSMEs, non-MSMEs with working capital limits and scheduled passenger airlines with standard accounts as on 31 March 2026.
- MSMEs get 100 per cent guarantee cover on the additional credit while non-MSMEs and airlines get up to 90 per cent.
- Additional credit is up to 20 per cent of peak working capital in Q4 of FY 2025-26, capped at Rs 100 crore per borrower.
- Airlines can get up to 100 per cent additional credit subject to Rs 1,500 crore per borrower.
- Loan tenure is five years with a one-year moratorium, and seven years with a two-year moratorium for airlines.
- The scheme applies to loans sanctioned until 31 March 2027.

Fugitive Economic Offenders: ED Data

Context: The Enforcement Directorate has declared 21 persons, including Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya, as fugitive economic offenders, with assets worth about Rs 2,178.34 crore confiscated, as reported in May 2026. Proceedings have been started against 54 individuals so far. A special court can declare a person a fugitive economic offender and order confiscation of properties in India or abroad.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Proceedings have been started against 54 individuals so far.
- An application is made to the special court, which can declare a person an FEO and order confiscation of properties in India or abroad.
- Other laws used for economic offences include the PMLA 2002, the Benami Transactions Act 1988 and the Companies Act 2013.

India Retained in EU List for Seafood Exports

Context: In May 2026 the EU included India in its revised draft list of countries allowed to continue exporting aquaculture products beyond September 2026, reversing an omission in an October 2024 regulation. MPEDA and the Export Inspection Council helped secure the outcome through the National Residue Control Programme and post-harvest testing. India's seafood exports were Rs 62,408 crore in 2024-25, led by frozen shrimp.

□ **Key Highlights**

- MPEDA and the Export Inspection Council helped secure the outcome through the National Residue Control Programme and post-harvest testing.
- India's fish production doubled in ten years to 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, about 8 per cent of global output.
- Seafood exports were Rs 62,408 crore in 2024-25, led by frozen shrimp.
- Fisheries account for about 7.43 per cent of agricultural GVA.

Kharif MSP 2026-27: 14 Crops Notified

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs raised the Minimum Support Price of all 14 Kharif crops for the 2026-27 marketing season, with a tilt towards oilseeds, pulses and commercial crops.

□ **Key Highlights**

- CCEA approved the new MSPs on 13 May 2026 under the Prime Minister.
- Largest absolute hikes: sunflower seed (Rs 622), cotton (Rs 557), nigerseed (Rs 515) and sesamum (Rs 500) per quintal.
- MSP rule from Budget 2018-19: at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost (A2+FL).
- Highest estimated margin over cost in 2026-27: moong (61%), followed by bajra and maize (56% each).
- Sesamum carries the highest MSP of all Kharif crops, followed by nigerseed.
- A National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2026 was held at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on 28-29 May 2026, chaired by Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

- Agriculture ministers of 22 States took part.
- Khet Bachao Abhiyan ran from 1 to 30 June 2026.

MSP of selected Kharif crops, 2026-27 (Rs per quintal)

Crop	MSP
Paddy (common)	2,441
Paddy (Grade A)	2,461
Jowar (hybrid)	4,023
Jowar (maldandi)	4,073
Bajra	2,900
Ragi	5,205
Maize	2,410
Tur/Arhar	8,450
Moong	8,780
Groundnut	7,517
Cotton (medium staple)	8,267
Cotton (long staple)	8,667
Nigerseed	10,052
Sesamum	10,346

Puducherry SEZs, NPS Assured Payout Panel and Kerala Poverty Milestone

Context: Three short economy items were in the news: two new SEZs in Puducherry notified in May 2026, a 15-member PFRDA committee under Dr M. S. Sahoo set up in January 2026 to frame assured payouts under NPS, and Kerala's declaration as 'extreme poverty-free' on 1 November 2025, the first State to do so. These are typical one-line facts for the exam.

□ Two SEZs in Puducherry

- Notified 27 May 2026 after the Board of Approval's 137th meeting (27 Feb 2026).
- Oulgaret Municipality (Rs 725 crore) at Thattanchavady village, Oulgaret Taluk.
- Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation (Rs 1,250 crore) at Karasur village, Villianur Taluk.

□ MS Sahoo Committee

- PFRDA set up a 15-member high-level committee on 13 January 2026 to frame a framework for assured payouts under NPS.
- Chaired by Dr M. S. Sahoo, former IBBI chairperson.

□ Kerala

- On 1 November 2025 (Kerala Piravi) CM Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala 'extreme poverty-free' in a special Assembly session; first State to do so.

RBI Gold Repatriation 2025-26

Context: In May 2026 it emerged that the RBI brought 168.06 tonnes of gold to India in 2025-26, the third year in a row, so that 77 per cent of its gold is now held domestically, against 38 per cent in March 2023. Total holding is 880.52 MT. Reasons include geopolitical risk after the freezing of Russia's reserves, security, control and storage cost savings.

□ Key Highlights

- Repatriation was 107.21 MT in 2023-24 and 103.68 MT in 2024-25.
- Total gold holding is 880.52 MT worth about 122 billion dollars; the domestic share was 38 per cent in March 2023.
- Gold's share in forex reserves rose from 11.7 per cent to 16.7 per cent due to higher prices.
- Reasons include geopolitical risk after the freezing of Russia's reserves, security, control and storage cost savings.
- The gold standard ended in 1973 with the collapse of Bretton Woods.

SEBI's PaRRVA and RBI's Q-SAFE Committee

Context: In May 2026 SEBI operationalised the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA), while the RBI formed an expert committee on quantum-secure finance, the Q-SAFE Committee. PaRRVA independently verifies past performance claims of investment advisers and research analysts to curb misleading advertising by finfluencers. The eight-member Q-SAFE committee, headed by Prof. Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras, will assess the sector's cryptographic inventory.

□ PaRRVA

- It independently verifies past performance claims of investment advisers and research analysts.
- The pilot began in December 2025 and regular operations start in May 2026.
- CARE Ratings is recognised as PaRRVA and NSE acts as the PaRRVA Data Centre.
- It aims to curb misleading advertising, especially by unregulated finfluencers.

□ Q-SAFE Committee

- Q-SAFE stands for Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem.
- The eight-member committee is headed by Prof. Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras.
- It will assess the financial sector's cryptographic inventory through a Cryptography Bill of Materials and report in six months.

SRS Bulletin 2024: Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates

Context: The Registrar General of India released the Sample Registration System Bulletin 2024 (Volume 59-I) and a special bulletin on maternal mortality 2022-24 in May 2026. India's birth rate fell to 18.3 and death rate to 6.4 in 2024, while infant mortality was 24. Bihar had the highest birth rate and Kerala the lowest natural growth rate, which makes it a key demography question.

□ Birth rate

- India's birth rate fell from 36.9 in 1971 to 18.3 in 2024 (21.0 in 2014).
- Rural 20.2 and urban 14.7 in 2024.
- Highest: Bihar (26.8); lowest: Andaman and Nicobar Islands (9.9).

□ Death rate and natural growth

- Death rate: 14.9 in 1971 to 6.4 in 2024; rural 6.8, urban 5.6; male 7.1, female 5.6.

- Highest death rate: Chhattisgarh (8.4); lowest: Chandigarh (3.9).
- Natural growth rate 11.9 (rural 13.5, urban 9.0); Bihar highest at 20.8, Kerala lowest at 3.9.

□ **Infant and maternal mortality**

- IMR: 129 in 1971, 39 in 2014 and 24 in 2024 (about 38% decline in a decade).
- Rural IMR 27, urban 17; highest Chhattisgarh (36); lowest Manipur (2).
- The bulletin covered 8,839 sample units (4,960 rural, 3,879 urban).

Scheme for Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification

Context: In May 2026 the Union Cabinet approved a scheme to promote surface coal and lignite gasification projects, supporting the national target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. Coal linkage tenure is extended up to 30 years for syngas production. Gasification converts coal into syngas, a feedstock for fuels and chemicals, and the scheme builds on the National Coal Gasification Mission of 2021.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Coal linkage tenure is extended up to 30 years for syngas production under the Non-Regulated Sector linkage auction framework.
- India holds about 401 billion tonnes of coal and 47 billion tonnes of lignite, and coal is over 55 per cent of the energy mix.
- Gasification converts coal into syngas, which is a feedstock for fuels and chemicals.
- Imports of substitutable products such as LNG, urea and methanol cost about Rs 2.77 lakh crore in FY2025.
- It builds on the National Coal Gasification Mission of 2021.

South Coast Railway Zone Notified

Context: In May 2026 the Ministry of Railways notified India's 18th railway zone, South Coast Railway, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, fulfilling a commitment under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. It consists mainly of the Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal divisions of South Central Railway and a new Visakhapatnam division carved from the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It consists mainly of the Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal divisions of South Central Railway and a new Visakhapatnam division carved from the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.
- It is expected to improve freight movement and connectivity to ports such as Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam.

Sugarcane FRP 2026-27 and Sugar Export Ban

Context: In May 2026 the CCEA fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2026-27 season at Rs 365 per quintal, 2.81 per cent higher than for 2025-26, while DGFT banned sugar exports till September 2026 amid the West Asia conflict. The FRP is decided by the CCEA on CACP recommendation and is legally payable by mills under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

□ **FRP**

- The FRP is 2.81 per cent higher than for 2025-26.
- It is decided by the CCEA on CACP recommendation and is legally payable by mills under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 within 14 days of delivery.
- It is linked to sugar recovery from cane.

□ **Export Ban**

- Export of raw, white and refined sugar is prohibited immediately till September 2026, except preferential quotas to the EU and US.
- 2025-26 production is estimated at about 275 lakh tonnes with closing stock near 45 lakh tonnes, the lowest since 2016-17.
- Cane dues to farmers reached nearly Rs 16,087 crore by February 2026.

Third Advance Estimates 2025-26: Record Foodgrain Output

Context: The Agriculture Ministry released the Third Advance Estimates for 2025-26, putting India's foodgrain production at an all-time high of 376.563 million tonnes, against 357.732 million tonnes in 2024-25, a rise of about 5.3%. Rice, at 154.024 million tonnes, was also a record, and groundnut and sugarcane are estimated at records. Crop-wise production figures are standard exam material.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Foodgrains: 376.563 million tonnes against 357.732 million tonnes in 2024-25, a rise of about 18.8 million tonnes (5.3%).
- Rice: record 154.024 million tonnes (previous 150.184).
- Wheat: 120.657 million tonnes (previous 117.945).
- Groundnut (13.074 mt) and sugarcane (500.063 mt) are estimated at records.
- Total oilseeds 43.059 mt; soybean 12.596 mt; cotton 29.024 million bales of 170 kg; jute 9.176 million bales of 180 kg.
- Pulses: tur 3.592 mt, gram 12.514 mt, lentil 1.762 mt.

□ **Final estimates for 2024-25**

- Total foodgrains 3,577.32 lakh tonnes (record); rice 1,501.84 and wheat 1,179.45 lakh tonnes, both records.
- Total pulses 256.83 lakh tonnes; Shree Anna 185.92 lakh tonnes; maize 434.09 lakh tonnes.
- Oilseeds 429.89 lakh tonnes, with soybean and groundnut at records.

Leading producing states, 2025-26 (Third Advance Estimates)

Crop	1st	2nd	3rd
Rice	Uttar Pradesh (198.05 lakh t)	Telangana (185.29)	West Bengal (171.36)
Wheat	Uttar Pradesh (358.77)	Madhya Pradesh (264.43)	Punjab (170.79)
Maize	Madhya	Karnataka	Maharashtra

	Pradesh (100.49)	(65.51)	(56.97)
Pulses	Madhya Pradesh (53.48)	Maharashtra (50.79)	Rajasthan (44.73)
Oilseeds	Rajasthan (105.96)	Gujarat (89.35)	Madhya Pradesh (82.40)
Sugarcane	Uttar Pradesh (2,296.99)	Maharashtra (1,316.49)	Karnataka (572.88)
Cotton (lakh bales)	Maharashtra (77.55)	Gujarat (67.93)	Telangana (55.54)
Jute (lakh bales)	West Bengal (75.93)	Bihar (7.59)	Assam (6.93)

Thoothukudi Mega Greenfield Shipyard

Context: In May 2026 a tripartite MoU was signed for India's first mega greenfield shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, under the India-Korea maritime framework VOYAGES. The parties are HD Korea Shipbuilding and Offshore Engineering, NSHIP-TN and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited. It will anchor the Thoothukudi Shipbuilding Cluster under the National Shipbuilding Mission, with expected annual capacity of 2.5 million gross tonnage.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The parties are HD Korea Shipbuilding and Offshore Engineering, NSHIP-TN and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited.
- VOYAGES stands for Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale.
- It will anchor the Thoothukudi Shipbuilding Cluster, which has in-principle approval under the National Shipbuilding Mission.
- Annual capacity is expected to be 2.5 million gross tonnage.

Vadinar Ship Repair Facility and Cotton Productivity Mission

Context: In May 2026 the Cabinet approved a ship repair facility at Vadinar, Gujarat, and a Mission for Cotton Productivity for 2026-27 to 2030-31. The Rs 1,570 crore Vadinar facility will be developed by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard, as India lacks capacity to repair vessels over 230 m. The Rs 5,659.22 crore cotton mission targets 498 lakh bales and benefits about 32 lakh farmers.

□ **Vadinar Ship Repair Facility**

- It will be jointly developed by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited with Rs 1,570 crore.
- It is a brownfield project with a 650-metre jetty and two large floating dry docks, able to repair vessels up to 300 m.
- India lacks capacity to repair vessels over 230 m.

□ **Mission for Cotton Productivity**

- The outlay is Rs 5,659.22 crore, run by the Agriculture and Textiles ministries.
- It covers 140 districts in 14 States initially and targets 498 lakh bales by raising lint productivity from 440 to 755 kg per hectare by 2031.
- It aligns with the 5F vision of Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign and benefits about 32 lakh farmers.

Agri-Food Schemes: SARTHAK-PDS, Seed Reserve, Smart Warehousing

Context: A set of food and agriculture measures was announced in June 2026, including SARTHAK-PDS, a National Seed Reserve, Community Seed Bank standards and a Smart Warehousing System. SARTHAK-PDS merges the intra-State foodgrain movement and FPS dealer margin scheme with SMART PDS, running till March 2031 with an outlay of Rs 25,530 crore for about 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Smart Warehousing System uses AI and IoT in 215 CWC warehouses, with FCI adding 150 more.
- A National Seed Reserve of 1.74 lakh quintals is an intervention under NFSNM in Krishionnati Yojana, using the SATHI portal.
- BIS released IS 20201:2026, a voluntary standard for Community Seed Banks.
- Mission Senehjori aims to build the Assam Muga silk value chain; Muga is India's first GI-tagged silk (2007) and Assam gives 90 per cent of world output.
- Mission Queen Pineapple was launched for Tripura, whose State fruit is now the pineapple.

□ **SARTHAK-PDS**

- It merges the scheme for intra-State foodgrain movement and FPS dealer margin with SMART PDS.
- It runs till 31 March 2031 with an outlay of Rs 25,530 crore and covers about 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries.
- AAY households receive 35 kg per family per month and Priority Households 5 kg per person per month.

Assam-Nagaland Oil and Gas Exploration MoU

Context: The Centre, Assam and Nagaland signed a tripartite MoU to restart oil and gas exploration in their disputed border area, stalled for three decades. The MoU does not settle the boundary dispute.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Disputed Area Belt covers more than 1,000 sq km.
- It sets a 50:50 resource-sharing formula.
- Nagaland will allow exploration across the whole state beyond six identified fields.
- This marks Nagaland's return to oil production after 31 years.

□ **Potential**

- Assam holds about 22% of India's crude reserves and 15% of natural gas reserves.
- Northeast output is only 1,000 to 1,500 barrels per day and could rise tenfold.

CAG State Finances Report 2024-25

Context: The Comptroller and Auditor General released its State Finances 2024-25 report, a ten-year comparison of the fiscal position of all 28 States from 2015-16 to 2024-25. It records widespread fiscal deficits and a sharp rise in State liabilities.

□ **Key Highlights**

- All 28 States ran fiscal deficits in 2024-25, and 18 breached the 3% of GSDP limit set by the 15th Finance Commission.
- Meghalaya had the highest deficit at 8.69% of GSDP, followed by Nagaland at 6.14% and Sikkim at 5.59%.
- Combined outstanding public debt was Rs 75.52 lakh crore (23.27% of GSDP), while total outstanding liabilities reached Rs 90.51 lakh crore by 31 March 2025 (27.89% of GSDP).
- Total State expenditure grew from Rs 22.18 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 51.20 lakh crore in 2024-25, a rise of 131%.
- Revenue expenditure was 83.41% of total spending and capital expenditure 16.59%.
- Thirteen States had a revenue surplus while 15 had a revenue deficit.

□ **Expenditure and Revenue Pattern**

- Committed expenditure along with subsidies and grants took over 61% of revenue expenditure.
- Subsidy spending more than tripled in a decade; Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab each spent over 13.5% of total expenditure on subsidies.
- States' own tax revenue roughly doubled from Rs 8.4 lakh crore to Rs 20.31 lakh crore, with State GST supplying more than 43% of it.
- States' share in devolution rose from 27.73% in 2015-16 to 31.76% of combined revenue receipts, yet States still depend heavily on devolution and grants-in-aid.

Coal Exchanges Rules 2026

Context: The government released the Coal Exchanges Rules 2026 to create electronic trading platforms for coal. They follow the MMDR Amendment Act, 2025 which introduced the concept of a Mineral Exchange.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Coal Controller Organisation was designated in December 2025 as the authority to register and regulate coal exchanges.
- Registrations will be given for 25 years.
- A coal exchange allows many buyers and sellers to trade through standard procedures, shifting from one-to-many sales to many-to-many trading.
- It is expected to improve price discovery and widen buyers for commercial and captive miners.

G-Sec Reforms to Attract Foreign Investors

Context: The Finance Ministry introduced a series of reforms in June 2026 to increase Foreign Portfolio Investor participation in Government Securities. The measures include tax exemptions on interest income and capital gains and expansion of securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), an open-access channel for foreign investors. It is a useful occasion to revise G-Secs, T-bills and State Development Loans.

□ **Key Highlights**

- G-Secs are issued through RBI auctions on the E-Kuber platform. T-bills have 91-day, 182-day and 364-day tenors and are zero-coupon.
- Measures include tax exemptions on interest income, long-term capital gains and short-term capital gains, and expansion of securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR).
- FAR is an open-access channel for foreign investors to buy select G-Secs without General Route restrictions.
- The overall limit for individual Persons Resident Outside India in listed Indian equity rises to 24 per cent from 10 per cent.
- Cash Management Bills, introduced in 2010, have maturity under 91 days.
- States issue only dated securities, called State Development Loans.

IBC Amendment Act 2026 and a Decade of the Code

Context: Parliament passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in April 2026, with 12 amendments (11 from the Select Committee and one from the government), and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs later notified the Act as the Code completed ten years. The law speeds up resolution and adds an out-of-court route, group insolvency and cross-border insolvency frameworks.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The IBC was enacted in 2016 on the recommendations of the Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee chaired by T. K. Viswanathan, and was amended six times before this. Bank gross NPAs fell from 11.5 per cent in FY18 to 2.3 per cent in FY26.
- NCLT must admit an application once default is proven, within 14 days of default, and cannot reject it on other grounds.
- A Creditor-initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP), a hybrid out-of-court mechanism, requires consent of at least 51% of financial creditors.
- Enabling frameworks cover coordinated resolution of corporate group entities and cross-border insolvency (recognition of foreign proceedings and court cooperation).
- Liquidation is flexible, including sale of individual assets and bringing in guarantors' assets; it must finish within 180 days, extendable by a maximum of 90 days.
- Creditors can supervise liquidation and replace the liquidator, and the resolution professional of a corporate debtor cannot become its liquidator.
- A three-month timeline is set for NCLAT appeals.
- The voting threshold for pre-packaged insolvency is lowered to 51%, and the PPIRP route for MSMEs must finish within 120 days; the clean-slate principle is reinforced.
- Creditors have realised over Rs 4 lakh crore, with resolved cases yielding an average 170 per cent of estimated liquidation value.

India's Middle Class and Household Debt

Context: India's middle class is expanding with rising incomes and urbanisation, though household debt and income inequality are growing concerns. Household debt reached 45.5 per cent of GDP by March 2026, while the World Economic Forum projects the middle class and affluent consumers to account for 93 per cent of spending by 2036. The issue links to schemes such as PMMY and the Unified Pension Scheme.

□ Key Highlights

- The World Economic Forum projects the middle class and affluent consumers to account for 93 per cent of spending by 2036, up from 80 per cent in 2026.
- Private final consumption is projected to grow 7 per cent and account for 61.5 per cent of GDP, the highest since FY12.
- India's GNI per capita is roughly 2,600 dollars against a threshold of about 4,500 dollars for upper-middle income.
- Household debt reached 45.5 per cent of GDP by March 2026.
- The richest 10 per cent hold about 65 per cent of national wealth, per the World Inequality Report 2026.
- Budget 2025-26 raised the zero-tax threshold to Rs 12 lakh under the new regime (Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried).
- The Unified Pension Scheme has been effective since 2025.
- PMMY has disbursed over 57 crore loans totalling Rs 40.07 lakh crore by March 2026.
- SWAMIH fund, launched in 2019, has completed over 58,000 homes in 146 projects.

Kharif Preparedness Amid El Nino Risk

Context: With a delayed southwest monsoon, rainfall about 43% below normal and El Nino risk, the Centre has stepped up Kharif preparedness. Districts at risk have been identified and a monitoring framework set up.

□ Key Highlights

- ICAR and ICAR-CRIDA prepared District Agriculture Contingency Plans for all districts.
- Coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana will be expanded in affected districts.
- States will speed up Kisan Credit Card issuance.
- An El Nino Monitoring Cell and a Crop Weather Watch Group have been constituted at the national level.

□ District Identification

- About 315 districts are potentially affected by weak monsoon conditions.
- 111 districts are high priority with irrigation coverage below 25%.
- 76 districts are medium priority with coverage of 25 to 50%, and 128 low priority.
- Most are in 12 States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

Logistics Port Performance Index and Ship Recycling

Context: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the Logistics Port Performance Index for FY 2024-25 along with four digital initiatives for seafarers and maritime stakeholders. UNCTAD data also show India as the world's top ship recycling nation in 2025.

□ Logistics Port Performance Index and Digital Initiatives

- The LPPI, built under the Sagar Aankalan framework, benchmarks dry bulk, liquid bulk and container segments using indicators like vessel turnaround, berth idle time and container dwell time.
- Paradip Port Authority topped dry bulk, Sikka Port and Terminals led liquid bulk and Mundra Port led container cargo, with JNPA second.
- The e-Navik platform is a 24x7 maritime grievance redressal system aligned to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
- The Unified Ship Recycling Portal offers a credit note of 40 per cent of scrap value for ships recycled at HKC-compliant Indian yards, redeemable against new Indian shipbuilding.
- A digital ship registration module on e-Samudra and a medical practitioner module were also launched.
- India's rank in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index rose from 44th to 22nd in international shipments.

□ Sector Status and Ship Recycling

- India's share of global ship recycling rose from 30.1 per cent in 2024 to 35.4 per cent in 2025, reaching 2.99 million gross tons (up nearly 60%); Alang-Sosiya accounts for about 98 per cent of it.
- This met the Maritime India Vision 2030 target of leading ship recycling ahead of schedule; MIV 2030 also aims for a 5 per cent share of global shipbuilding.
- The Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling entered into force on 26 June 2025.
- Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme has an outlay of Rs 24,736 crore and the Maritime Development Fund a corpus of Rs 25,000 crore.
- Shipbuilding Development Scheme has an outlay of Rs 19,989 crore, with greenfield clusters approved in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- India has an 11,099 km coastline, 12 major ports and over 200 minor ports handling 95 per cent of trade volume.

National Health Accounts Estimates 2022-23

Context: The latest National Health Accounts estimates, for 2022-23 and prepared under the System of Health Accounts 2011 framework, show total health spending at 3.37% of GDP, or Rs 8,81,359 crore. Government health expenditure was 43.72% of total spending (1.48% of GDP), while household out-of-pocket spending was 43.41%. The shares and GDP percentages are frequently tested.

□ Key Highlights

- Total health expenditure: Rs 8,81,359 crore; per capita Rs 6,373.

- Current health expenditure Rs 7,66,814 crore (87%); capital expenditure Rs 1,14,545 crore (13%).
- Government health expenditure Rs 3,85,332 crore: 43.72% of total and 1.48% of GDP; per capita Rs 2,786.
- Household out-of-pocket spending Rs 3,82,629 crore (43.41%); per capita Rs 2,767.
- Private health insurance Rs 81,012 crore (9.19%).
- By level of care: primary about 46%, secondary 34%, tertiary 15%, governance 4%; primary care takes 51% of government current spending.
- Pharmaceuticals form 29.6% of current health expenditure; traditional and alternative medicine 3.5%.

New IIP and WPI Series with Base Year 2022-23

Context: MoSPI revised the base year of the Index of Industrial Production to 2022-23, and the Commerce Ministry released a new Wholesale Price Index series on the same base along with Producer Price Indices. MoSPI also finalised guidelines for district domestic product estimates.

□ **Revised IIP**

- The base moves from 2011-12 to 2022-23, the tenth revision of the IIP base; the first IIP used 1937.
- Coverage adds gas supply, water supply, sewerage and waste management to mining, manufacturing and electricity.
- The basket expands from 839 to 1,042 products (463 item groups).
- Mining now includes minor and rare earth minerals; the electricity index separates renewable and non-renewable generation.
- Weights: manufacturing 76.062%, mining 11.053%, electricity and gas 10.865%, water and waste 2.020%.

□ **WPI and PPI**

- The WPI base changes from 2011-12 to 2022-23, with releases by the Office of Economic Adviser under DPIIT.
- The new WPI basket has 957 items in Primary Articles, Fuel and Power, and Manufactured Products, the last having the highest weight.
- New indices include Output PPI, a trial Input PPI and a Service PPI for seven sectors such as banking, insurance, railways and telecom.
- WPI and Output PPI are monthly from May 2026 with back series from April 2023; both run together for five years before WPI is phased out.

□ **District Domestic Product**

- Guidelines for District Domestic Product estimates use base year 2022-23.
- 26 States and UTs currently compile such estimates.

PAC Flags Gaps in PMKVY

Context: Parliament's Public Accounts Committee raised concerns about the performance of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in June 2026, pointing to weak placements, data gaps and financial lapses. PMKVY, launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and implemented by NSDC, is the flagship short-term skill training scheme and a frequent exam topic.

□ **Key Highlights**

- PMKVY was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and is implemented by NSDC. The scheme earmarks 75 per cent of physical targets and funds to NSDC and 25 per cent to State Skill Development Missions.
- NSDC was set up in 2008 as a PPP, with 49 per cent government and 51 per cent private shareholding.

Provisional Estimates of GDP 2025-26

Context: MoSPI released the Provisional Estimates of GDP for 2025-26 in June 2026, placing real GDP growth at 7.7% on the new 2022-23 base, with a 7.8% rise in the January-March quarter. Real GDP stood at Rs 323.12 lakh crore against Rs 299.89 lakh crore in 2024-25. The new GDP series, replacing the 2011-12 base, was released in February 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Released 5 June 2026.
- Real GDP Rs 323.12 lakh crore against Rs 299.89 lakh crore in 2024-25 (7.7%).
- April-June 2026 quarter: real GDP Rs 81.36 lakh crore, up 7.8%, against 6.9% a year earlier; nominal GDP up 10.3%; real GVA up 8.2%.
- New GDP series was released on 27 February 2026, replacing 2011-12 base.

RBI Compensation Framework for Digital Fraud

Context: The RBI issued revised rules for compensating victims of digital payment frauds, widening the 2017 framework on limiting customer liability. The rules run as a pilot from 1 January 2027 for one year.

□ **Key Highlights**

- In FY 2025-26 reported fraud cases more than halved to 10,114 but the amount rose 46% to Rs 48,021 crore.
- The new concept is fraudulent electronic banking transactions, executed through credentials obtained by fraud or customer approval under coercion.
- For losses up to Rs 50,000, victims get up to 85% of the loss or Rs 25,000, whichever is less, once in a lifetime.
- Digital arrest cases and fraudulently obtained OTPs are covered.
- Complaints must be lodged within five calendar days.
- Banks must resolve domestic complaints in 45 days and cross-border ones in 60 days.

RBI and Finance Ministry Measures in Brief

Context: Several financial sector measures were announced, including bank lending against FCNR(B) deposits, lending to REITs and InvITs, a ZCZP instrument for CSR, a Price Stabilisation Fund for ATF and a revised TReDS onboarding process.

□ **Key Highlights**

- RBI allows banks to lend against FCNR(B) deposits, which NRIs and OCIs can hold for 1 to 5 years with fully repatriable principal and interest.
- RBI allowed banks to lend directly to REITs and InvITs.
- Companies can meet CSR obligations through Zero Coupon Zero Principal instruments of Social Stock Exchange NPOs, capped at 10 per cent of annual CSR spend.
- The Cabinet approved a Price Stabilisation Fund for airlines with a corpus up to Rs 10,000 crore for 36 months; ATF is nearly 40 per cent of airline costs.
- The credit guarantee scheme CGSMFI-2.0 covers 80 per cent of default for small, 75 per cent for medium and 70 per cent for large NBFC-MFIs.
- Sagarmala Finance Corporation will launch India's first blue bonds; Seychelles issued the first sovereign blue bond in 2018.

Rupee Slides to Record Low

Context: The rupee touched an all-time low of 96.96 per dollar over recent months. The slide has reopened debate on whether the RBI should defend the currency or let it find its level. The pressure stems from a widening trade deficit, a heavy crude and gold import bill and foreign investor outflows from equities, making the managed-float exchange rate system a key exam topic.

□ **Exchange Rate System**

- Since 1993 India has had a market-determined exchange rate system, in practice a managed float.
- The rate depends on forex demand and supply, capital flows, trade balance, inflation and interest differentials, and investor confidence.

□ **Causes of Pressure**

- India imports nearly 90% of its crude; the crude import bill was about 144 billion dollars in 2025-26.
- Gold imports in 2025-26 were 71.98 billion dollars, a 24% rise.
- Exports of goods and services were 860.09 billion dollars (up 4.2%) while imports were 979.4 billion dollars (up about 6.5%).
- The trade deficit widened from 94.7 billion dollars to 119.3 billion dollars.
- Foreign investors withdrew funds from Indian equities, and a strong dollar added to the pressure.

□ **Way Ahead**

- Calibrated RBI intervention helps, but structural steps matter more.
- India needs lower oil dependence, gold recycling, stronger export capacity and stable long-term capital.

Supreme Court Concern over ARCs and Bank Loan Sales

Context: The Supreme Court expressed concern about an alleged nexus among banks, asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and borrowers, saying public money lent as loans cannot go unrecovered. It criticised the practice of banks selling loans to ARCs at steep discounts so borrowers settle by paying only a fraction of dues. ARCs are RBI-registered entities under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 that acquire banks' non-performing assets.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ARCs acquire and manage non-performing assets of banks; the concept came from the Narasimham Committee II (1998). Section 3 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides for registration of ARCs with the RBI; 27 ARCs are registered in 2026.
- ARCIL, incorporated in 2002, was India's first ARC.
- ARCs must resolve assets within 5 years, extendable by the Board to a maximum of 8 years.
- NARCL was announced in the 2021-22 Budget, with Canara Bank as sponsor bank.
- Under the RBI (ARC) Directions, 2025, the minimum Net Owned Fund is Rs 300 crore and the Capital Adequacy Ratio is 15 per cent of risk-weighted assets.
- ARCs must hold at least 15 per cent of issued Security Receipts.

□ **Court Observations**

- The Court criticised an over-clever device in which banks sell loans to ARCs at steep discounts and borrowers settle by paying only a small part of dues.
- It said the statutory framework governing ARCs may need reconsideration where public money is involved.
- It held that banks cannot use commercial wisdom as an excuse for recklessly waiving loans.

Tourism Report and Government Schemes

Context: The Ministry of Tourism and NITI Aayog launched a report titled Unlocking Growth in Tourism and Hospitality Sector (2026) to simplify regulation and attract investment. It points to India's 39th rank in the WEF Travel and Tourism Development Index and long hotel approval timelines, and draws attention to schemes such as Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, SASCI and Cruise Bharat Mission.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Swadesh Darshan was launched in 2014 and SD 2.0 in 2022 for thematic, sustainable destinations.
- PRASHAD (2014) upgrades pilgrimage sites, with 54 projects worth Rs 1,168 crore.
- SASCI (2024-25) provides Rs 3,295.76 crore to develop 40 iconic tourist centres.
- Cruise Bharat Mission (2024-29) plans 51 new cruise circuits.
- Budget 2026-27 announced a National Institute of Hospitality.

□ **Status of Tourism**

- India ranked 39th among 119 countries in the WEF Travel and Tourism Development Index (2024).
- It is the 8th largest tourism economy at 231.6 billion dollars, contributing 5.22 per cent of GDP in 2023-24.
- India aims for 100 million inbound tourists and a 3 trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.

- India's Visa Openness Index score is 38.14, below the global average of 40.
- A hotel project takes 36 to 48 months in India against 12 to 18 months in ASEAN competitors.

WEF Energy Transition Index 2026

Context: The World Economic Forum, prepared with Accenture, released its Energy Transition Index 2026 in June, ranking India 70th with a score of 54.9, up two places. The index covers 120 countries using 44 indicators of current performance and readiness. Global energy investment hit a record USD 3.3 trillion in 2025. The publisher, coverage and India's rank are likely exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- Released 18 June 2026; covers 120 countries using 44 indicators of current performance and readiness.
- Global energy investment hit a record USD 3.3 trillion in 2025.
- India ranked 70th with a score of 54.9, improved by two places.

Top five

Rank	Country	Score
1	Sweden	75.3
2	Finland	74.1
3	Denmark	72.6
4	Estonia	70.9
5	Norway	70.5

World Bank, Hurun Unicorn and Fisheries Reports

Context: Global reports released in June 2026 placed India's economy and startups in context, including the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects, the Hurun Global Unicorn Index and FAO's SOFIA report. The World Bank also approved a 1.5 billion dollar Development Policy Financing package for India, which slipped to 4th in the Hurun index with 61 unicorns.

□ Key Highlights

- World Bank approved a 1.5 billion dollar Development Policy Financing package for India.
- Global Economic Prospects 2026 projects world growth to fall from 2.9 per cent in 2025 to 2.5 per cent in 2026; South Asia is fastest-growing at 6.3 per cent.
- India has 61 unicorns and slipped to 4th in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026; Bengaluru has 25 and Mumbai 13.
- FAO's SOFIA 2026 reports world aquatic production of 235 million tonnes in 2024, with aquaculture at 53 per cent.
- India produced 9 per cent of global aquatic animal output, ranking 2nd after China, and is first in inland capture fisheries.

Additional Rs 30,000 Crore for NIIF

Context: The Union Cabinet approved an extra Rs 30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) in July 2026, doubling the Government's total commitment to Rs 60,000 crore. The money mainly supports NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, successor of the flagship infrastructure fund, which will invest in transport, energy, digital and urban infrastructure and electric mobility.

□ Key Highlights

- The money mainly supports NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, successor of the flagship infrastructure fund.
- It will invest in transport, energy, digital and urban infrastructure and electric mobility.
- It also backs new fund strategies and successor bilateral and strategic funds.

BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme for Chemical Parks

Context: The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA-Rasayan) scheme in July 2026 to set up three dedicated chemical parks. The total outlay is Rs 3,030 crore over FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with the Centre giving up to Rs 1,000 crore per park, subject to at least Rs 500 crore from the State. Each park needs at least 2,000 acres.

□ Key Highlights

- Rs 3,000 crore goes to common infrastructure and basic utilities and Rs 30 crore to administration.
- The Centre gives up to Rs 1,000 crore per park, subject to at least Rs 500 crore from the State.
- The scheme runs for five years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- Each park needs a minimum contiguous area of 2,000 acres with plug-and-play infrastructure.

Codex Standards for Spices and Mission Golden Spice

Context: India achieved a milestone when the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted standards for large cardamom, coriander and vanilla. Separately, the Ministry of DoNER launched Mission Golden Spice for Lakadong turmeric.

□ Codex Standards

- The standards were adopted at the 49th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Geneva.
- They were finalised at the 8th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs, set up in 2013 at India's initiative with the Spices Board, Kochi as secretariat.
- Codex was established in 1963 by FAO and WHO and has 189 members.
- Sikkim is the largest producer of large cardamom in India.

□ Mission Golden Spice

- Launched by MDoNER under its Unlock Economic Potential of India's Northeast initiative with an outlay of Rs 175.45 crore.
- Lakadong turmeric is a GI-tagged variety from the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya with curcumin content of 7 to 10 per cent.
- Targets: expand area from about 2,500 to 7,500 hectares and build a Rs 100 crore economy by FY 2028-29.

Five Years of the Ministry of Cooperation

Context: On completing five years of the Ministry of Cooperation in July 2026, new digital and infrastructure initiatives for the cooperative sector were launched. They include Sahakar CBS for Urban Cooperative Banks, the Sahakar Sahyogi AI platform, conversion of 50,000 PACS into e-PACS and foundation stones for 47 grain storage godowns, reflecting the push for the cooperative sector.

□ **New Initiatives**

- Sahakar CBS, a centralised core banking solution for Urban Cooperative Banks, and Sahakar Sahyogi, a conversational AI platform, from NUCFDC.
- Transformation of 50,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies into e-PACS.
- Foundation stones for 47 grain storage godowns and a Milk Supply Review Dashboard Portal by the NDDB.

□ **Wider Sector Reforms**

- PACS can now undertake over 25 business activities including Common Service Centres, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and fuel outlets.
- White Revolution 2.0 targets a 50 per cent rise in cooperative milk procurement by 2028-29.
- Bharat Taxi is India's first community-owned digital mobility platform.

ILO Convention 193 on Platform Work

Context: The International Labour Conference at its 114th session in Geneva adopted ILO Convention No. 193 on Decent Work in the Platform Economy, the first global treaty to set binding standards for gig work. India abstained from the vote.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The ILO was founded in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles and became the first UN specialised agency in 1946. It has 187 members and won the 1969 Nobel Peace Prize.
- It takes effect 12 months after two member states ratify it.
- It covers formal and informal, online and location-based platform workers.
- Governments must ensure correct worker classification and timely pay, with minimum wage for those treated as employees.
- It guarantees freedom of association, non-discrimination and social security, and lets workers refuse dangerous tasks without penalty.
- Workers can seek human review of automated decisions such as deactivation.
- It requires algorithmic transparency; India abstained on the Convention.
- India has ratified six of eight core conventions, excluding No. 87 and No. 98.

ISP and Revised Core Industries Index Released

Context: MoSPI launched the Index of Services Production, India's first monthly indicator for the formal services sector, while the Index of Core Industries was revised to the base year 2022-23. The revised index brings the core industries series in line with the revised GDP, inflation and IIP series.

□ **Index of Services Production**

- The first trial ISP was released for April 2026 on 14 July with 2024-25 as the base year.
- It covers 19 sub-sectors, about 60 per cent of the services sector, and is the services counterpart of the IIP.
- It is based largely on GST-registered enterprises and excludes public administration, defence and informal activities.
- It uses a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index.

□ **Revised Index of Core Industries**

- The new series with base year 2022-23 replaces the 2011-12 series and is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT.
- Iron ore is added as the ninth core industry; the eight earlier ones were coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, electricity and fertilisers.
- The combined weight of core industries in the IIP is 32.88 per cent, down from 40.27 per cent.
- Steel is now measured on gross output basis, as in IIP, and coal covers only raw coal to avoid double counting.

India Joins WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

Context: India officially joined the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in July 2026, the first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective. Adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in 2022, it entered into force in September 2025 and prohibits subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and for overfished stocks. India is also pressing its position for Phase II negotiations.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It was adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in 2022 and entered into force in September 2025.
- It prohibits subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, overfished stocks and fishing on unregulated high seas.
- Aquaculture and inland fisheries are outside its scope, which protects India's shrimp exports.
- Developing and least-developed members get a two-year peace clause.
- A voluntary WTO Fish Fund helps developing members comply.

□ **India's Position in Phase II**

- India seeks a 25-year transition period for developing countries.
- It wants stricter rules on distant-water industrial fleets and a permanent carve-out for small-scale fishers.

India Second Largest Seafarer Supplier

Context: India is now the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers with 311,936 professionals, or 12.16 per cent of the global workforce, as per the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce

Report 2026. The Government has launched Mission 20% to raise this share to 20 per cent.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Only the Philippines ranks ahead; India was fifth in 2015 with 5.2 per cent.
- India supplies 140,718 officers, 13.41 per cent of the world's officers.
- Global supply is 2.57 million seafarers against demand of 2.55 million.
- Recent laws include the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, Indian Ports Act, 2025 and Coastal Shipping Act, 2025.

□ **Seafarer Safety Measures**

- After an Indian seafarer's death in the US-Iran conflict, a real-time dashboard will track every Indian on every vessel in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.
- The eNavik portal has modules for casualty reporting, crisis management and grievance redressal.
- A liaison officer is assigned to each killed or injured seafarer's family.

LokOS, SHE-LEAPS and Lakhpati Didi Target

Context: SHE-LEAPS, a digital platform for SHG women entrepreneurs, was launched at the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan in July 2026, and the Lakhpati Didi target was raised from 3 crore to 6 crore women. SHE-LEAPS was developed by Digital India Corporation and runs under LokOS, which digitises Self Help Groups and their savings, loans and livelihood data.

□ **Key Highlights**

- SHE-LEAPS stands for Self-Help Entrepreneur-Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability.
- It was developed by Digital India Corporation and runs under the LokOS platform.
- It supports enterprise creation and performance tracking across farm and non-farm sectors.
- Lakhpati Didi enables SHG women to earn sustainable annual household income above Rs 1 lakh.
- LokOS digitises Self Help Groups, Village Organisations and Cluster Level Federations, covering savings, loans, repayments and livelihood data.
- It captures transactions worth about Rs 2 lakh crore annually.
- SHE-LEAPS supports enterprise creation, business management and income monitoring for farm and non-farm enterprises.
- The Lakhpati Didi target has been raised from 3 crore to 6 crore women, with a plan to release Rs 10 lakh crore over five years.
- Support structure includes 6,611 Master Trainers, 4.09 lakh Community Resource Persons and 3.87 crore potential Lakhpati Didis.

MSMED (Amendment) Act 2026

Context: Parliament enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Act, 2026, amending the 2006 Act. It changes classification, registration and payment dispute resolution for MSMEs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Fixed investment thresholds are removed; MSMEs may be classified by investment in plant, machinery or equipment, and by turnover.
- Filing the memorandum becomes free and voluntary for all MSMEs, through a national platform notified by the Centre; States may notify their own platforms.
- An online mediation or arbitration mechanism can be set up, with 90 days for mediation, 30 days to refer to arbitration and 90 days for the award.
- Mediated settlements and arbitral awards can be recovered as arrears of land revenue.
- Settlement of invoices through TReDS becomes mandatory for all central public sector enterprises.
- Graded penalties with a first-instance warning replace conviction-based fines for offences such as non-filing of registration.

Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme Approved

Context: The Cabinet approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) as the successor to the PLI scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, which ended on 31 March 2026. It aims to help Indian brands move up the value chain.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The budget is Rs 62,500 crore for five years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- Incentive of 2.25 to 5 per cent on eligible sales of India-made phones.
- Up to 1.5 per cent extra for higher domestic sourcing of components.
- An additional 3 per cent for Indian brands investing in design and R&D.
- Expected to generate about 60,000 direct jobs.
- The scheme expects cumulative production of about Rs 39,00,000 crore.

□ **Sector Progress**

- India is the second-largest mobile manufacturer by volume and builds 99.2 per cent of phones used domestically.
- Mobile phones became India's largest export product in FY 2025-26.
- PLI-LSEM drew investments of over Rs 20,600 crore and enabled exports of Rs 6.53 lakh crore.
- The earlier PLI also led to production above Rs 11.62 lakh crore.

Modified UDAN Approved for 2026-36

Context: The Union Cabinet approved the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Modified UDAN on 25 March 2026 for ten years (FY 2026-27 to 2035-36) with an outlay of Rs 28,840 crore, funded entirely by the Centre. The outlay is a six-fold rise in funding.

□ **Key Highlights**

- UDAN was launched in October 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It has operationalised 669 routes across 95 airports and carried over 1.66 crore passengers.
- Total outlay is Rs 28,840 crore.
- 100 airports will be developed from unserved airstrips.
- Operation and maintenance support for three years goes to about 441 RCS-only aerodromes.
- 200 modern helipads will be built in hilly, remote, island and aspirational regions.
- Rs 10,043 crore of Viability Gap Funding will support airlines on regional routes.
- Indigenous aircraft such as HAL Dhruv helicopters and Dornier aircraft are promoted.
- The scheme supports operations and maintenance beyond airport redevelopment.
- India's airport count rose from 74 in 2014 to 159 in 2024.

NITI Aayog Investment Friendliness Index

Context: NITI Aayog released the Investment Friendliness Index report in July 2026, announced in Union Budget 2025-26 to promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States. It evaluates 28 States and 8 UTs on 84 indicators under 8 pillars and groups them as top performers, frontrunners, emerging and aspiring, with Gujarat scoring highest at 56.6.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It evaluates 28 States and 8 UTs on 84 indicators grouped under 8 pillars.
- Top performers (score above 50): Gujarat (56.6), Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Odisha.
- Frontrunners (45-50): Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh among others.
- Emerging performers (40-44.9): Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab among others.
- Aspiring states score below 40, including Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Lakshadweep.
- Peer-group toppers: Gujarat among large States, Uttarakhand among hilly and north-eastern States, Goa among UTs and city-states.

National Investment Policy for Urea 2026

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026), revising the New Investment Policy 2012, to attract investment in gas-based urea plants and cut import dependence.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It aims to set up 8-9 new gas-based urea plants with 10 million tonne capacity.
- Fixed costs convert to Indian rupees after four years, limiting foreign exchange risk.
- Savings of over Rs 250 crore per plant compared with NIP-2012 are expected.

□ **Urea Sector**

- Production rose from 225 LMT in 2014-15 to 306.67 LMT in 2024-25, with a record 314.07 LMT in 2023-24.
- Urea is sold at Rs 266.50 per 45-kg bag.
- Related measures include neem-coated urea, PM-PRANAM and IFFCO's Nano Urea.
- India has 33 operational urea units; in April-January 2025-26 production was 251.26 LMT while imports were 89.30 LMT, exposing India to global price volatility and supply disruptions.

PDS Modernisation Report of Parliamentary Committee

Context: The Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution released a report titled 'Modernization of the Public Distribution System (PDS)-Strengthening Technical Data Base'. It reviews digitisation gains and flags data and coverage gaps.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Targeted PDS operates under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and covers up to 75 per cent of rural and 50 per cent of urban population, or 81.35 crore persons on Census 2011. Priority households get 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month; Antyodaya households get 35 kg per household, free under PMGKAY.
- The Centre handles procurement and allocation through FCI, while States identify beneficiaries and run Fair Price Shops.

PMKSY Completes Ten Years

Context: The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) completed ten years of advancing irrigation and water-use efficiency in July 2026. It was launched on 1 July 2015 under the motto 'Har Khet Ko Paani'. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme run jointly by the Agriculture, Jal Shakti and Rural Development ministries, with a micro-irrigation component called Per Drop More Crop.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented jointly by the Ministries of Agriculture, Jal Shakti and Rural Development. Funding is 60:40 for most States, 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States and 100 per cent central for Union Territories.
- The National Steering Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and the National Executive Committee by the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman.
- Per Drop More Crop gives 55 per cent assistance to small and marginal farmers and 45 per cent to others for micro-irrigation.

□ **Achievements**

- Irrigation potential of 24.61 million hectares has been created or restored.
- About 11.092 million hectares are under micro-irrigation, benefiting over 27 million farmers.
- Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) was approved in 2025-26 for piped networks to one-hectare farm gates.

- The Saryu Nahar National Project in Uttar Pradesh, begun in 1978, was brought under PMKSY in 2016 and benefits about 29 lakh farmers.
- Renukaji Dam in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar Project in Uttarakhand get 90 per cent central funding.

Public Sector Enterprise Status Changes

Context: Several central public sector enterprises received higher category status during the past year. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (Assam) became the 27th Navratna CPSE in December 2025, Yantra India Limited, a defence PSU, was granted Miniratna Category-I status in February 2026, and MECON Limited, a Schedule A CPSE under the Steel Ministry, received Miniratna Category-I in July 2026. CPSE categories are common exam topics.

□ Key Highlights

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (Assam) became the 27th Navratna CPSE on 2 December 2025.
- Yantra India Limited, a defence PSU, was granted Miniratna Category-I status on 2 February 2026.
- MECON Limited, a Schedule A CPSE under the Steel Ministry, received Miniratna Category-I on 1 July 2026.

CPSE status

Entity	Status	Date
Numaligarh Refinery Ltd	Navratna (27th)	2 Dec 2025
Yantra India Ltd	Miniratna-I	2 Feb 2026
MECON Ltd	Miniratna-I	1 Jul 2026

SDG National Indicator Framework Progress Report 2026

Context: MoSPI released the SDG National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2026 in July, tracking India's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals. The report shows gains such as multidimensional poverty falling to 14.96 per cent, social protection coverage rising to 65.3 per cent and renewable energy reaching 25.97 per cent of installed capacity. Such indicator-based reports are regularly asked in the exam.

□ Key Highlights

- Multidimensional poverty fell to 14.96 per cent (2019-21).
- Social protection coverage rose from 22.0 per cent in 2016 to 65.3 per cent in 2026.
- Renewable energy share in installed power capacity reached 25.97 per cent in 2025-26.
- Recognised start-ups reached 49,429 in 2025 and unemployment fell to 3.1 per cent from 6.1 per cent in 2017-18.
- Municipal waste processing improved from 18 per cent in 2015-16 to 82.2 per cent in 2025-26.
- Ramsar site area as a share of wetland area rose from 4.15 per cent (2016) to 8.66 per cent (2026).

Selected SDG indicators

Goal	Indicator
SDG 6	99.62% rural population with improved drinking water
SDG 7	Renewables 25.97% of installed capacity
SDG 8	Unemployment 3.1% (2025)
SDG 11	Municipal waste processing 82.2%
SDG 16	Homicide rate 1.98 per lakh (2024)

SOFI 2026: Food Security and Nutrition Report

Context: The SOFI 2026 report, prepared jointly by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, has the theme of understanding and addressing the high cost of a healthy diet. It shows hunger falling for a third year but progress remains fragile.

□ Key Highlights

- 7.8 per cent of the world, about 645 million people, faced hunger in 2025, down from 8.1 per cent in 2024 and 8.6 per cent in 2022.
- About 25.8 per cent, or 2.1 billion people, had moderate or severe food insecurity.
- Africa has about 309 million hungry people against 292 million in Asia.
- Adult obesity rose from 12.1 per cent in 2012 to 16.2 per cent in 2024.
- Post-farmgate activities account for 70-75 per cent of what consumers pay.

Semicon India Programme (Semicon 2.0) Notified

Context: The Union Cabinet approved and the Government notified Semicon 2.0, the Scheme for Development of Semiconductor Design and Manufacturing Ecosystem in India, with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore. It builds on the 2021 Semicon India Programme, rests on six pillars and aims to strengthen supply chain resilience and technological leadership.

□ Key Highlights

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT is the nodal ministry and the India Semiconductor Mission handles appraisal.
- The fiscal outlay is Rs 1,27,500 crore.
- Applications open for an initial three years and project support extends up to six years.
- State governments provide land and utilities instead of seeking central reimbursement.
- The scheme works through six pillars covering 10 categories.

□ Semicon 1.0 Progress

- Launched in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore.
- Twelve manufacturing units have been approved, including a Silicon Carbide fab in Odisha and nine packaging units.
- Twenty-four design projects have been supported and 105 start-ups have access to EDA tools.
- India meets 90 to 95 per cent of its semiconductor needs through imports.

World Bank Income Classification FY 2027

Context: The World Bank released its FY 2027 country income classification, updated each 1 July using GNI per capita under the Atlas Method. It covers 218 economies in four groups, and India remains lower-middle income.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Thresholds: low income US$ 1,175 or less; lower-middle US$ 1,176-4,635; upper-middle US$ 4,636-14,375; high income above US$ 14,375.
- Togo moved up from low to lower-middle income.
- Jordan, Micronesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam moved from lower-middle to upper-middle income.
- No economy moved down.
- The share of low-income economies fell from nearly 30 per cent in 1987 to 11 per cent in 2026.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026

Context: The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 received Presidential assent in August 2026 and replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891. It recognises electronic and cloud-stored bank records as evidence, admissible as digital copies if they are true copies with no tampering. The Centre may extend the Act to any financial sector entity by notification.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Bankers' books now include records in electronic or digital form, stored onsite or at offsite, virtual or cloud locations.
- A digital copy is admissible if it is a true copy, with no unauthorised alteration or tampering.
- Special cause for compelling bank officers is now defined: doubtful accuracy, interrupted record-keeping or disobeying an inspection order.
- The Centre may extend the Act to any financial sector entity by notification.

Banking Coverage, CBDC DBT and e-Shram

Context: India reported near-universal banking reach in August 2026, launched CBDC-based food subsidy transfers in two Union Territories and marked five years of the e-Shram portal. Some 99.92 percent of inhabited villages have a banking outlet within 5 km, while Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli became first to deliver PMGKAY subsidy through programmable Digital Rupee tokens.

□ **Banking Coverage**

- 99.92 percent of inhabited villages (6,00,868 of 6,01,328) have a banking outlet within 5 km.
- As of July 2026 there are over 1.81 lakh bank branches, 17.36 lakh Business Correspondents and 1.65 lakh IPPB centres.
- RBI allows several bank types to open branches anywhere without prior approval, with 25 percent of new branches in unbanked rural areas.

□ **CBDC DBT**

- Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli became first to give PMGKAY food subsidy via programmable Digital Rupee tokens.
- Pilots had earlier run in Gujarat and Puducherry.
- Beneficiaries redeem grain at Fair Price Shops through QR or coupon codes and may choose pulses as well.

□ **e-Shram**

- Launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and built by NIC.
- It issues a 12-digit Universal Account Number; workers aged 16 and above who are not taxpayers or EPFO/ESIC members can register free.

FDI Framework for Land-Bordering Countries (Press Note 3)

Context: Up to August 2026, 29 FDI investments worth over Rs 4,895.65 crore were reported under the revised framework for investors with ownership links to land-bordering countries. The framework was introduced through Press Note 2 of 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- In 2020 India required government approval for investments from land-bordering countries or entities with their ownership. Press Note 2 of 2026 and an amendment to the FEM (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 were notified in May 2026.
- Allowed in select manufacturing: capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components and solar inputs such as polysilicon and ingot-wafer.
- Sensitive sectors like semiconductors remain restricted.
- Up to 10% beneficial ownership from such countries is permitted via the automatic route.
- Majority ownership and control must remain with Indian residents or entities.
- Proposals to be processed within 60 days; a Committee of Secretaries under the Cabinet Secretary reviews eligible sectors.
- An investor with non-controlling beneficial ownership of up to 10 percent from a land-bordering country can use the automatic route.
- Approval is needed where such a country's company holds a controlling stake.
- FDI from entities based in China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan still needs approval, with a 60-day window approved for select sectors.

GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme

Context: The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme with an outlay of Rs 23,731 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36. It aims to make Compressed Biogas a major pillar of India's energy mix.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It targets nearly a ten-fold rise in domestic CBG production.
- The entire CBG ecosystem, earlier spread over four ministries, is consolidated under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- GOBARdhan was launched in 2018 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

- India meets nearly 50 percent of its natural gas needs through imports, and the Strait of Hormuz carries about 55 to 60 percent of LNG imports.
- SATAT was launched in 2018 to build a CBG ecosystem.
- The Biomass Aggregation Machinery Scheme has an outlay of Rs 564.75 crore.
- The Development of Pipeline Infrastructure Scheme has an outlay of Rs 994.5 crore for FY 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- The Market Development Assistance scheme offers Rs 1,500 per tonne for organic manure from CBG plants.

Gramodyam, Makhana Export and Other Economic Initiatives

Context: Agri-business and enterprise initiatives were launched during 2026. NABARD launched Gramodyam in July 2026 on its 45th foundation day as a rural entrepreneurship programme with NSDC, and APEDA facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of 18 tonnes of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia in August 2026. The Steel Industry Safety Council was also set up in September 2026 under the Steel Ministry.

□ **Rural and agri**

- NABARD launched Gramodyam on 12 July 2026 (45th foundation day), a rural entrepreneurship programme with NSDC and the Institute for Industrial Development.
- APEDA facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of 18 tonnes of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia on 18 August 2026.
- ICAR and FCI signed an MoU on 30 September 2026 for alternate fumigation research, executed by ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana (Phase I Rs 3.28 crore, two years).

□ **Industry**

- Steel Industry Safety Council was set up on 23 September 2026 under the Steel Ministry, headed by the Steel Secretary.
- MIDHANI became the first Indian company to receive S400 metallic material laboratory approval from GE Aerospace.
- Department of Posts and TRAI signed a one-year MoU on 10 July 2026 for field surveys through the postal network.
- Tourism Ministry signed a two-year MoU with IndiGo on 30 July 2026 for the 'Incredible India by IndiGo' campaign.
- NSO signed an MoU with Pahle India Foundation on 8 October 2026 for official statistics research.
- Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for defence personnel and signed an MoU with FCI for warehousing support (12 Oct 2026).

IIHT SUTRA 2026: Handloom Technology Conclave

Context: The first national conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, IIHT SUTRA 2026, was held in New Delhi in August 2026. It was inaugurated by Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh and organised by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms). India has six Central IIHTs and five State IIHTs, and the conclave's theme was 'Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector', which is relevant for handloom-related questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Inaugurated by Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on 12 August 2026 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre; organised by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms).
- Theme: 'IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector - Educate. Innovate. Transform.'
- India has six Central IIHTs and five State IIHTs, with nearly seven decades of experience.
- Handloom sector supports about 3.5 million weavers and allied workers, over 72% women.
- Textile and apparel exports including handicrafts were about Rs 3.25 trillion in 2025-26.

Income Mobility in India, 2014-2025

Context: A study using CMIE household panel data on real per capita income from 2014 to 2025 found rising downward mobility alongside gradual upward mobility. The share of households facing downward mobility rose from 14% in 2015 to 26.8% in 2025, while upward mobility rose from 14.1% to 23.5%. Rural stress was sharpest. It is relevant for questions on income distribution.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Share facing downward mobility rose from 14% (2015) to 26.8% (2025).
- Households with no change fell from over 70% to below 50%.
- Upward mobility rose from 14.1% to 23.5%, but more slowly.
- Rural stress is sharpest: about 29% of rural households were worse off than in 2014.

□ **Method**

- Real per capita income data for a balanced household panel, 2014-2025.
- Households grouped by 2014 income rank into Top 10%, Next 40% and Bottom 50%; mobility means moving between groups.

MMDR Amendment Act, 2026 and Section 9D

Context: The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026 received Presidential assent. It limits State levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land to bring uniformity to mining taxation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- In July 2024 the Supreme Court upheld States' power to tax mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, overruling India Cement Ltd v. State of Tamil Nadu (1989). The 2024 ruling allowed staggered payment of dues over 12 years from 1 April 2026.
- New Section 9D bars States from imposing tax, cess or levy on mineral rights or mineral-bearing land except as per conditions prescribed by the Centre.

- Levies not paid or collected before the amendment are invalid, but amounts already collected are not refundable.
- Section 13 is amended to empower the Centre to make rules prescribing conditions.
- About 50 minor minerals such as sand, gravel, clay and granite remain under State control.
- Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu introduced Mineral-Bearing Land taxes.
- States levy about 14 types of charges on mining and receive around 90 percent of mining revenue.
- In FY 2025-26 India imported minerals worth Rs 10,12,529 crore.

Merchant Discount Rate on UPI

Context: The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026 amended the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 to allow a Merchant Discount Rate on certain UPI and RuPay debit-card transactions. The Act itself does not impose any MDR.

□ **Key Highlights**

- MDR is a fee paid by merchants, not consumers.
- The government says UPI stays free for consumers and person-to-person transfers.
- Any MDR would apply only to merchant transactions above a threshold and at a nominal rate.
- In 2025-26 only about 4 percent of person-to-merchant UPI transactions exceeded Rs 2,000, yet they were about two-thirds of value.
- The government disbursed Rs 8,730 crore from 2021-22 to 2024-25 as incentives; a standing committee noted it covers only 11 percent of industry cost.

NITI Aayog Report on Professional Services Regulation

Context: NITI Aayog released the third report of its Services Thematic Series, titled 'India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services', in August 2026. It was launched by Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri and aims at regulatory clarity, professional mobility and recognition of qualifications. The report's series, focus and four-pronged strategy make it a likely exam item.

□ **Report**

- Launched 10 August 2026 by Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri: 'India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services'.
- Aims at better regulatory clarity, professional mobility, recognition of qualifications and competitiveness.
- Cautions that best practices should not mean copying foreign laws mechanically.

□ **Four-pronged strategy**

- Continuous professional development and lifelong learning.
- Adopting best practices: clear eligibility rules, timelines, review mechanisms and consultations.
- Moving up the value chain into research, engineering design, legal analytics and consulting.
- Building skills in AI, automation, ESG reporting, carbon accounting and sustainable finance.

PMJDY Completes 12 Years

Context: The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, launched on 28 August 2014 as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed twelve years in August 2026. Accounts rose to 59.09 crore, of which women hold about 55.7%, and deposits reached Rs 3,16,514 crore. Benefits include a RuPay debit card, Rs 2 lakh accident insurance and an overdraft facility of up to Rs 10,000.

□ **Progress**

- Accounts rose about fourfold from 14.72 crore (2015) to 59.09 crore by 19 August 2026; 77.8% are in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Women hold 32.92 crore accounts, about 55.7%.
- Deposits grew roughly twentyfold to Rs 3,16,514 crore; average balance Rs 5,356 per account.
- Financial Inclusion Index rose from 53.9 (2021) to 67 (March 2025).
- Guinness record: 1,80,96,130 accounts opened in one week in August 2014.

□ **Benefits**

- RuPay debit card; 41.29 crore cards issued.
- Accident insurance Rs 2 lakh for accounts opened after 28 August 2018.
- Overdraft up to Rs 10,000 for one eligible account per household.

Polymer Banknotes for Rs 10 and Rs 20

Context: The government approved the RBI proposal in August 2026 to introduce polymer banknotes in Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations. The notes use a biaxially oriented polypropylene substrate and last 2.5 to 4 times longer than paper notes, though they cost 30 to 60 percent more to make. The RBI had first proposed polymer notes in 2009, and the move comes amid rising currency demand despite UPI growth.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The RBI first proposed polymer notes in 2009; a 2012 pilot plan for Kochi, Mysuru, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Shimla was shelved.
- Polymer notes last 2.5 to 4 times longer than paper notes but cost 30 to 60 percent more to make.
- A TERI study for the RBI found lower overall lifecycle carbon footprint than paper currency.
- India spent Rs 5,101 crore on printing currency in 2023-24, Rs 6,373 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 4,875 crore in 2025-26.

□ **Cash Versus Digital**

- UPI handles over 24,000 crore transactions annually and 85 percent of retail digital payments.
- Currency in circulation exceeded Rs 41 lakh crore in 2025-26 against Rs 16 to 17 lakh crore a decade earlier.
- The RBI calls this the currency demand paradox.

Reports on Skilling, AI and Development

Context: NITI Aayog's report Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat and the World Bank's World Development Report 2026 both examined in August how skills and technology shape jobs. The NITI report flags graduate unemployment of about 13 percent against 3.2 percent nationally, while the World Bank report, themed The Promise of Artificial Intelligence, proposes Adopt, Adapt and Advance stages for developing countries.

□ Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat

- Unemployment among graduates is about 13 percent against the national rate of 3.2 percent; for graduate women it is 20.4 percent.
- Economic Survey 2024-25 notes only 8.25 percent of graduates work in jobs aligned with their qualification.
- About 8.7 crore people aged 15 to 29 fall in the NEET category.
- A skilled graduate earns about Rs 29,000 a month against Rs 22,000 for an unskilled one.

□ World Development Report 2026

- The theme is The Promise of Artificial Intelligence.
- It proposes three stages for developing countries: Adopt, Adapt and Advance.
- About 4.5 percent of jobs in low and middle-income countries face automation risk from generative AI against 14.2 percent in high-income countries.

Samudra Manthan: National Offshore Exploration Scheme

Context: The Union Cabinet approved Samudra Manthan, a National Offshore Exploration Scheme with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore, under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It uses a risk-sharing approach to attract investment into deepwater exploration.

□ Need

- India is the world's third-largest crude oil consumer and its import bill is nearly USD 144 billion.
- Future potential lies in deepwater basins: Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi and Andaman, holding over 5,600 MMTOE.
- A single deepwater exploratory well costs about USD 125 to 150 million.
- Existing fields decline about 6 to 7 percent annually.

□ Expected Outcomes

- Reserves to rise by over 600 MMTOE, from 1.6 billion to 2.2 billion tonnes of oil equivalent.
- Annual production to rise from about 62 MMTOE to 80 MMTOE.
- Crude imports could fall by nearly Rs 1 lakh crore a year.

Schemes and Acts for Industry and Cooperatives

Context: Several economic measures were announced: the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme approved more projects, a Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme was proposed, and two amendment Acts changed the MSME and cooperative laws.

□ Schemes

- MeitY approved 31 projects worth Rs 7,877 crore under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme; total approvals reach Rs 69,548 crore.
- The Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore over five years and targets about 7.5 lakh TEUs annual capacity.
- DoT and Madhya Pradesh signed an MoU for India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone at Gwalior.

□ Acts

- The MSME Development (Amendment) Act, 2026 amends the 2006 Act to ease payment constraints and make dispute resolution time-bound.
- As per Economic Survey 2025-26, MSMEs account for 31.1 percent of GDP and 48.58 percent of exports; 9.16 crore MSMEs are on Udyam.
- The NCDC (Amendment) Act, 2026 amends the 1962 Act, widening NCDC's mandate and removing the rural-only restriction on industrial goods.
- NCDC can now fund any entity engaged in cooperative development and take share capital in State-level cooperatives with Central approval.

Billionaire Lists 2026: Fortune, Forbes and Hurun

Context: The 2026 billionaire rankings by Hurun, Forbes and Fortune India placed the Reliance and Adani heads at the top of Indian lists. India added 57 billionaires on the Hurun Global Rich List, taking the total to 308, the third-largest hub after the US and China, with Mumbai leading at 95. The lists' toppers and counts are common current-affairs questions.

□ Hurun Global Rich List 2026 (March)

- India added 57 billionaires, taking the total to 308; third-largest billionaire hub after the US and China.
- Combined wealth rose 10% to about Rs 112.6 trillion; average Rs 36,570 crore, higher than China's average.
- Mumbai is the top hub with 95 billionaires, adding 15 (New York added 14).
- Shenzhen is Asia's billionaire capital with 132.
- Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest on this list.

□ Forbes 2026

- World's richest: Elon Musk (USD 839 billion), then Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg.
- India's 100 Richest (30 Sept 2026): Gautam Adani and family first (USD 112.7 bn), Mukesh Ambani second (86.3 bn), then Savitri Jindal, Lakshmi Mittal, Sunil Mittal.

□ Fortune India Top 100

- Mukesh Ambani first (Rs 8.68 lakh crore), Gautam Adani second, Savitri Devi Jindal rose to third, Mistry family fourth, Sunil Mittal fifth.

Indians in Forbes world top 100

World rank	Name	Net worth
21	Mukesh Ambani	USD 99.7 bn

31	Gautam Adani	USD 63.8 bn
51	Savitri Jindal & family	USD 39.1 bn
70	Lakshmi Mittal	USD 31 bn
71	Shiv Nadar	USD 30.9 bn
95	Cyrus Poonawalla	USD 27 bn
100	Dilip Shanghvi	USD 25.6 bn

Digital Gig Worker Grievance System, Mobile Food Labs and Soil Carbon Payments

Context: Three brief items were in the news: Karnataka became the first State with a government-backed digital grievance system for gig workers, NABL launched the first accreditation scheme for Mobile Food Testing Laboratories in August 2026, and the first payments linked to verified soil carbon credits reached farmers in Punjab and Haryana in September 2026. The 'first' tags make them likely exam facts.

□ **Karnataka gig workers**

- First State with a government-backed digital grievance system for gig workers, run via the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board.
- Complaints are lodged through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System portal.

□ **NABL mobile food labs**

- On 10 August 2026 NABL launched the first accreditation scheme for Mobile Food Testing Laboratories under its Integrated Assessment Programme at 'Gunvatta Samanvaya', New Delhi.

□ **First soil carbon payments**

- Payments linked to verified soil carbon credits began for farmers in Punjab and Haryana; over Rs 2.9 crore by DBT to 2,550 farmers announced at PAU Ludhiana on 14 September 2026.
- The Aadi programme by Grow Indigo (2019, under ICAR guidance) promoted direct-seeded rice, reduced tillage and residue management.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme 3.0

Context: The Department of Land Resources issued operational guidelines for the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) 3.0, a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 565.50 crore for 2026-2031. After earlier phases achieved near-complete computerisation of land records, this phase shifts to a GIS-enabled Land Stack integrating maps, ownership details, property registration and court cases.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It builds on earlier phases that achieved near-complete computerisation of land records.
- It shifts focus to a GIS-enabled Land Stack integrating maps, ownership details, property registration and court cases.
- It promotes API-based secure integration so citizens need fewer visits to government offices.
- Progress will be monitored through an upgraded DILRMP-MIS dashboard.

EPFO Wage Ceiling Raised to Rs 25,000

Context: The Union Cabinet approved raising the wage ceiling for mandatory EPFO coverage from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month. The ceiling was last revised in 2014, when it went from Rs 6,500 to Rs 15,000.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The annual government outgo from the change is estimated at about Rs 11,339 crore, against existing budgetary support of about Rs 10,250 crore.
- Workers earning between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 a month will gain mandatory coverage.
- They will access the Employees' Provident Fund, the Employees' Pension Scheme and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme.
- The average income of a regular salaried employee is now about Rs 23,000 a month.

FAO Food Price Index Reaches Highest Since 2022

Context: The FAO Food Price Index rose to 133.3 points in August 2026, the highest since November 2022, though about 17% below the record peak of March 2022. Price indices for cereals, vegetable oils, sugar, meat and dairy all rose, driven by heat and drought in Europe, the threat of a severe El Nino and disruption from the Ukraine and Iran wars.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Price indices for cereals, vegetable oils, sugar, meat and dairy all rose in August.
- Heat and drought in Europe, the threat of a severe El Nino and disruption from the Ukraine and Iran wars pushed grain prices to three-year highs and sugar to a one-year peak.
- The FAO cut its 2026 global cereal production forecast by 3.4 million metric tons to 2.980 billion tons, 2% below 2025.
- This is the largest annual decline since 2018, though output would still be the second largest on record.

FCNR(B) Swap Window and Record Forex Reserves

Context: The RBI's concessional swap window for FCNR(B) deposits helped India's foreign exchange reserves rise to a record 785.706 billion dollars in September 2026. FCNR(B) accounts are fixed-term foreign currency deposits that NRIs and OCIs can open in India, protecting depositors from exchange rate risk. The heavy inflows also created surplus rupee liquidity that the RBI absorbed through VRRR auctions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- They are fixed-term bank deposits that NRIs and OCIs can open in India. They are held in foreign currencies such as the US dollar, pound, euro, yen, Australian dollar and Canadian dollar.
- Depositors are protected from exchange rate risk.
- Interest is exempt from Indian income tax as long as the depositor is a non-resident.
- The heavy inflow of these deposits also created surplus rupee liquidity that the RBI absorbed through VRRR auctions.

FIU-IND Action Against Crypto Service Providers

Context: The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) issued non-compliance notices in September 2026 under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 to 15 Virtual Digital Assets Service Providers. FIU-IND, set up in 2004, is India's central agency for receiving, analysing and sharing financial intelligence and reports to the Economic Intelligence Council headed by the Finance Minister.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It was established in 2004 as India's central agency for receiving, analysing and sharing financial intelligence. It reports directly to the Economic Intelligence Council, headed by the Finance Minister.
- It receives Cash Transaction Reports, Suspicious Transaction Reports, Cross Border Wire Transfer Reports and others.
- Its staff are drawn from CBDT, CBIC, RBI, SEBI and intelligence agencies.

GeM Completes 10 Years of Public Procurement

Context: The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) completed 10 years in September 2026 as a unified digital platform for government procurement, covering the lifecycle from seller registration to payment. Buyers can use direct purchase, comparison, electronic bidding and reverse auctions, while AI and ML tools detect cartelisation and order splitting and inclusion initiatives support women and startup sellers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Buyers can use direct purchase, comparison, electronic bidding and reverse auctions.
- AI and ML tools detect suspected cartelisation, collusion and order splitting.
- Inclusion initiatives include SWAYATT, Startup Runway 2.0, Womaniya and the SARAS Collection.
- GeM Sahay, with Union Bank of India, offers collateral-free working capital to proprietorship sellers.
- 50 GeM Suvidha Kendras will be set up on a pilot basis with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.
- GeM partnered with UN Women for the Womaniya initiative and with IN-SPACe and Drone Federation India in 2025.

Global Bond Sell-Off and Rising Yields

Context: Investors worldwide are selling government bonds, pushing yields higher. The yield on the 30-year US Treasury hit its highest in about 25 years and Japan's 10-year yield touched 3%, reportedly for the first time since 1996.

□ **Key Highlights**

- German and UK 10-year yields rose to multi-year highs.
- A bond yield is the return to an investor; when bond prices fall, yields rise.
- Government bonds are called Treasuries in the US, Gilts in Britain and G-Secs in India.
- US federal debt stood above 40 trillion dollars in August 2026, about 126% of GDP, against 80-84% of GDP for India's general government debt.

□ **Causes**

- High US borrowing means more bond issuance, and investors demand higher compensation for the risk.
- The West Asia conflict has pushed oil prices up and kept inflation elevated across much of the world.
- Expecting central banks to raise rates, bondholders sell now to buy higher-paying bonds later.

Global Financial Centres Index 2026

Context: The 40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index was released in September 2026, with GIFT City emerging as India's top-ranked centre. It is published by Z/Yen Partners (London) with the China Development Institute (Shenzhen) twice a year, and New York, London, Hong Kong and Singapore hold the top four spots. The publisher, frequency and India's centres are the key exam facts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Published by Z/Yen Partners (London) with the China Development Institute (Shenzhen); issued twice a year, in March and September. First edition came out in 2007; 40th edition released 16 September 2026.
- GIFT City, Mumbai and New Delhi appear in the main index; GIFT City is the highest-ranked.
- GIFT City and Mumbai are profiled as 'International Specialists'; New Delhi as 'International Diversified'.
- GIFT City houses India's first operational International Financial Services Centre (IFSC); IFSCA was set up on 27 April 2020 under the IFSCA Act, 2019.
- 139 centres studied: 117 in the main index and 22 associate centres.
- Uses 144 instrumental factors plus assessments from financial professionals (39,531 assessments from 6,147 respondents).
- Five areas of competitiveness: business environment, human capital, infrastructure, financial sector development, reputation.

□ **Global ranking**

- New York 1st, London 2nd, Hong Kong 3rd, Singapore 4th.
- Shanghai rose to 5th, Tokyo to 6th, Seoul 7th, Shenzhen 8th.

Indian centres in GFCI

Centre	GFCI 39 rank	GFCI 40 rank	Rating	Change
GIFT City	46	37	722	Up 9
Mumbai	52	49	710	Up 3
New Delhi	54	56	703	Down 2

Hybrid Annuity Model Enters Indian Railways

Context: The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee under the Finance Ministry approved six railway lines along freight corridors to be built under the Hybrid Annuity Model, the first use of HAM by Indian Railways.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Of the six lines, four are in Odisha and one each in Telangana and Jharkhand.
- The total bid project cost is Rs 15,976 crore and the capital cost over the 17-19 year concession period is Rs 40,866 crore.
- Key commodities include coal, iron ore, bauxite, coke, cement and food grains.
- Another 49 projects worth about Rs 1.80 lakh crore are in the PPP pipeline.
- HAM is a Public Private Partnership variant already used in the highways sector.

India Electric Mobility Index 2025

Context: NITI Aayog and WRI India released the second edition of the India Electric Mobility Index 2025 in September 2026, assessing state-level policy and outcomes for e-mobility across 36 States and UTs. The index uses 16 indicators covering transport electrification, charging infrastructure and EV research. Delhi topped with a score of 84, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The index uses 16 indicators: Transport Electrification Progress (50%), Charging Infrastructure Readiness (30%) and EV Research and Innovation (20%).
- Scores range from 10 to 84 with a median of 40.
- Delhi topped with 84, followed by Maharashtra (78), Karnataka (73), Chandigarh (71) and Goa (65).
- Madhya Pradesh moved from 23rd to 7th rank.
- Uttar Pradesh is among eight large-state frontrunners scoring 50-64.
- Karnataka scored highest on charging infrastructure at 97, and Delhi highest on research and innovation at 94.

India's First Blue Bond and Sagarmala Finance

Context: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd withdrew India's first blue bond issue of Rs 600 crore because investors sought a higher coupon than it would offer. It sought to price 10-year bonds below 8%, but bids ranged from 7.69% to 8.44%.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Blue bond proceeds must go to identified water and ocean projects such as clean water, shipping, sustainable fishing and port projects.
- Issuers need disclosure frameworks and impact reporting to avoid bluewashing.
- Vadodara Municipal Corporation plans to raise about Rs 200 crore through blue bonds.
- The Sagarmala programme, launched in 2015, has about 845 projects with estimated investment of Rs 6.06 lakh crore.
- SEBI has recognised blue bonds as sustainable finance instruments.

India's First Green (e-)Methanol Plant at Kandla

Context: The foundation stone was laid in September 2026 for the country's first port-based e-methanol plant at Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, Gujarat, a joint initiative of the port and Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. The Rs 2,300 crore project will produce 150 tonnes a day of e-methanol from renewable power, water and biogenic CO2 for vessels on the Asia-Europe corridor, supporting Green Ports and India's Net Zero 2070 target.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The project costs Rs 2,300 crore and will be built in two phases.
- Total capacity will be 150 tonnes of e-methanol a day, made from renewable power, water and biogenic CO2.
- The fuel will serve vessels on the Asia-Europe trade corridor.
- Green methanol is expected to cost about US$750 a tonne against a global rate of about US$1,300.
- It aligns with India's Net Zero target for 2070.
- Prosopis juliflora, native to Mexico, is among the world's top 100 invasive species and has threatened Kutch's Banni grasslands.
- The plant will produce 5 tonnes of methanol a day and can also use bagasse and cotton stalk.
- Green methanol can cut a vessel's CO2 emissions by up to 95 per cent and NOx by up to 80 per cent.
- It is part of the plan to make western coast ports Green Ports.

□ **India's First LNG Train**

- Indian Railways launched an LNG-diesel dual-fuel train after its first hydrogen train.
- Two 1,400 HP driving power cars were converted at the Sabarmati depot, each with a 2,200-litre LNG tank.
- One car can run about 444 km on a full LNG load, and LNG can replace about 40% of diesel use.

India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

Context: India signed a Free Trade Agreement with New Zealand, following pacts with the United Kingdom and the European Union; after ratification it comes into effect on 20 October 2026. It is described as India's first women-led FTA and aims to double bilateral trade to Rs 35,000 crore over four to five years.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India and New Zealand established diplomatic relations in 1952; bilateral trade was US$ 1.75 billion in 2023-24. India now has nine FTAs, spanning economies representing about 60 trillion dollars of GDP.
- New Zealand gives duty-free access to 100% of Indian exports; earlier tariffs went up to 10%.
- About 95% of New Zealand's exports to India will enter tariff-free or at sharply reduced duties.
- Benefiting sectors include garments, carpets, footwear, auto components, machinery, gems and jewellery, ceramics and handicrafts.

- India excluded sensitive items such as dairy, onions, chana, peas, corn, almonds, sugar, artificial honey and select oils and fats.
- New Zealand pledged to facilitate $20 billion of investment over 15 years in startups, manufacturing and infrastructure, with a rebalancing clause if commitments fall short.
- Productivity partnerships will focus on kiwifruit, apples and apiculture (honey).
- Talks with Canada and Chile are under way at the same time.

□ **Mobility Provisions**

- There is no numerical cap on Indian students, who may work at least 20 hours a week; post-study work rights are up to 3 years for STEM graduates and up to 4 years for doctoral scholars.
- A Temporary Employment Entry Visa allows up to 5,000 Indian professionals at a time, for 3-year stays.
- A Working Holiday Visa for 1,000 young Indians annually, for up to 12 months, is provided.

JCR Upgrades India's Sovereign Rating to A-

Context: Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) upgraded India's sovereign rating to A- from BBB+ with a stable outlook in September 2026, making it the most positive among major global rating agencies on India. JCR cited sustained growth of around 7%, GST, digital public infrastructure and stronger bank balance sheets, while flagging elevated government debt and fiscal deficits.

□ **Key Highlights**

- JCR cited sustained growth of around 7%, GST, digital public infrastructure and stronger bank balance sheets.
- It flagged elevated general government debt and fiscal deficits as structural constraints.
- It noted high state government debt and will watch whether public capital expenditure draws in private investment.

PM Surya Sarovar Yojana for Floating Solar

Context: The recently approved Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana aims to promote floating solar power with a target of 5,000 MW and an outlay of Rs 5,070 crore, with co-located energy storage to support the grid.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Floating solar places panels on floating platforms over reservoirs and lakes, anchored to the bed or banks.
- It generates power without using land, so it is described as land-neutral renewable energy.

RBI's VRRR Auctions to Absorb Surplus Liquidity

Context: The RBI absorbed nearly Rs 2.9 lakh crore from the banking system through overnight Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions in September 2026, as surplus liquidity crossed Rs 9.85 lakh crore. The surplus came from heavy FCNR(B) deposit mobilisation and subsequent dollar-rupee swaps with the RBI. Under VRRR, banks park surplus funds with the RBI at a rate decided through auction.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The surplus came from heavy mobilisation of FCNR(B) deposits and subsequent dollar-rupee swaps with the RBI.
- Under VRRR, banks park surplus funds with the RBI at a rate decided through auction rather than a fixed rate.
- Excess liquidity can push overnight rates below the RBI's desired level and weaken monetary policy transmission.

UPI Completes Ten Years

Context: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched in 2016 by the NPCI under RBI oversight, completed a decade in September 2026 and became a key pillar of India's digital public infrastructure. Annual transactions rose from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to over 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26, and UPI handled 84% of digital payments and is operational in 11 countries.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Annual UPI transactions rose from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26.
- Transaction value rose from Rs 0.07 lakh crore to about Rs 314 lakh crore over the same period.
- Monthly volumes crossed 2,300 crore for the first time in May 2026.
- UPI handles around 66 crore transactions a day and accounted for 84% of digital payment transactions in FY 2025-26.
- UPI is operational in 11 countries: UAE, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and the Maldives.

57th GST Council Meeting

Context: The 57th GST Council meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was held in New Delhi in October 2026 and took up procedural reforms on registration, refunds and credit reconciliation. Decisions included a simplified GST REG-01 application, auto-approval of most amendments to registration particulars and simplified registration for small e-commerce sellers under Rule 4B. GST Council decisions are regular exam topics.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Held in New Delhi on 8 October 2026.
- Simplified GST REG-01 application, clear document guidelines and a friendlier portal.
- Auto-approval of amendments to registration particulars, except principal place of business.
- Simplified registration for small e-commerce sellers under Rule 4B.
- Better reconciliation of liability and ITC across GSTR-1, 1A, 2B and 3B.
- Automatic refund of excess electronic cash ledger balance; deficiency memo time cut from 15 to 10 days.
- ITC on input services received on or after 1 November 2026 to count for inverted-duty refunds; capital goods from 1 April 2027.
- Minimum tax amount of Rs 10,000 for issuing a show-cause notice.

ADB Financing: Chennai Water, Green Ammonia and Growth Outlook

Context: The Asian Development Bank announced several India-linked loans and projections during 2026. It approved a 230 million dollar loan in July 2026 for water and sanitation in Greater Chennai, benefiting 4.5 million people, and signed financing with AM Green Ammonia (India) in October 2026 under ACCEL. ADO April 2026 projected India's growth at 6.9% for FY2026-27, which is relevant for institution questions.

□ Chennai water and sanitation

- A 230 million dollar loan was approved on 3 July 2026 for the Greater Chennai area, benefiting 4.5 million people.
- Plan includes 170+ km of water and sewer pipes, 7 water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations.
- Chennai is to be the first Indian city with a comprehensive ring-main solution.

□ Green ammonia

- ADB and Japan signed financing with AM Green Ammonia (India) in October 2026 for one of the world's largest renewable-based ammonia plants.
- It is the first investment under ACCEL (Action for Creating Energy Security for Long-term Resilience), including a 100 million dollar loan from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2 backed by JICA.

□ Outlook

- ADO April 2026 projected India's GDP growth at 6.9% for FY2026-27, easing from 7.6% in the previous year.
- IMF and World Bank released the Bangkok Blueprint on 14 October 2026, a framework against cyber-enabled fraud in digital financial services.
- World Bank launched a new five-year Country Partnership Framework for Sri Lanka on 2 April 2026, backing a 7% medium-term growth goal.

Banking Updates: RBI Data Centre, Fino SFB and Bank of Baroda NPS

Context: Several developments in banking and financial institutions took place between December 2025 and October 2026. RBI set up a second high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar in February 2026 and gave in-principle approval to Fino Payments Bank to become a small finance bank in December 2025. Bank of Baroda became the second public sector bank after SBI to enter the pension fund business in October 2026.

□ RBI and regulation

- RBI set up a second high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in February 2026; its primary data centre is in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
- RBI gave in-principle approval to Fino Payments Bank to convert into a small finance bank in December 2025.

□ Banks

- Tripura Gramin Bank became the first RRB with a solar-powered mobile ATM van in January 2026.
- Bank of Baroda became the second public sector bank after SBI to enter the pension fund business (1 Oct 2026).
- NABKISAN Finance, a NABARD subsidiary, listed India's first social bond dedicated to water, sanitation and hygiene on NSE on 1 October 2026.
- NHAI signed an MoU with Reliance Jio in December 2025 for a telecom-based safety alert system on national highways.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026

Context: UNDP and OPHI released the 2026 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index update, showing multidimensional poverty rising globally for the first time since the index began in 2010. It covers 108 countries, finding 1.2 billion people acutely poor. The index uses three dimensions and ten indicators, with a person counted as poor at a deprivation score of 33.3% or more, so the structure and publishers matter.

□ Key Highlights

- Three dimensions, ten indicators: health (2 indicators), education (2), standard of living (6). Each dimension has weight 1/3; a person is poor if deprivation score is 33.3% or more.
- Based on 2019-21 survey: MPI 0.069, incidence 16.4%, intensity 42.0%; 4.2% severely poor, 18.7% vulnerable.
- MPI fell from 0.283 (2005-06) to 0.069; incidence from 55.1% to 16.4%.
- Projected 23.78 crore poor on 2024 population, the largest number among countries covered.
- Value ranges 0 to 1; higher means more poverty.

□ Global findings

- Covers 108 countries; of 6.3 billion people, 1.2 billion (18.9%) are acutely multidimensionally poor.
- Number of poor has risen for the first time since 2010; new surveys from 13 countries added.
- 534 million (44.6% of the poor) face severe poverty; 952 million are vulnerable.
- 617 million poor are children under 18 (51.5%); about one in three children is poor versus one in seven adults.
- 83.3% of the poor (998 million) live in rural areas; incidence 28.7% rural vs 7.0% urban.
- Sub-Saharan Africa: highest incidence (51.4%) and 616 million poor; South Asia about 393 million (19.9%).
- About 65.1% of the poor (779 million) live in middle-income countries.
- 33 countries halved their MPI, including India; China achieved the fastest halving, in four years (2010-14).
- In 21 countries more than half the population is poor; 18 are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Highest MPI countries

Country	MPI	Incidence
Chad	0.517	84.2%
Niger	0.470	79.9%
Central African Republic	0.461	80.4%
Burundi	0.409	75.1%

Madagascar	0.386	68.4%

IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2026

Context: The IMF released its October 2026 World Economic Outlook, titled 'Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices', projecting moderate global growth with India among the fastest-growing major economies. India's growth is projected at 7.0% for FY 2026-27, raised by 0.5 points over April, while global growth is seen at 3.1% in 2026. Projections and report titles are regular exam content.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Real GDP growth projected 7.0% each in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28, both raised by 0.5 points over April.
- Calendar-year projections: 7.4% for 2026 and 7.0% for 2027.
- GDP computed on national accounts with 2022-23 as base year.

□ **Global outlook**

- Global growth was 3.5% in 2025; projected 3.1% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027.
- 2026 forecast unchanged from April; 2027 raised by 0.2 percentage points.
- Medium-term growth for 2028-31 about 3.2%, below the 2000-19 average of 3.7%.
- Global headline inflation seen rising to 4.7% in 2026, easing to 4.1% in 2027, driven by energy and food prices.

Growth projections (%)

Economy	2025	2026	2027
World	3.5	3.1	3.4
Advanced economies	2.0	2.1	1.8
United States	2.3	2.3	2.3
France	0.9	0.4	0.7
China	5.0	4.5	4.0
India (fiscal years)	7.8	7.0	7.0
Russia	1.0	0.9	0.9

NSAP Continued and Renamed as PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Context: The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme for 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of Rs 53,428 crore, and renamed it Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana. The programme, launched in August 1995, also had its sub-schemes renamed, such as IGNOAPS becoming the Pradhan Mantri Vriddhavastha Pension Yojana. New names of schemes are common exam questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Outlay of Rs 53,428 crore over five years; NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995.
- Programme renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.
- IGNOAPS becomes Pradhan Mantri Vriddhavastha Pension Yojana; IGNWPS becomes Pradhan Mantri Vidhwa Pension Yojana; the disability scheme becomes Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana.
- Disability pension: Rs 375 a month for ages up to 79 and Rs 625 for 80 and above; eligibility threshold cut from 80% to 40% benchmark disability, from birth.
- About 3.20 crore beneficiaries across 36 States and UTs.

Renaming of NSAP components

Earlier	New
NSAP	PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana
IGNOAPS	PM Vriddhavastha Pension Yojana
IGNWPS	PM Vidhwa Pension Yojana
IGNDPS	PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana

PGI-D 2024-25: District School Performance

Context: The Department of School Education and Literacy released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) 2024-25, which assessed 782 districts and showed most improving their scores. 653 districts improved scores, though no district reached the top Utkarsh grade. The index uses 600 points and 70 indicators in six categories and supports Samagra Shiksha and NEP 2020 monitoring.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Released by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education; 600 points and 70 indicators in 6 categories. Supports planning under Samagra Shiksha and monitoring of NEP 2020.
- 653 districts improved scores; 251 improved their grade; 508 stayed in same grade; 20 slipped one grade.
- No district reached Utkarsh (above 90%) or Uttam-1 (81-90%).
- Uttam-2 districts rose from 1 to 16; Uttam-3 from 40 to 75; Prachesta-1 from 281 to 332.
- Top district: Diu (469, Uttam-2); then Kolhapur 463, Barnala 461, Muktsar 456, Nawanshahr 453, Ernakulam 438.
- All 14 districts of Kerala fell in Uttam-2 or Uttam-3.
- Lowest scorers were in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, e.g. South West Garo Hills (173), West Khasi Hills (176), Longding (182), Lawngtlai (210).

Grade-wise districts

Grade	Score band	2023-24	2024-25
Utkarsh	above 90%	0	0
Uttam-1	81-90%	0	0
Uttam-2	71-80%	1	16
Uttam-3	61-70%	40	75
Prachesta-1	51-60%	281	332
Prachesta-2	41-50%	355	313
Prachesta-3	31-40%	110	43
Akanksha-1	21-30%	1	3

Paradip Notified as Mega Port; ITLA Approved

Context: Port classification and logistics governance saw changes in September and October 2026. The Centre notified Paradip Port (Odisha) as a Mega Port in September 2026, the only one on the east coast, alongside Deendayal, Jawaharlal

Nehru Port and Mundra. The Cabinet in October 2026 approved the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) as a Special Purpose Vehicle for integrated planning.

□ **Mega Ports**

- On 25 September 2026 the Centre notified Paradip Port (Odisha) as a Mega Port; it is the only mega port on the east coast.
- Deendayal (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva) and Mundra were also declared Mega Ports.
- Paradip, Deendayal and JNPA are major ports; Mundra is a non-major port.

□ **ITLA**

- The Cabinet on 6 October 2026 approved a Special Purpose Vehicle, the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority.
- It will be the apex body for integrated planning, research, project appraisal, monitoring and data analytics.

□ **Navi Mumbai Airport**

- Notified as a Port of Entry for import of drugs under Drugs Rules 1945 on 2 July 2026, taking notified ports to 42.

RBI Monetary Policy October 2026: Repo Rate Raised to 5.50%

Context: The 63rd meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, was held in October 2026 and unanimously raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, from 5.25% to 5.50%. It projected real GDP growth of 7.1% and CPI inflation of 5.2% for 2026-27. The repo rate, projections and the 4% inflation target with a 2-6% band are exam staples.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Meeting held 5-7 October 2026; repo rate moved from 5.25% to 5.50%.
- Projected real GDP growth 7.1% and CPI inflation 5.2% for 2026-27; core inflation 4.4%.
- CPI inflation was 4.8% in August; September inflation printed 5.54% with food inflation 7.74% (CPI base 2024=100).
- Inflation target 4% with a 2-6% tolerance band for April 2026 to March 2031.
- Next MPC meeting is on 24 December 2026.

Policy rates from 1 October 2026

Rate	Level
Policy repo rate	5.50%
Standing Deposit Facility	5.25%
Marginal Standing Facility	5.75%
Bank Rate	5.75%

Strategic Sale of IDBI Bank to Fairfax-Linked Buyer

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the strategic sale of a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank to a Canadian entity owned by Fairfax Financial Holdings for about Rs 52,878 crore, in October 2026. The Government sells 30.48% and LIC 30.24%. IDBI became a bank in 2004 and was classed as a private sector bank from 2019, so the history and sale details matter.

□ **Key Highlights**

- IDBI was set up as a development finance institution on 1 July 1964 and became a bank on 1 October 2004. After LIC took 51% equity, RBI classed it as a private sector bank from 21 January 2019.
- Approved on 14 October 2026; buyer is 1095230 Canada Inc.
- Government sells 30.48% and LIC sells 30.24%; bid price Rs 81 per share against a benchmark of Rs 75.99.
- After the sale, Government holds about 15% and LIC about 19%.
- Completion depends on regulatory approvals.

Women's Employment and Enterprise Figures

Context: Government data released in 2026 show a sharp rise in women's labour force participation, from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40.0% in 2025, and a large share of women in MSMEs and startups. About 3.69 crore registered MSMEs are women-owned (roughly 38%), and over 1.07 lakh startups have a woman director or partner. These figures matter for questions on women's employment and enterprise.

□ **Employment**

- Female LFPR (15+, usual status) rose from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40.0% in 2025; WPR from 22.0% to 38.8%.
- About 20 crore women aged 15+ were employed in 2025.

□ **Entrepreneurship**

- About 3.69 crore women-owned registered MSMEs, roughly 38% share (Udyam and Udyam Assist: 3,71,97,598 of 9,89,02,198 registrations, 37.61%).
- Over 1.07 lakh recognised startups (about 48%) had at least one woman director or partner as of 31 March 2026.

□ **Skilled fields**

- Women are about 70% of direct workforce in mobile phone manufacturing.
- About 15% of India's pilots are women.
- Women's share in STEM research rose from 13% (2000-01) to 18.6% (2020-21) and 29% (2023-24).

Environment

Current Notes

BBNJ High Seas Treaty Comes into Force

Context: The UN Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), known as the High Seas Treaty, came into force in January 2026. It is a legally binding treaty covering the high seas and international seabed area, adopted in 2023 as the third implementing agreement under UNCLOS. India has signed but not yet ratified it.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a legally binding UN treaty covering waters beyond national jurisdiction, the 'high seas', and the international seabed area.
- The high seas form over two-thirds of the ocean surface.
- It was adopted in 2023 and is the third implementing agreement under UNCLOS, after the 1994 agreement on Part XI and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- So far 83 countries have ratified it; India has signed but not yet ratified it.

□ **Four Main Areas**

- Marine genetic resources, including fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- Area-based management tools, including marine protected areas.
- Environmental impact assessments.
- Capacity building and transfer of marine technology.

□ **Institutions**

- A Conference of the Parties, a clearing-house mechanism and a secretariat, along with a financing mechanism.

Expanded Carbon Credit Trading Scheme Targets

Context: The Environment Ministry notified the Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025, widening the sectors under India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, as reported in January 2026. Four new sectors are added: petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, textiles and secondary aluminium. 208 industrial units must cut GHG emission intensity from compliance year 2025-26, supporting India's NDC and net zero 2070 goals.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Four new sectors are added: petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, textiles and secondary aluminium.
- Earlier sectors were aluminium, cement, pulp and paper, and chlor-alkali.
- 208 industrial units must cut GHG emission intensity from compliance year 2025-26.
- GHG emission intensity is the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted per unit of product.
- The target is a 3 to 7 percent cut in emission intensity by 2026-27 over a 2023-24 baseline.
- Units missing targets must buy Carbon Credit Certificates; otherwise an environmental compensation of twice the average CCC trading price applies.
- It supports India's NDC goals of cutting GDP emission intensity by 45 percent by 2030 and net zero by 2070.
- The Environment (Protection) Fund Rules, 2026 govern the fund under Section 16 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Penalties under the Air, Water and Environment Acts feed the fund; 75 percent goes to states and UTs and 25 percent stays with the Centre.

Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Himalaya

Context: A study by IIT Roorkee found in January 2026 that glacial lakes in the Himalaya-Karakoram region are growing in number, area and water volume, while the rising Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk remains inadequately assessed. A GLOF occurs when water from a glacial lake is suddenly released, as in the 2023 South Lhonak lake event that destroyed the Teesta-III dam in Sikkim.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A GLOF occurs when water from a glacial lake is suddenly released. Lake types by formation are moraine-dammed, ice-dammed, erosion-formed and others.
- Examples are the 2023 South Lhonak lake GLOF that destroyed the Teesta-III dam in Sikkim, the 2013 Chorabari lake event in Uttarakhand and the 2021 Chamoli event.
- Causes include global warming, glacial surging, failure of unstable moraines, avalanches or landslides into lakes, earthquakes and human activity.

□ **Study Findings**

- About 31,000 glacial lakes in Asia's high mountain regions are expanding.
- The East Himalaya has the largest glacial lake area.
- Total glacial lake area in high mountain Asia has grown 5.5 percent.
- Globally, since 1990 the number, area and volume of glacial lakes have risen 53, 51 and 48 percent respectively.

□ **Mitigation**

- National GLOF Risk Mitigation Project covers Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.
- The Central Water Commission monitors more than 900 glacial lakes.
- IIT Guwahati identified 493 high-risk sites in the Eastern Himalaya.

- Early warning systems, siphoning or pumping of lakes, artificial spillways, and NDMA guidelines of 2020 form the main response.

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

Context: The Environment Ministry notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 in January 2026, replacing the 2016 rules. They apply fully from 1 April 2026. Notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, they are built on circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility principles and require source segregation into four categories, with bulk waste generators held responsible for their waste.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and built on circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility principles.
- Waste must be segregated at source into four categories.
- Bulk Waste Generators, including government departments, local bodies and residential societies, must ensure eco-friendly collection and disposal; wet waste should be processed on site or covered by an Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) certificate.
- A centralised online portal will track registration, approvals and audit of waste processing facilities.
- Cement plants and waste-to-energy plants must use Refuse Derived Fuel.
- Landfills must be audited annually and used only for waste that can neither be recycled nor converted to energy; legacy dumpsites are to be bio-mined and bio-remediated.
- Local bodies in hilly areas and islands can levy user fees on tourists and cap tourist numbers by waste-handling capacity.
- Non-compliance attracts environmental compensation under the polluter pays principle.

CCUS and Green Ammonia: India's Decarbonisation Push

Context: The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated Rs 20,000 crore over five years for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). SECI's green ammonia auctions under the SIGHT scheme are also drawing global interest.

□ **CCUS**

- CCUS captures CO2 at source, uses it in products like green urea, methanol or concrete, or stores it in deep geological formations.
- NITI Aayog's framework sets a target of 750 million tonnes per annum of CO2 capture, utilisation and storage, needing upfront investment of 100-150 billion dollars.
- Storage options include enhanced oil recovery, enhanced coal bed methane recovery, saline aquifers and basalt.
- Direct air capture is estimated at 400-800 dollars per tonne.
- A roadmap launched in December 2025 targets power, steel, cement, refineries and chemicals.
- CCUS decarbonises hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement and fertilisers and enables blue hydrogen from coal gasification.
- National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization is at IIT Bombay.

□ **Global Context**

- The EU's CBAM enters a critical phase in 2026 and the EU Net-Zero Industry Act requires 50 million tonnes of annual CO2 storage capacity by 2030.
- Northern Lights in Norway is the world's first open-source CO2 transport and storage infrastructure.

□ **Green Ammonia**

- It is made from nitrogen and green hydrogen produced by electrolysis with renewable energy.
- Grey ammonia emits about 2 tonnes of CO2 per tonne.
- Ammonia liquefies at about minus 33 degrees Celsius, making it a convenient hydrogen carrier.
- SIGHT Mode 2A introduced the auction model run by SECI.

Environment in Short: Fishing Cat, BeeCorridors and More

Context: A cluster of environment items featured in February 2026: the first scientific assessment found Kaziranga National Park to be a stronghold of the fishing cat (Vulnerable on IUCN), NHAI announced BeeCorridors of flowering plants along national highways, and the UN approved the first carbon credits under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. Peatlands in the Congo Basin and rat-hole mining in Meghalaya also made news.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The first scientific assessment found Kaziranga National Park to be a stronghold of the fishing cat, which is Vulnerable on IUCN, in Schedule I of WPA 1972 and the state animal of West Bengal.
- NHAI announced BeeCorridors of flowering plants along national highways.
- The UN approved first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement Article 6.4 mechanism, for a Myanmar project with South Korea.
- Article 6.2 covers accounting guidance and Article 6.8 non-market cooperation.
- Illegal rat-hole mining in Meghalaya has claimed over 20 lives; the NGT banned it in 2014.
- Peatland drainage and fires contribute at least 5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Forest Fires in North-East India and Operation Walong

Context: Large forest fires burned for over a week in the Lohit Valley of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dzukou Valley on the Nagaland-Manipur border. Arunachal recorded nearly 200 times more fire incidents in early 2026 than a year earlier.

□ **Response**

- Under Operation Walong, the IAF used Mi-17 V5 helicopters with Bambi Buckets to drop over 1.4 lakh litres of water above 9,500 feet.
- FSI sends near real-time alerts using MODIS and VIIRS data to over 1.6 lakh registered forest officials.

- The National Fire Danger Rating System is under development.

□ **Causes and Policy**

- A severe pre-monsoon rainfall deficit, dry bamboo and pine needles, and high winds.
- Uncontrolled jhum cultivation and human negligence.
- National Action Plan on Forest Fires, 2018, and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, 2017, funded 90:10 for Northeast States.

Supreme Court Closes River Pollution Case

Context: In February 2026 the Supreme Court closed its 2021 suo motu proceedings on polluted rivers and transferred primary monitoring responsibility to the National Green Tribunal. The Court held that specialised tribunals like the NGT are better placed for continuous monitoring, and reaffirmed the right to a clean environment under Article 21. CPCB has identified 296 polluted stretches on 271 rivers.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 created CPCB and SPCBs. The NGT Act, 2010 provides fast-track environmental justice.
- The Court held that specialised tribunals like the NGT are better placed for continuous monitoring.
- It reaffirmed the right to a clean environment under Article 21, referring to M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (1987).
- CPCB identified 296 polluted stretches on 271 rivers, and 43 per cent of assessed rivers were polluted.
- Of 2,116 locations, 1,312 met the BOD limit of 3.0 mg/L.
- Only 69 per cent of Namami Gange funds were used up to 2024-25.
- The Ganga Action Plan began in 1986 and Namami Gange in 2014.

Environmental Institutions: Anavaran, Bhavasagara, NH Green Cover Index

Context: Three environmental institution updates in March 2026: the Forest Survey of India stopped Anavaran, the deforestation alert system operational since January 2024 using Sentinel-2 and Sentinel-1 data; the Bhavasagara Referral Centre of CMLRE, Kochi was designated a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna with over 3,500 specimens; and NHAI released the first National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI 2025-26) with NRSC-ISRO.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Anavaran, operational since January 2024 under the Forest Survey of India, used Sentinel-2 and Sentinel-1 on Google Earth Engine; FSI has stopped it.
- Bhavasagara Referral Centre of CMLRE, Kochi was designated a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna with over 3,500 specimens.
- NHAI released NH-GCI 2025-26 with NRSC-ISRO covering about 30,000 km in 24 states for July-December 2024.

India's Nagoya Protocol Report and Seventh CBD National Report

Context: In March 2026 India submitted its first National Report on the Nagoya Protocol and its Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Nagoya report covers 2017-2025, with 12,830 ABS approvals issued and over Rs 216 crore mobilised under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. NR-7 uses 142 indicators mapped to 23 national biodiversity targets under NBSAP 2024-2030.

□ **Nagoya Protocol Report (2017-2025)**

- 12,830 ABS approvals issued.
- 3,556 Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance, over 60% of global IRCCs.
- More than Rs 216 crore mobilised and about Rs 140 crore distributed to communities.
- Implemented through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 via NBA, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.

□ **NR-7 Highlights**

- Forest and tree cover is 25.17%; Ramsar sites grew from 26 to 98.
- 58 Tiger Reserves, 33 Elephant Reserves, 106 National Parks and 574 Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Tigers 3,682; elephants 22,446; rhinos 4,014; Asiatic lions 891; dolphins 6,327.
- Uses 142 indicators mapped to 23 national biodiversity targets under NBSAP 2024-2030.

India's Updated NDCs for 2031-2035

Context: In March 2026 the Union Cabinet approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions for 2031-2035 under the Paris Agreement. The new targets are 60% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2035, a 47% cut in emissions intensity of GDP from 2005 levels, and an additional carbon sink of 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes CO2 equivalent. Net zero by 2070 remains the long-term goal.

□ **Key Highlights**

- 60% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2035; 52.57% reached as of February 2026.
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 47% from 2005 levels by 2035; 36% already achieved between 2005 and 2020.
- Create an additional carbon sink of 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes CO2 equivalent; 2.29 billion tonnes created by 2025.
- Net zero by 2070 remains the long-term goal.
- Earlier targets were 50% non-fossil capacity, 45% intensity cut and 2.5 to 3 billion tonne sink by 2030.

Migratory Species Report and CMS COP15

Context: In March 2026 an interim update to the State of the World's Migratory Species report showed worsening trends, with 49% of CMS-listed species declining, up from 44%. The 15th COP of the Convention on Migratory Species, also called the Bonn Convention, was held at Campo Grande, Brazil. The treaty was adopted in 1979 under UNEP, and India hosted COP13 in 2020.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Treaty adopted in 1979 under UNEP with 133 Parties, also called the Bonn Convention. Appendix I covers endangered species needing strict protection.
- India hosted COP13 in 2020 and held the presidency for three years.

□ **Report Findings**

- 49% of CMS-listed species are declining, up from 44%.
- 24% are threatened, up from 22%; 26 species moved to more threatened categories.
- Saiga antelope and monk seal showed some recovery.

SC Takes Suo Motu Note of Chambal Sand Mining

Context: In March 2026 the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of reports of illegal sand mining threatening the National Chambal Sanctuary. The sanctuary spans Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh along the Chambal, with about 600 km notified, and is India's only tri-state riverine protected area. It protects the gharial, mugger, red-crowned roof turtle, smooth-coated otter and Gangetic river dolphin.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It spans Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh along the Chambal, about 600 km notified. It is India's only tri-state riverine protected area.
- Key species: gharial, mugger, red-crowned roof turtle, smooth-coated otter and Gangetic river dolphin.

Sukhna Wetland: Chandigarh's First Ramsar Site

Context: Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh has been added to the Ramsar list in 2026, making it the first wetland of international importance for the Union Territory. It is a man-made lake created in 1958 at the foot of the Shivalik hills by damming the seasonal Sukhna Choe stream, and is a major winter halt for migratory waterfowl. Siltation from the catchment is its main long-term threat.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sukhna is a man-made lake created at the foot of the Shivalik hills by damming the seasonal Sukhna Choe stream.
- The lake was built in 1958 as part of the Chandigarh city plan associated with Le Corbusier.
- It is a major winter halt for migratory waterfowl and an important recreational and rain-fed water body.
- Siltation from the catchment is its main long-term threat, so check-dams and catchment treatment are central to its management.

CAG Report on Vanishing Lakes of Jammu and Kashmir

Context: A CAG report on lake conservation up to March 2022 found that 518 of 697 lakes in Jammu and Kashmir have disappeared or shrunk. Hokersar Lake, a Ramsar site, faces encroachment of over 2,500 kanals.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Hokersar, the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir', is near Srinagar in the Jhelum basin. It is the largest bird sanctuary in the Kashmir Valley and is fed mainly by the Doodhganga river.
- Total lake area fell by 2,851.26 hectares compared with the 1967 base year.
- Reference years were 2014 for Kashmir division and 2020 for Jammu division.
- Control of lakes is split among Forest, Revenue, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Tourism departments.
- Conservation programmes exist only for Dal, Wular, Hokersar, Manasbal, Surinsar and Mansar, receiving about 1% of the J&K capital budget in 2017-22.
- Shrinking lakes aggravate floods such as the September 2014 floods.

Delhi Air Pollution Mitigation Plan, 2026

Context: In April 2026 the Delhi Government unveiled its Air Pollution Mitigation Plan, 2026 with a multi-sector approach covering transport, dust, construction and waste, as average PM2.5 levels persistently exceed 100 micrograms per cubic metre. Key measures include a 'No PUC-No Fuel' policy, entry only of BS-VI, CNG or electric vehicles from November 2026, 32,000 EV charging points and a target of planting 7 million trees in 2026-27.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Average PM2.5 levels persistently exceed 100 micrograms per cubic metre. Vehicular emissions contribute 18-24% of pollution, with about 8.8 million vehicles in the city.
- A 'No PUC-No Fuel' policy will deny fuel to non-compliant vehicles using camera-based tracking.
- Only BS-VI, CNG or electric vehicles can enter Delhi from November 2026.
- 32,000 EV charging points are planned over four years along with a new EV Policy, 2026.
- An AI-based Construction and Demolition Waste Portal 2.0 will monitor in real time.
- A Green War Room, Integrated Command and Control Centre and ward-level Vayu Rakshak teams will be set up.
- The target is to plant 7 million trees, shrubs and bamboo in 2026-27.

India Steps Back from Hosting COP33

Context: India decided not to pursue hosting COP33 in 2028, although it had offered to host it at COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. The 2028 conference falls in a Global Stocktake year, which would have put India under pressure for higher climate ambition.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A COP host is expected to champion Paris Agreement implementation, conflicting with India's critical stance.
- The second Global Stocktake is due in 2028; the first was held at COP28 in 2023.
- The IPCC Seventh Assessment Report (AR7), due 2029, may be advanced to 2028 to inform the stocktake.

- India and China opposed early publication of AR7, citing limited review capacity of developing countries.
- US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and eroded trust after COP29 made consensus harder.
- India, the third-largest emitter, would have faced greater international scrutiny.

PAC 41st Report on Groundwater Management

Context: In April 2026 Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, in its 41st Report on groundwater management, noted that India accounts for 25% of global groundwater withdrawals, making it the largest extractor. Groundwater supports 80% of drinking water needs and 64% of irrigation needs, and about 245 billion cubic metres is extracted annually. Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have extraction above 100% of recharge.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Groundwater supports 80% of drinking water needs and 64% of irrigation needs.
- About 245 billion cubic metres is extracted annually.
- Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have extraction above 100% of recharge.
- 267 districts show extraction levels between 64% and 385%.
- The extraction stage rose from 58% in 2004 to 63% in 2017 before easing to 59.26% in 2023.

Species in News: Cat, Turtle, Heron, Whale

Context: Several species featured in conservation news in May 2026. India's first satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle was released in the Brahmaputra at Kaziranga National Park, while the rusty-spotted cat (Near Threatened, Schedule I), the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron and the sperm whale (Vulnerable, CITES Appendix I) were also in focus. IUCN status, habitat and legal protection are the usual exam angles.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The rusty-spotted cat weighs 1 to 1.6 kg, about 80 per cent of the population is in India, and it is Near Threatened on the IUCN list and in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- India's first satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle was released in the Brahmaputra at Kaziranga National Park; it is Endangered and a river scavenger.
- The white-bellied heron is Critically Endangered, with fewer than 250 mature individuals, found in Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan and northern Myanmar.
- Sperm whales, the largest toothed predators, are Vulnerable on the IUCN list and in CITES Appendix I; a study of over 8,000 codas suggests combinatorial communication.

Access and Benefit Sharing Framework in India

Context: In June 2026 India's Access and Benefit Sharing framework under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was in focus, having mobilised over Rs 266 crore and disbursed around Rs 145 crore to beneficiaries. Red Sanders accounts for 45 per cent of realisation. The framework works through the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees, and the Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulation 2025 replaced the 2014 rules.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Red Sanders accounts for 45 per cent of ABS realisation, the seed sector 32.3 per cent and pharmaceuticals and AYUSH 13.8 per cent.
- The Nagoya Protocol under the CBD came into force in 2014.
- The three-tier structure comprises the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.
- The Biological Diversity (Access and Benefit Sharing) Regulation 2025 replaced the 2014 rules and covers Digital Sequence Information.
- The Cali Fund, launched at COP16, supports benefit sharing from digital sequence information.

□ **Examples**

- TBGRI shared 50 per cent of licence fee and royalty of the drug Jeevani with the Kani tribe.
- India revoked foreign patents on turmeric and neem using traditional knowledge documentation.
- Divya Pharmacy v. Union of India (2018) upheld benefit-sharing obligations of domestic firms.
- The ITPGRFA, in force since 2004 under FAO, covers 64 crops in its Multilateral System.

Bonn SB64 Climate Goals and Methane Call to Action

Context: In June 2026 the Bonn Climate Conference (SB64) set new 2035 goals ahead of COP31 in Antalya, Turkiye, scheduled for 9 to 20 November 2026, while the UN Secretary-General launched a Global Call to Action on Methane. India and Japan also finalised a Joint Crediting Mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, India's first live bilateral carbon trading framework.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India and Japan finalised a Joint Crediting Mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, India's first live bilateral carbon trading framework.
- The Delhi Metro will be eligible for carbon credit transfer under it.
- WEF's Energy Transition Index 2026 ranks India 70th, up two places.

□ **SB64 Goals**

- COP31 is scheduled in Antalya, Turkiye, from 9 to 20 November 2026.
- Electricity's share in final energy demand should rise to 35 per cent by 2035.
- Growth in global waste should be halved and building-sector energy intensity cut by at least 25 per cent.

□ **Methane**

- The Global Methane Pledge, launched in 2021 by the US and EU, targets a 30 per cent cut from 2020 levels by 2030; India is not a signatory.

- Methane is about 80 times more potent than CO2 over 20 years but lasts only about a decade.
- Fossil fuels contribute 38 per cent, agriculture 42 per cent and waste 20 per cent of human-caused methane.
- The call has nine actions, including banning routine flaring and venting and phasing out open dumping.

Floating Solar, Coal Gasification and Clean Energy News

Context: In June 2026 MNRE released the Floating Solar Potential Assessment Report 2026, estimating India's floating solar potential at 102.18 GWp, and the Prime Minister laid the foundation of India's first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate project in Odisha. The project will be run by Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited, a BHEL-Coal India joint venture, under the National Coal Gasification Mission.

□ Floating Solar

- India has an estimated 102.18 GWp of floating solar potential.
- Total assessed solar potential has risen to 3,445 GWp, and installed solar capacity grew from 2.8 GW in 2014 to 155 GW in 2026.
- Maharashtra leads with 16.28 GW, followed by Madhya Pradesh (14.89 GW) and Karnataka (13.69 GW).

□ Coal to Ammonium Nitrate

- Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited, a BHEL-Coal India joint venture, will produce 2,000 tonnes per day.
- The National Coal Gasification Mission aims to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.
- An incentive scheme of Rs 8,500 crore (2024) supports gasification projects.
- India has the world's fifth-largest coal reserves, over 400 billion tonnes.

Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme Launched

Context: In June 2026 UNEP and the Global Environment Facility launched the Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme to assess the effectiveness of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. It is a 23.5 million dollar GEF-financed initiative backed by 50 million dollars of co-financing, and builds developing countries' capacity to monitor hazardous chemicals. Stockholm deals with POPs and Minamata with mercury.

□ Key Highlights

- The programme is a 23.5 million dollar GEF-financed initiative backed by 50 million dollars of co-financing.
- It builds developing countries' capacity to monitor hazardous chemicals.

□ Conventions

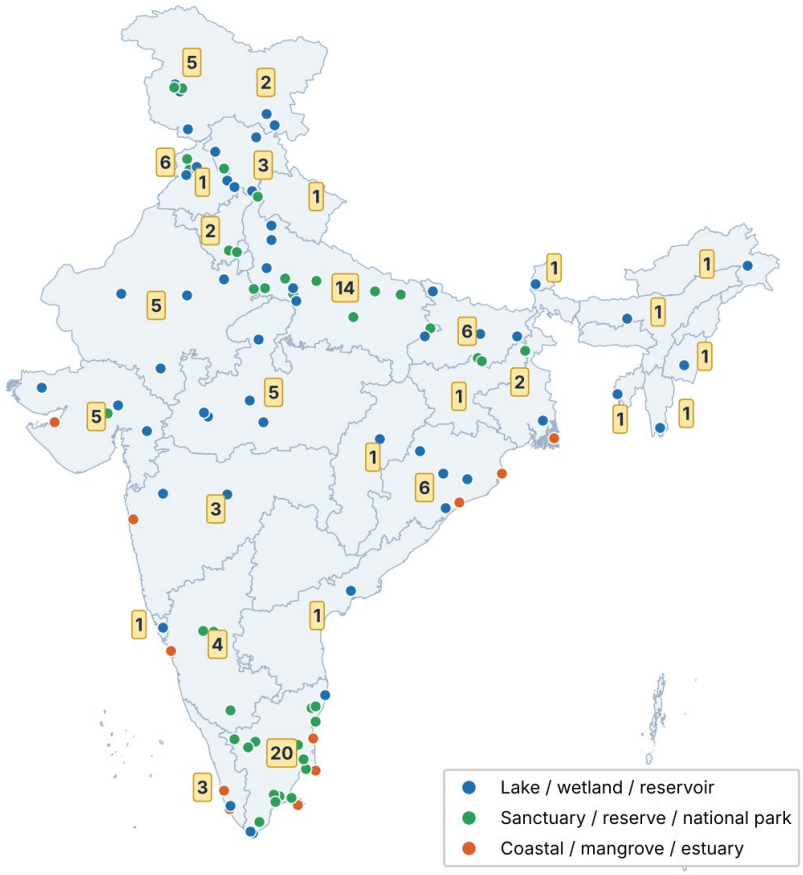
- The Stockholm Convention on POPs was adopted on 22 May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004; India ratified in 2006 with the opt-out clause.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted on 10 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan, and came into force on 16 August 2017.
- PlanetGOLD is a GEF-supported programme for mercury-free artisanal gold mining.
- UNEP was established in 1972 and is headquartered in Nairobi; GEF was set up in 1991 with the World Bank as trustee.

India's 103 Ramsar Sites: State-wise Map and Facts

Context: India now has 103 wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, spread over 28 States and Union Territories. The map below shows the sites by type, with state-wise counts and the full list.

Ramsar Sites of India: 103 Wetlands

State-wise count shown in yellow tags • Locations are indicative; map not to scale



First sites (1981): Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park • Most sites: Tamil Nadu (20), then Uttar Pradesh (14) • Largest: Sundarban Wetland (West Bengal) • Smallest: Vembannur Wetland Complex (Tamil Nadu)

Tamil Nadu (20)
Gulf of Mannar, Point Calimere, Pichavaram Mangrove, Pallikaranai Marsh, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Udhayamarthandapuram BS, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram-Theroor Wetland, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Therthangal Bird Sanctuary

Jammu & Kashmir (5)
Wular Lake, Hokera Wetland, Surinsar-Mansar Lakes, Shallbugh Wetland, Hygam Wetland

Karnataka (4)
Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary, Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve

Ladakh (2)
Tso Moriri, Tso Kar Wetland Complex

Arunachal Pradesh (1)
Glaw Lake

Chhattisgarh (1)
Kopra Reservoir

Manipur (1)
Loktak Lake

Tripura (1)
Rudrasagar Lake

Uttar Pradesh (14)
Upper Ganga River, Haiderpur Wetland, Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary, Saman Bird Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Sarsai Nawar Jheel, Patna Bird Sanctuary, Shekha Jheel, Surha Tal (JP Narayan BS), Sauj Lake

Gujarat (5)
Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Lake, Wadhvana Wetland, Khijadia Bird Sanctuary, Chhari Dhand

Madhya Pradesh (5)
Bhoj Wetland, Sakhya Sagar, Sirpur Wetland, Yashwant Sagar, Tawa Reservoir

Himachal Pradesh (3)
Pong Dam Lake, Chandertal Wetland, Renuka Wetland

Maharashtra (3)
Nandur Madhameshwar, Lonar Lake, Thane Creek

West Bengal (2)
Sundarban Wetland, East Kolkata Wetlands

Assam (1)
Deepor Beel

Goa (1)
Nanda Lake

Mizoram (1)
Pala Wetland

Uttarakhand (1)
Asan Conservation Reserve

Bihar (6)
Kabartal Wetland, Nagi Bird Sanctuary, Nakti Bird Sanctuary, Gokul Jalashay, Udaipur Lake, Gogabil Lake

Odisha (6)
Chilika Lake, Satkosia Gorge, Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Tampara Lake, Ansupa Lake

Punjab (6)
Beas Conservation Reserve, Harike Lake, Ropar Wetland, Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve, Kanjli Wetland, Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary

Rajasthan (5)
Sambhar Lake, Keoladeo National Park, Khichan Wetland, Menar Wetland Complex, Siliserh Lake

Kerala (3)
Vembanad-Kol Wetland, Ashtamudi Wetland, Sasthamkotta Lake

Haryana (2)
Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Sultanpur National Park

Andhra Pradesh (1)
Kolleru Lake

Chandigarh (1)
Sukhna Wetland

Jharkhand (1)
Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary

Sikkim (1)
Khecheopalri Wetland

□ Key Highlights

- Total Ramsar sites in India: 103.
- Most sites: Tamil Nadu (20), followed by Uttar Pradesh (14).
- First Indian Ramsar sites (1981): Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan).
- Largest Indian Ramsar site by area: Sundarban Wetland (West Bengal).
- Smallest: Vembannur Wetland Complex (Tamil Nadu).

- Recent additions: Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand, Shekha Jheel, Surha Tal, Glaw Lake (Arunachal Pradesh's first), Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Lake.

State/UT-wise Ramsar sites (count)

State / UT	Sites
Tamil Nadu	20
Uttar Pradesh	14
Bihar	6
Odisha	6
Punjab	6
Gujarat	5
Jammu & Kashmir	5
Madhya Pradesh	5
Rajasthan	5
Karnataka	4
Himachal Pradesh	3
Kerala	3
Maharashtra	3
Haryana	2
Ladakh	2
West Bengal	2
Andhra Pradesh	1
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Goa	1
Jharkhand	1
Manipur	1
Mizoram	1
Sikkim	1
Tripura	1
Uttarakhand	1

Sauj Lake (Mainpuri): Uttar Pradesh's 14th Ramsar Site

Context: Sauj Lake in Mainpuri district has been designated a Ramsar site in 2026, taking Uttar Pradesh's tally to 14, the highest in the country after Tamil Nadu. It is a freshwater wetland in the Ganga-Yamuna doab. Mainpuri already hosts the Saman Bird Sanctuary, so the district now has two Ramsar wetlands.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sauj Lake is a freshwater wetland in the Mainpuri district of the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- Mainpuri already hosts the Saman Bird Sanctuary, so the district now has two Ramsar wetlands.
- Uttar Pradesh's sites include Upper Ganga River, Haiderpur, Bakhira, Sur Sarovar, Surha Tal, Patna and Shekha, among others.

Species and Marine Conservation in News

Context: Notable wildlife and marine developments in June 2026 included a caracal sighting in Kuno National Park, an albino hog deer in Kaziranga, coral translocation in Great Nicobar and a giant Pavona clavus coral patch off Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep. ZSI identified four new sites to translocate corals affected by the Galathea Bay transhipment port, and Tamil Nadu will deploy India's first 3D-printed artificial reef.

□ **Species**

- A caracal, India's rarest wild cat, was spotted in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh; it is Least Concern on IUCN and Schedule I.
- An albino hog deer was seen in Kaziranga; the hog deer is Endangered and Schedule I.
- The Tapanuli orangutan, endemic to Batang Toru in Sumatra, is Critically Endangered; a 2025 cyclone killed nearly 7 per cent of its population.

□ **Marine**

- ZSI identified four new sites to translocate corals and giant clams affected by the Galathea Bay transhipment port.
- A giant Pavona clavus coral patch of about 4,250 sq m was found at Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep.
- Tamil Nadu will deploy India's first 3D-printed artificial reef under PMMSY, developed by Tvasta with ICAR-CMFRI.

Borjuli Wetland Becomes Biodiversity Heritage Site

Context: The National Biodiversity Authority notified the Borjuli Wetland in Sonitpur district, Assam as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) for conserving wild rice, Oryza rufipogon, the wild ancestor of cultivated rice (Oryza sativa).

□ **Key Highlights**

- BHS are declared under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by the State Government through the Gazette, after consulting local bodies and the State Biodiversity Board. Criteria include species richness, endemism, threatened species, keystone species, wild ancestors of cultivated species and fossil beds.
- The notification follows a project on in-situ conservation of wild rice in Sonitpur since 2022, funded by the National Rainfed Area Authority and executed by ICAR-NBPGR.
- Wild rice offers pest and disease resistance, flood and salinity tolerance and traits for climate-resilient varieties.
- Assam's notified BHS are now Majuli, Borjuli Wild Rice and Hajong Tortoise Lake.

Draft CAFE-III Norms

Context: The Government released revised draft Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) III norms for passenger vehicles, proposed to come into force from 1 April 2027 in place of CAFE-II. Public comments have been invited.

□ **Key Highlights**

- CAFE norms set a fleet-average fuel efficiency or CO2 target for each manufacturer and are administered by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power.
- The proposed fleet target is 3.996 litres per 100 km (94.76 g CO2/km) for FY2028, tightening to 3.327 litres per 100 km (78.90 g CO2/km) by FY2032.
- They apply to M1 passenger vehicles with up to eight seats besides the driver, not to two or three wheelers or commercial vehicles.

- Super credits are offered for BEVs, PHEVs, range-extended EVs, ethanol or biofuel vehicles and fuel-saving technologies.
- CAFE-I ran 2017-2022 and CAFE-II is for 2022-2027.

EIA Notification Amended for State Appraisal Bodies

Context: In July 2026 the Environment Ministry amended the EIA Notification, 2006 to create two standing bodies in every State and UT so that project appraisal is not stalled when appraisal bodies lapse. A Standing Authority (SAEIA) takes over the functions of the SEIAA, and a Standing Committee (SCEIA) replaces the State Expert Appraisal Committee. Tenure rises from three to four years.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The 2006 Notification, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, has four stages: screening, scoping, public consultation and appraisal. Category A projects need central clearance; Category B projects need clearance from the SEIAA.
- A Standing Authority on Environment Impact Assessment (SAEIA) takes over the functions of the SEIAA.
- A Standing Committee on Environment Impact Appraisal (SCEIA) replaces the State Expert Appraisal Committee.
- Tenure of SEIAA and SEAC rises from three to four years.
- The provision shifting Category B proposals to the central EAC in the absence of SEIAA is omitted.
- Membership of an EAC or SEAC is capped at 15 including the Member Secretary.
- Interim bodies may operate for six months, extendable by another six.
- PARIVESH is the single-window portal.

Environmental Performance Index 2026

Context: In July 2026 the Environmental Performance Index 2026 ranked India 176th out of 177 countries with a score of 22.46, second-lowest in the world above Laos, while Estonia topped with 74.79. The EPI is published biennially by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy with CIESIN of Columbia University, and has 3 policy objectives, 12 issue categories and 47 indicators.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Estonia topped the index with a score of 74.79.
- The EPI is published biennially by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy with CIESIN of Columbia University.
- The framework has 3 policy objectives, 12 issue categories and 47 indicators.
- The objectives are Environmental Health, Ecosystem Vitality and Climate Change.

Ethanol Blending Programme and E20 Debate

Context: The Government defended the nationwide rollout of E20 petrol (20 per cent ethanol) against concerns over engine compatibility, mileage and insurance. India reached the 20 per cent blending target in 2025, five years ahead of schedule.

□ **Key Highlights**

- From April 2026 all BS-VI petrol vehicles must meet E20 norms.
- The Government accepts a 3-5 per cent fuel economy drop in many older vehicles.
- Insurance claims cannot be rejected merely because E20 was used.
- There is no decision to mandate blending beyond 20 per cent now; higher blends need flex-fuel vehicles.
- In June 2026 the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved a regulatory framework for E100 fuel, which is not a rollout mandate.

□ **Timeline**

- 2001 pilot ethanol blending; 2003-04 formal launch.
- 2018 National Policy on Biofuels widened feedstocks to maize and surplus grains and cut GST on ethanol from 18 to 5 per cent.
- 2021 NITI Aayog roadmap for 2020-25; 2022 E10 achieved; 2023 E20 fuel launched at select outlets.

Great Indian Bustard Status in the Thar

Context: In July 2026 the Wildlife Institute of India released its Status and Trend report for the Great Indian Bustard in the Thar landscape of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, its last stronghold. The population is estimated at 130 plus or minus 21, stable since 2017-18. The bird is Critically Endangered, in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and is the State bird of Rajasthan.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is Critically Endangered on the IUCN list, Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and CITES Appendix I. It is the State bird of Rajasthan and found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- The population is estimated at 130 plus or minus 21, stable since 2017-18.
- Threats include power lines, agricultural fencing, roads and solar plants causing fragmentation and collisions.
- Conservation efforts include conservation breeding, habitat restoration and removal of invasive Prosopis juliflora.

Himalayan Pangolin and Malvi Camel in News

Context: In July 2026 the Himalayan pangolin (Manis aurita) was confirmed as a distinct species, earlier considered a subspecies of the Chinese pangolin, and the National Research Centre on Camel launched a breeding programme for the Malvi camel. The two pangolin lineages diverged about 1.8 million years ago. The Malvi camel, named after the Malwa region, is white-coloured and was listed Endangered in the 2019 livestock census.

□ **Himalayan Pangolin**

- Manis aurita was earlier considered a subspecies of the Chinese pangolin, Manis pentadactyla.

- The two lineages diverged about 1.8 million years ago in the early Pleistocene.
- It is found in southern Himalayan foothills in Nepal, south Tibet and Northeast India including Assam.
- Eight pangolin species exist worldwide, including the Indian pangolin Manis crassicaudata.

□ **Malvi Camel**

- One of nine recognised Indian camel breeds, named after the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is white-coloured, the smallest Indian breed and listed Endangered in the 2019 livestock census.

India's First Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley

Context: In July 2026 India commissioned its first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, at an altitude of over 14,000 feet, a step towards its first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project. Each well is about 1,000 metres deep and a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at 400 metres. ONGC Energy Centre is implementing it with the Ladakh Administration.

□ **Puga Project**

- Each well is about 1,000 metres deep.
- A maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at 400 metres.
- ONGC Energy Centre is implementing it with the Ladakh Administration and LAHDC Leh; MNRE is the nodal ministry.
- An agreement for the project was announced in 2021.

□ **Geothermal Potential in India**

- GSI has mapped 381 hot springs and 10 geothermal provinces, with 42 promising sites.
- Theoretical potential is nearly 10.6 GW.
- The National Policy on Geothermal Energy, 2025 supports research, ground source heat pumps and reuse of abandoned oil wells.
- Global installed capacity reached 15.67 GW by end-2025.
- The Global Geothermal Alliance, launched at COP21 in Paris in 2015, has 56 members including India.

Indian Carbon Market and Emission Intensity Targets

Context: In July 2026 a Bengaluru think tank evaluated the draft Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules for iron and steel, cement and aluminium under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme. The Scheme, 2023 was notified under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022 and is administered by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. Targets are based on emissions per unit of production, and entities beating them earn tradeable Carbon Credit Certificates.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It operates under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 notified under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency administers it and the Grid Controller of India manages the registry.
- CERC regulates trading and governance rests with the National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market.
- Targets are based on emissions per unit of production rather than absolute caps.
- Entities that beat their targets earn tradeable Carbon Credit Certificates.

Proposed ESA in the Western Ghats

Context: A proposed Union notification seeks to declare 56,825.7 sq km of the Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, largely following the Kasturirangan Committee. The final notification will apply to States where consensus has been reached.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Prohibited: new mining and quarrying, thermal power plants, new red-category industries, and large construction projects of 20,000 sq m or more and townships over 50 hectares.
- Regulated: infrastructure projects that need environmental clearance.
- Permitted: agriculture, plantations, horticulture, eco-tourism under norms and existing settlements.

State-wise proposed ESA

State	Area (sq km)
Gujarat	449
Maharashtra	17,340
Goa	1,461
Karnataka	20,668
Tamil Nadu	6,914
Kerala	9,993.7

Road Map for Active Management of Tigers Released

Context: The National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India released a Road Map for Active Management of Tigers in India, a scientific framework for restoring tiger populations in suitable landscapes.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It has a three-layered architecture: a Foundational Layer, an Active Management Layer and a Future Resilience Layer. It treats source and sink landscapes across core, buffer and zone of influence.
- Recommendations include prey recovery (gaur, barasingha translocations), corridor restoration and GIS-based planning.
- Monitoring uses radio telemetry and M-STrIPES.

□ **Tiger Status**

- India has 58 tiger reserves in 18 States, covering about 2.6 per cent of the country.
- The 2022 estimate is 3,682 tigers, about 70 per cent of the global wild tiger population.
- Low-density reserves include Buxa, Achanakmar, Udanti-Sitanadi, Indravati and Palamau.

10-km Mining Buffer for Wetland Conservation Reserves

Context: In August 2026 the Supreme Court extended the 10 km mining protection applied to Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve in Uttarakhand to other wetland conservation reserves across India. In February 2024 the Court had barred mining within 10 km of the Asan reserve without prior approval of the NBWL Standing Committee or MoEFCC. The principle is a prior-approval requirement, not an absolute ban.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve is a Ramsar site on the Asan and Yamuna confluence near Dehradun, created by the Asan Barrage (1967). In February 2024 the Court barred mining within 10 km of the Asan reserve without prior approval of the NBWL Standing Committee or MoEFCC.
- The new principle gives uniform protection and is a prior-approval requirement, not an absolute ban.
- It became a Conservation Reserve in 2005 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It became Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site in 2020.

Ganga Flood Plain: Three-Tier Zoning Replaces Ban

Context: The National Mission for Clean Ganga amended the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 to replace the blanket construction-free zone with a three-zone flood-risk classification.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The 2016 Order under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 defined the flood plain by a 100-year flood but never defined active flood plain.
- The new framework removes the blanket prohibition.

□ **The Three Zones**

- Active Flood Plain floods at least once in 5 years; construction is strictly prohibited with limited exemptions for temporary structures.
- Regulatory Zone floods once every 5 to 25 years; construction permitted with clearances.
- Warning Zone floods once every 25 to 100 years; construction permitted with clearances.

Ganga flood plain zones

Zone	Flood frequency	Construction
Active Flood Plain	At least once in 5 years	Strictly prohibited
Regulatory Zone	Once in 5 to 25 years	Permitted with clearances
Warning Zone	Once in 25 to 100 years	Permitted with clearances

Glaw Lake: India's 101st Ramsar Site

Context: In August 2026 Glaw Lake in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh was declared India's 101st Ramsar Site and the State's first wetland of international importance. It lies inside Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Himalayas at an elevation of 1,168 m and is fed by perennial rivers and streams, including the Kamlang River. It supports the clouded leopard and white-bellied heron.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It lies inside Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Himalayas at an elevation of 1,168 m.
- It is fed by perennial rivers and streams, including the Kamlang River, which joins the Lohit, a Brahmaputra tributary.
- The lake supports species such as the clouded leopard and white-bellied heron.

Grasslands Guide at UNCCD COP17 and Related Conservation News

Context: India launched its first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems at UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Other conservation news included a national catalogue of butterflies and moths, a floating solar scheme and a clouded leopard mission.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It covers grasslands, savannas, scrublands, deserts, ravines, rocky plateaus and coastal open ecosystems.
- Examples include Banni Grasslands in Kutch, Thar Desert, Deccan savannas, Yamuna-Chambal ravines and Central Nicobar grasslands.

India at FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)

Context: At the 28th session of FAO's Committee on Forestry in Rome, India highlighted its progress in forest restoration and climate action. India also issued its first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's forest and tree cover is 82.74 million ha, or 25.17% of its area.
- It ranks 9th globally in forest area and 3rd in annual forest-area gain per the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.
- Its target is 3.5-4 billion tonnes of additional carbon sink by 2035.
- 6.45 million ha is identified under the Aravalli Green Wall, and over 3.5 billion saplings were planted under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.
- India backed a proposed UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation (2027-36).

□ **PRAMAAN Certification**

- PRAMAAN is the Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources.
- It was launched in 2023 under IFWCS and is operated by the Indian Institute of Forest Management.
- Audits are third-party under NABCB of the Quality Council of India, using standards based on the National Working Plan Code 2023.

Status of Coral Reefs of the World Report

Context: In September 2026 the 7th Status of Coral Reefs of the World report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network warned that coral bleaching is becoming more frequent, leaving reefs too little time to recover. Based on 36,886 reef sites observed from 1980 to 2024, it found global hard coral cover down about 9.5% from the 1980-2009 baseline, and the 2023-25 bleaching event the fastest and most widespread.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Corals live in symbiosis with zooxanthellae algae that give them food and colour. Heat stress makes corals expel the algae, causing bleaching and, if prolonged, death.
- The report draws on 36,886 reef sites observed from 1980 to 2024.
- Global hard coral cover is down about 9.5% from the 1980-2009 baseline, and fell 8.9% in 2023-24.
- Since 2010, major bleaching events recur every 4-6 years instead of about once a decade.
- In 2024, 87% of reefs faced unprecedented heat stress.
- Four global bleaching events have occurred since 1998, and the 2023-25 event was the fastest and most widespread.
- Caribbean hard coral cover averaged only 7.1% in 2024, and the ROPME Sea Area lost about 50% of hard coral cover in 2020-24.

Stricter Stubble-Burning Rules Proposed for NCR

Context: The Centre proposed tougher rules for Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and the NCR areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, including a red entry in land revenue records for 15 months against farmers who burn stubble.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The red entry can be extended by another 15 months for repeat burning or non-payment of compensation.
- Fines are Rs 5,000 for under 2 acres, Rs 10,000 for 2 to under 5 acres and Rs 30,000 for more than 5 acres.
- Unpaid penalties can be recovered as arrears of land revenue after 30 days.
- A red entry may restrict land sale, government schemes and MSP procurement.
- Penalty funds will support crop-residue machinery, crop diversification and biomass storage through pollution control boards.

Proposed fines for stubble burning

Land holding	Fine
Below 2 acres	Rs 5,000
2 to below 5 acres	Rs 10,000
More than 5 acres	Rs 30,000

UNEP Limiting Overshoot Report 2026

Context: UNEP's 2026 Limiting Overshoot report says crossing 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming is now likely unavoidable and urges minimising the size and length of the overshoot before bringing temperatures back below 1.5 degrees.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Current policies point to about 2.6 degrees Celsius of warming by 2100.
- If all NDCs and net-zero targets are met, warming would peak around 1.8 degrees Celsius.
- The overshoot, peak and decline pathway needs deep emission cuts now, net-zero CO2 at peak and net-negative CO2 afterwards.
- Methane contributes about 0.5 degrees Celsius of current warming.
- 159 countries have joined the Global Methane Pledge to cut methane 30% from 2020 levels by 2030, but India is not a signatory.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the Odisha Orangutan

Context: The Environment Ministry formed a four-member Wildlife Crime Control Bureau team to probe a suspected international organised wildlife-crime link behind the mysterious appearance of an orangutan in Balasore, Odisha.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a statutory body under the MoEFCC set up under Section 38Y of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and operational since 2008. It has officials from police, forest, customs and intelligence agencies.
- Its headquarters are in New Delhi with regional offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bhopal.
- It implements India's obligations under CITES and works with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

□ **Orangutan Facts**

- Orangutan means man of the forest in Malay.
- There are three species: Bornean (about 104,700), Sumatran (under 14,000) and Tapanuli (under 800), all Critically Endangered.
- The Tapanuli is the most endangered great ape.

Environment Initiatives: Vanjeevi Didi and Green Diwali

Context: Community-based conservation and awareness programmes were launched in 2026. The south division of Palamu Tiger Reserve began Vanjeevi Didi in February 2026, training educated women from 17 villages as ambassadors with Rs 3,000 a month, while WWF-India's EIACP Resource Partner started a nationwide Green Diwali campaign with the Environment Ministry in October 2026. VO Chidambaranar Port also earned ISO 50001:2018 certification in August 2026.

□ **Palamu Tiger Reserve**

- The south division launched Vanjeevi Didi in February 2026, training educated women from 17 villages as PTR ambassadors with an incentive of Rs 3,000 per month.

□ **Green Diwali Campaign**

- WWF-India's EIACP Resource Partner launched a nationwide campaign from 20 October to 8 November 2026 with the Environment Ministry.

□ **Ports**

➤ VO Chidambaranar Port (Thoothukudi) became India's first port with ISO 50001:2018 energy management certification in August 2026.

IBCA: Saudi Arabia, Ghana and Bangladesh Join

Context: The International Big Cat Alliance, an India-initiated alliance for the conservation of seven big cat species, now has 29 member countries after three new entrants during 2026. Saudi Arabia joined in May 2026, Bangladesh in June 2026 and Ghana in October 2026. Questions may ask about the alliance's purpose, its India link and its newest members.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ IBCA is an India-initiated alliance for the conservation of seven big cat species.

➤ Saudi Arabia joined on 22 May 2026.

➤ Bangladesh joined in June 2026.

➤ Ghana joined on 7 October 2026.

➤ Total membership stands at 29 countries.

Geography

Current Notes

Shaksgam Valley and Diego Garcia

Context: India lodged a formal protest over Chinese infrastructure projects in the Shaksgam Valley, and the future of the strategic Diego Garcia base came under discussion after the UK agreed to return the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Shaksgam Valley lies north of the Karakoram watershed in Ladakh and is an integral part of India. It was under Pakistan's illegal occupation from 1947, and Pakistan ceded it to China under the 1963 China-Pakistan boundary agreement.
- It is also called the Trans-Karakoram Tract and lies on both sides of the Shaksgam River.
- It is bounded by the Kunlun mountains in the north and the Karakoram range in the south, and lies very close to the Siachen Glacier.
- Diego Garcia is a coral atoll in the central Indian Ocean and part of the Chagos Archipelago.
- The Chagos Islands were under UK control from 1965 as the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- In May 2025, the UK and Mauritius agreed that sovereignty over the entire archipelago would rest with Mauritius, while the UK would hold Diego Garcia on a 99-year lease.
- Diego Garcia hosts a joint UK-US military base, about which US President Donald Trump raised concerns.

Waterways and Ports: Firsts at Varanasi, Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Kamarajar

Context: A string of inland-waterway and port milestones was recorded between November 2025 and September 2026, all useful for place-based questions. India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel began its commercial run at Varanasi in December 2025, the Gateway of Guwahati floating terminal opened on the Brahmaputra in November 2025, and Kamarajar Port became the second Major Port with an 18 m draft in July 2026.

□ **Inland waterways**

- Varanasi (Namo Ghat): commercial run of India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel began in December 2025.
- Guwahati: the Gateway of Guwahati floating terminal and jetty on the Brahmaputra was opened in November 2025; cost Rs 304.95 crore; built by the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society.
- Dibrugarh (Assam): first cargo voyage to a foreign port since Independence sailed from here in October 2026.

□ **Ports**

- Kamarajar Port (Tamil Nadu) became the second Major Port after Visakhapatnam to offer an 18 m draft (July 2026); it can take vessels carrying up to 1.70 lakh DWT.
- Kandla (Deendayal Port, Gujarat): foundation of India's first port-based e-methanol plant laid in September 2026, jointly with Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited (Namrup).
- Dadri (Uttar Pradesh): first export-import container manufactured in India unveiled at the Maersk-CONCOR inland container depot in July 2026.

□ **Marine resources**

- Andaman Sea: India's first open-sea marine fish farming project was launched in January 2026.

Great Nicobar Mega-Infrastructure Project

Context: In February 2026 the National Green Tribunal upheld the environmental clearance of the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project, citing its strategic importance and compliance with ICRZ and CRZ norms. The project in the southernmost island of the Andaman and Nicobar group plans a transshipment port, defence hub, township, power plant and dual-use airport, and overlooks the Strait of Malacca. Concerns centre on the Shompen and the Nicobar megapode.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The project is in Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost island of the Andaman and Nicobar group.
- It plans a transshipment port, defence hub, township, 450 MVA gas and solar power plant and a dual-use airport.
- Around 130 sq km of tropical rainforest is to be diverted, with about one million trees felled.
- Concerns include effects on Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, and the Nicobar megapode.
- The island overlooks the Strait of Malacca, and about 75 per cent of India's transshipment cargo is handled at foreign ports.

India's Next-Generation Tsunami Warning System

Context: In February 2026 the Ministry of Earth Sciences moved to upgrade India's tsunami monitoring by setting up a first-of-its-kind Regional Service Centre at Vijaynagar, Swaraj Dweep in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with INCOIS Hyderabad as nodal agency. A 270-km sub-sea cable along the Andaman-Sumatra subduction zone will replace vulnerable surface buoys. INCOIS is the Regional Tsunami Service Provider for the Indian Ocean.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A first-of-its-kind Regional Service Centre at Vijaynagar, Swaraj Dweep.

- A 270-km sub-sea cable along the Andaman-Sumatra subduction zone to replace vulnerable surface buoys.
- Detection of non-seismic sources such as submarine landslides, volcanic activity at Barren Island, and acoustic signals.
- Compliance with UNESCO-IOC standards.
- Barren Island is India's only active volcano.

□ **INCOIS Services**

- INCOIS was established in 1999 under MoES and is the Regional Tsunami Service Provider for the Indian Ocean.
- New services are JellyAIIP for jellyfish blooms, SAMUDRA 2.0 mobile app and SIVAS for swell surge flooding.
- SIVAS covers Kallakkadal on the Kerala coast with a lead time of 3 days.
- INCOIS signed an MoU with ISRO's Space Applications Centre in February 2026.

Places in News: National Locations

Context: A set of Indian locations featured in the news in February 2026, from hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir to tiger reserves and wetlands. India began work on the 1,856 MW Sawalkote project on the Chenab in Ramban, the first new project approved after the abrogation of the Indus Waters Treaty, and J&K is working to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project. These places are useful for map-based questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India began work on the 1,856 MW Sawalkote project on the Chenab in Ramban, the first new project approved after the abrogation of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- J&K is working to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project, also called the Wular barrage, begun in 1984 and halted after Pakistan's objections.
- Tulbul aimed to store 30,000 acre-feet of water in Wular Lake to keep a uniform flow in the Jhelum.
- Vaan Island's 10-year artificial reef restoration in the Gulf of Mannar yielded benefits of Rs 61.67 crore; the Gulf was declared a Marine Biosphere Reserve in 1989.

National places in news

Place	Key fact
Sawalkote HEP	Chenab, Ramban (J&K); run-of-the-river; 1,856 MW
Tulbul Project	Jhelum at Wular Lake; work began 1984
Tsomgo Lake	East Sikkim; glacial lake; 2,700+ tourists rescued
Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary	Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh; named after Mehao Lake
Palamau Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand; one of first 10 Project Tiger reserves (1973); Vanjeevi Didi initiative
Papikonda National Park	Godavari, Andhra Pradesh; tiger reintroduced under Operation Stripes
Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary	Warangal, Telangana; new species Dicliptera pakhalica
Bhadra Tiger Reserve	Karnataka; 25th Project Tiger reserve (1998)
Kole Wetlands	Kerala; Ramsar site since 2002; 12 pygmy grasshopper species
Vaan Island	Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu; 10,600 reef modules

Technology and Industry Firsts: Chips, Batteries and AI Facilities

Context: Technology infrastructure announcements across states during 2025-26 are listed place-wise because the exam often asks 'where' for such firsts. Gurugram got the country's first LPG ATM in March 2026, a foundation was laid for India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit at Bhubaneswar in April 2026, and Kerala created an independent AI portfolio in May 2026, the first state to do so.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Gurugram: country's first LPG ATM (gas vending machine) by BPCL, March 2026.
- Visakhapatnam station: humanoid robot 'ASC ARJUN' introduced by Railways, January 2026.
- Paranur toll plaza (Tambaram-Tindivanam): Tamil Nadu's first multi-lane free flow tolling, October 2026.
- Maharashtra: first state to open dedicated Menopause Clinics (January 2026).

□ **Semiconductors**

- Bhubaneswar (Info Valley): foundation for India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit laid in April 2026.
- Jewar, Greater Noida: PM Modi laid the foundation of the HCL-Foxconn joint venture India Chip Pvt. Ltd. in YEIDA area in February 2026.
- Sanand (Gujarat): CG Semi's OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) facility inaugurated in July 2026.

□ **Energy storage and capture**

- NTPC NETRA, Greater Noida: India's first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (3 MWh) inaugurated in November 2025.
- Bhopal (Swami Vivekananda Park): India's first 'Algae Tree' for carbon capture installed in May 2026.

□ **AI and digital**

- Thiruvananthapuram: MeitY IndiaAI Centre of Excellence in AI inaugurated in September 2026.
- Kerala created an independent AI portfolio in May 2026, the first state to do so.
- Guwahati: first AI-powered 'phygital' bank branch (Slice Small Finance Bank) opened in May 2026.
- Indonesia: the Indian Embassy in Jakarta launched an AI avatar named 'Dewi' for cultural, travel and consular information.

Thwaites Glacier: The Doomsday Glacier

Context: The Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica, called the Doomsday Glacier, featured in February 2026 as it is melting at an unprecedented rate due to climate change, threatening the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. It contributes about 4 per cent of annual global sea-level rise, and its collapse could trigger over 3

metres of rise through the ice sheet. It rests on bedrock below sea level, enabling Marine Ice Sheet Instability.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ It contributes about 4 per cent of annual global sea-level rise.
- ➤ Complete melting would raise seas by roughly 65 cm, and its collapse could trigger over 3 metres of rise through the ice sheet.
- ➤ It rests on bedrock below sea level sloping inland, enabling Marine Ice Sheet Instability.
- ➤ Warm seawater pushed under the grounding line by tides drives rapid basal melting.
- ➤ World Day for Glaciers is observed on 21 March.
- ➤ India's Indian Antarctic Act, 2022 governs its stations Bharati and Maitri.

Gulf Sites and Straits in News

Context: The West Asia conflict in March 2026 put the spotlight on Gulf energy hubs and chokepoints. Ras Laffan in Qatar is the world's largest LNG export hub with about 20% of global LNG supply, South Pars is the world's largest gas field, and Fujairah lies outside Hormuz. Straits such as Hormuz, Bab al-Mandab and Malacca, and Diego Garcia, are standard map-based Prelims topics.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Ras Laffan in Qatar is the world's largest LNG export hub, with about 20% of global LNG supply.
- ➤ South Pars is the world's largest gas field, shared with Qatar's North Field.
- ➤ Fujairah, outside Hormuz, is linked by the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline.
- ➤ Diego Garcia is a US-UK base in the Chagos Archipelago; the UK transferred sovereignty to Mauritius in May 2025 and leased the base back for 99 years.

Straits in News

Strait	Connects	Note
Hormuz	Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman	About 20% of global oil trade
Bab al-Mandab	Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	Leads to Suez Canal
Malacca	Indian Ocean and South China Sea	Busiest shipping lane
Palk Strait	Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mannar	India and Sri Lanka
Kerch	Black Sea and Sea of Azov	Kerch Bridge
Dardanelles	Aegean Sea and Sea of Marmara	Montreux Convention, 1936

National Places in News

Context: A set of Indian locations featured in the news in March 2026. Lipulekh Pass trade with China is set to resume in June 2026, Gurudongmar Lake tourism is reviving after the South Lhonak GLOF damage, and Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is set to become the third home of cheetahs in India. UNESCO also advised that the river-linking project near the Aghanashini Ramsar estuary comply with World Heritage norms.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Lipulekh Pass trade with China is set to resume in June 2026.
- ➤ Gurudongmar Lake tourism is reviving after the South Lhonak GLOF damage.
- ➤ Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is set to become the third home of cheetahs in India.
- ➤ Aghanashini estuary is a Ramsar site; UNESCO advised that the river-linking project comply with World Heritage norms.

Places in News

Place	Location	Key Fact
Lipulekh Pass	Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand	India-Nepal-China trijunction, about 5,334 m
Gurudongmar Lake	North Sikkim	About 5,430 m, Teesta basin
Burachapori WLS	Sonitpur, Assam	Part of Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem
Veerangana Durgavati TR	Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, MP	Nauradehi plus Durgavati sanctuaries
Coringa WLS	Andhra Pradesh	Mangrove, Olive Ridley nesting
Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	Sanctuary 1999, Ramsar 2002
Mundra Port	Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat	Operated by Adani Ports

Places in News: Hokersar, Pachpadra, Lower Lake and More

Context: A set of national and international locations featured in the news in April 2026, with key facts useful for map-based questions. They include the Pachpadra refinery in Balotra, Rajasthan, India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex, Lower Lake in Bhopal (part of the Bhoj Wetland Ramsar Site), Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan and Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Pachpadra refinery in Balotra, Rajasthan, is India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex, developed by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd.
- ➤ Lower Lake (Chhota Talaab) in Bhopal is part of the Bhoj Wetland Ramsar Site with Upper Lake and drains via Patra rivulet and Halali river to the Betwa.
- ➤ Balirajgarh in Madhubani, Bihar, linked to the ancient Videha Kingdom, is under ASI excavation and was declared of national importance in 1938.
- ➤ Raimona National Park in Kokrajhar, Assam, lies on the India-Bhutan border; the golden langur is the Bodoland mascot.
- ➤ Umiam Lake near Shillong was created in 1965 under the Umiam Umtru Hydroelectric Project, the first hydroelectric project in Northeast India.
- ➤ Gangotri National Park in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, is the source region of the Ganga and habitat of the snow leopard.
- ➤ Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan is the world's second largest high-altitude lake and a Ramsar site.

➤ Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea is claimed by China and the Philippines and controlled by China since 2012.

Selected Places in News

Place	Location	Key Point
Pachpadra Refinery	Balotra, Rajasthan	First greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex
Lower Lake	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Part of Bhoj Wetland Ramsar Site
Balirajgarh	Madhubani, Bihar	Ancient Videha administrative centre
Raimona National Park	Kokrajhar, Assam	Golden langur; transboundary with Bhutan
Umiam Lake	Near Shillong, Meghalaya	Created 1965; first NE hydroelectric project
Gangotri National Park	Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand	Source region of the Ganga
Lake Issyk-Kul	Kyrgyzstan	Second largest high-altitude lake
Scarborough Shoal	South China Sea	Disputed by China and the Philippines

Kishau Multipurpose Dam and Chenab Projects

Context: Six States have reached a consensus and agreed to sign an MoU for the long-pending Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project to rejuvenate the Yamuna. Separately, the Kirthai-II hydroelectric project on the Chenab received approval, the third since the Indus Waters Treaty was suspended.

□ **Kishau Dam**

➤ The six States are Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

➤ It is proposed on the Tons river, the largest tributary of the Yamuna, on the Uttarakhand-Himachal border.

➤ It is a 236 m high roller compacted concrete gravity dam with 660 MW capacity and annual generation of about 1,379 million units.

➤ Live storage will be about 1,324 million cubic metres for drinking, industrial and irrigation use.

➤ It will add about 472 MU to downstream power projects and help flood moderation.

□ **Funding Arrangement**

➤ The Centre will give 90% of the water component cost as Central Assistance; the six States share the remaining 10%.

➤ Himachal Pradesh will pass its water share to Delhi and Rajasthan in return for their sharing the cost of its power component.

□ **Chenab Projects**

➤ Kirthai-II is a run-of-the-river project; Sawalkote and Dulhasti-II are the other two approved Chenab projects.

Monsoon Break and Super El Nino Fears

Context: After forecasts of an early arrival, the monsoon paused for long due to five unfavourable conditions. It later resumed with a stronger Somali Jet and a Bay of Bengal low, though a deficit is expected due to El Nino.

□ **Five Factors**

➤ El Nino developed over the equatorial Pacific and weakens the Walker Circulation.

➤ The Madden-Julian Oscillation was weak or away from the Indian Ocean.

➤ Dry westerly winds from West Asia intruded into northwest India, causing heatwaves.

➤ The Somali Jet, a low-level cross-equatorial jet over the Arabian Sea, was weak.

➤ The Indian Ocean Dipole stayed neutral; a positive IOD usually offsets El Nino.

□ **Recovery**

➤ Monsoon winds resumed with a stronger Somali Jet and a low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal.

➤ A deficit is still predicted because of fear of a Super El Nino.

Venezuela Seismic Doublet

Context: In June 2026 two powerful earthquakes of magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5 struck western Venezuela near Yumare, about 160 km west of Caracas, in a seismic doublet. Doublets are quakes of similar magnitude from distinct but related ruptures in quick succession, where the first rupture transfers stress to a nearby fault segment. Venezuela lies on the Caribbean-South American plate boundary.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ Doublets are quakes of similar magnitude from distinct but related ruptures in quick succession.

➤ The first rupture transfers stress to a nearby fault segment and triggers the second.

➤ Venezuela lies on the Caribbean-South American plate boundary with strike-slip systems such as Boconó and San Sebastián.

➤ Major quake zones include the Pacific Ring of Fire, Alpide Belt, East African Rift and San Andreas Fault.

Agriculture, Export and Health Firsts by Place

Context: State-specific agricultural and welfare milestones from late 2025 to 2026 are listed place-wise for the exam. Mizoram was named 'Ginger Capital of India' in December 2025, Assam became the first state to produce Matcha tea commercially in July 2026, and West Bengal became the 36th state or UT to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY in June 2026. The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway also opened in July 2026.

□ **Agriculture and exports**

➤ Mizoram was named 'Ginger Capital of India' (December 2025).

➤ Assam became the first state to produce Matcha tea commercially, at Chota Tingrai Estate, Tinsukia (July 2026).

➤ Purnea (Bihar): first consignment of 1 MT popped (phool) makhana exported to Greece.

➤ Darbhanga (Bihar): first sea shipment of value-added flavoured makhana sent to Canada (July 2026).

➤ Jorhat: grainage building and cold storage opened at CSB Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Rowriah.

□ **Weather and health**

- Lucknow got India's 8th Regional Meteorological Centre (June 2026); Jammu also received a new RMC.
- West Bengal became the 36th state/UT to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (June 2026).
- Patna: first Victim Rights Centre in the country opened at the Bihar State Legal Services Authority premises (September 2026).
- Karnataka banned gutka, pan masala and tobacco/nicotine products for one year from 10 August 2026.

□ **Infrastructure**

- Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway (63 km, six-lane) opened in July 2026 at Jhau Kheda, Unnao; first expressway built with automated machine-guided construction.
- Daman: NAMO Airport began operations with a Daman-Delhi flight (July 2026).
- Kolkata: Bhoomi Pujan for the world's largest curd plant under the Amul Bengal Dairy project.

Environment and Biodiversity Places in News 2025-26

Context: Protected areas, certifications and green records from different states were reported across 2025-26 and are listed place-wise. Omkareshwar Sanctuary was announced as Madhya Pradesh's 27th sanctuary in November 2025, Odisha's Sunapur and Puri beaches retained Blue Flag certification for 2025-26, and Ahmedabad entered the Guinness record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings in an hour in July 2026. Place-linked environment facts are commonly asked.

□ **Protected areas and certification**

- Omkareshwar Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) announced as the state's 27th sanctuary (November 2025).
- Odisha's Sunapur and Puri beaches retained Blue Flag certification for 2025-26.
- Natural History Museum, Mizoram University (Aizawl) became India's 21st Designated Repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (Maharashtra): India's first AI-powered bird detection and monitoring centre planned.

□ **Climate and green records**

- Killai (Cuddalore) became Tamil Nadu's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village under the state Climate Change Mission (July 2026).
- Ahmedabad entered the Guinness record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings in an hour by the Miyawaki method (July 2026).
- New Delhi: eighteen Namo Oxygen Parks inaugurated on World Environment Day 2026.
- Scientists detected unusually high ozone concentration 21-23 km above the north Bay of Bengal (August 2026).

□ **Waste**

- Lucknow became the first Uttar Pradesh city with 100 per cent scientific processing of municipal solid waste after the third processing unit opened at Shivari plant (January 2026).

Heritage and Culture Places in News: Museums, Monuments and Renamings

Context: Museums, protected monuments, statues and place-name changes were reported through 2025-26 and are listed place-wise for quick revision. The first phase of the 'Museum of Word', India's first immersive language museum, opened in Kolkata in July 2026, Parichha Dam (Jhansi) received the World Heritage Irrigation Structure recognition from ICID in 2026, and the UP Cabinet renamed Jalalabad (Shahjahanpur) as Parashurampuri in July 2026.

□ **Museums and heritage**

- Kolkata (National Library, Belvedere House): first phase of the 'Museum of Word', India's first immersive language museum, opened July 2026.
- Gandhinagar (Koba Tirth): Samrat Samprati Sangrahalay, a Jain heritage museum, opened on Mahavir Jayanti, March 2026.
- Mathura: country's first national 'cow culture' museum announced at the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University campus.
- Indore: first virtual zoo at the Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya.
- Chandni Chowk, Delhi: MoU signed to turn the historic Town Hall into a Global Heritage Centre (September 2026).
- Ladakh: 23 heritage sites notified as Protected Monuments (July 2026).

□ **Water heritage**

- Parichha Dam (Jhansi, UP), about 140 years old, received the World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS) recognition from ICID in 2026.

□ **Statues**

- Goa (Partagali Math, Gokarn): 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Ram unveiled by PM Modi in November 2025.
- Gandhinagar: equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj unveiled in February 2026.

□ **Renamings**

- Pakyong Airport (Sikkim) to be renamed Trilochan Pokhrel Airport (Assembly resolution, March 2026).
- Jalalabad (Shahjahanpur, UP) renamed Parashurampuri by the UP Cabinet in July 2026.
- Arunachal Pradesh: 27 places/features given standard official names on Survey of India maps (August 2026).

Important Places in News: Mongla, Sabang, Moldova, North Macedonia

Context: Several places featured in international news in July 2026, from Bangladeshi and Indonesian ports to two European countries visited by the President. China and Bangladesh signed an agreement for an economic zone near Mongla Port, India and Indonesia agreed to jointly develop Sabang Port, and President Droupadi Murmu made the first visits by an Indian head of state to Moldova and North Macedonia.

□ **Ports**

- Mongla Port is Bangladesh's second-largest seaport after Chittagong, 188 km from Kolkata and close to the Sunderbans; China and Bangladesh signed an agreement for an economic zone near it.
- Sabang Port lies on Weh Island in Aceh province at the northern tip of Sumatra near the Strait of Malacca; India and Indonesia agreed to develop it jointly.

□ **Presidential Visits**

- President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian head of state to visit Moldova since diplomatic ties began in 1992. Moldova's capital is Chisinau and it borders Ukraine and Romania.
- She also made the first-ever visit by an Indian head of state to North Macedonia, capital Skopje, a landlocked country neighbouring Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

Paizhen Fault Beneath Brahmaputra Mega Dam

Context: In July 2026 a study found that an active fault, the Paizhen fault, lies beneath the world's largest hydropower project on the Brahmaputra in Tibet and could affect its stability. The fault belongs to a network of tectonic faults in the eastern Himalaya created by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates, and has been active since the Early Pleistocene.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It belongs to a network of tectonic faults in the eastern Himalaya. It was created by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates.
- It has been active since the Early Pleistocene and remains strongly active in the Holocene.

Places in News: International

Context: Several overseas places featured in the news in July 2026, from the Falkland Islands dispute to Moldova and Panama. President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian head of state to visit Moldova since diplomatic relations began in 1992. Other places include Okinotori Island, the Aral Sea, Lake Mansarovar and Prambanan Temple, all useful for map-based Prelims questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Falkland Islands: a South Atlantic archipelago about 480 km northeast of South America's southern tip, with two main islands and 776 smaller ones; Britain reasserted control in 1833, Argentina invaded in 1982 leading to a 74-day war, and a 2013 referendum favoured remaining a British Overseas Territory.
- Okinotori Island: Japan's southernmost territory and the only Japanese territory south of the Tropic of Cancer; Japan claims a 200 nautical mile EEZ which China disputes as it argues Okinotori is a rock under UNCLOS.
- Moldova: President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian head of state to visit since diplomatic relations began in 1992; it lies between the Prut and Dniester rivers with capital Chisinau.
- Aral Sea: fed by the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, it lost about 80 per cent of its volume by the 1980s; its dry beds have released over 200 teragrams of carbon.
- Lake Mansarovar: in Tibet near Mount Kailash, adjacent to saltwater Lake Rakshastal, and near the sources of the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali.
- Prambanan Temple: a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1991) near Yogyakarta, Indonesia, built by the Sanjaya dynasty in the 9th century and dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma.

Places in News: National

Context: Several Indian wetlands, sanctuaries and rivers were in the news in July 2026. Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam recorded dholes on camera traps, the 1,000 MW Naying Hydro Electric Project on the Siyom River received environmental clearance, and a MoEFCC panel recommended rejecting the 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project over its impact on the lion-tailed macaque sanctuary. Manasbal, Kawal and Pallikaranai also featured.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Manasbal Lake, Ganderbal (Jammu and Kashmir), is India's deepest freshwater lake at about 13 m and has recovered through dredging and sewage treatment.
- Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, established in 1980 for the Pygmy Hog and Hispid Hare, recorded dholes on camera traps.
- Siyom (Yomgo) River in West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh, is a right-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra; the 1,000 MW Naying Hydro Electric Project received environmental clearance.
- Khawthlangtuipui is the Mizo name of the Karnaphuli River, a transboundary river between India and Bangladesh.
- Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana, on the Godavari, was identified by the NTCA as a priority recipient site for tiger recovery.
- A MoEFCC panel recommended rejecting the 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project over impact on the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary.
- Pallikaranai Marshland near Chennai receives water from 65 wetlands and drains via Okkiyam Madavu and Kovalam Creek.
- West Bengal decided to shrink the eco-sensitive zone of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary from 5 km to 1 km.

Sleemanabad Tunnel and Narmada River

Context: In July 2026 Madhya Pradesh's Sleemanabad Tunnel, part of the Bargi Diversion Project, was reported to be nearing completion. It is India's longest underground water conveyance tunnel and forms part of the 197 km Right Bank Main Canal. It will carry Narmada water by gravity from the Bargi reservoir to the drought-prone Vindhya region and Son basin.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is the fifth largest river in India with a basin across Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. It rises at Amarkantak in the Maikal Hills and flows west through a rift valley into the Arabian Sea.

➤ Tributaries include Tawa, Banjar, Dudhi, Hiran and Kolar.

□ **Sleemanabad Tunnel**

➤ It forms part of the 197 km Right Bank Main Canal of the Bargi Diversion Project.

➤ It will carry Narmada water by gravity from the Bargi reservoir to the drought-prone Vindhya region and Son basin.

Colombia Earthquake and Zanskar Glacier Slowdown

Context: In August 2026 a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia near San Jose del Palmar, killing over 300 people, and a study showed glaciers in Ladakh's Zanskar Himalayas are slowing as they thin. The quake was the strongest in Colombia in the 21st century at an intermediate depth of about 103 to 107 km, while the Zanskar study covered 12 glaciers using satellite data for 1992 to 2023.

□ **Colombia Earthquake**

➤ The epicentre was near San Jose del Palmar and over 300 people died.

➤ The depth was about 103 to 107 km, an intermediate depth.

➤ It was the strongest quake in Colombia in the 21st century; the country lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire.

□ **Zanskar Glaciers**

➤ The study in The Cryosphere covered 12 glaciers using satellite data for 1992 to 2023.

➤ The Zanskar region covers about 7,000 sq km and has around 1,755 glaciers.

➤ Glacier velocity fell about 2.43 m per year per decade.

➤ Surface thinning rose from 0.22 m a year in 2000-2005 to 0.57 m a year in 2015-2020.

Langtang Glacier Collapse and Nepal Flash Floods

Context: Flash floods in Nepal were first linked to a magnitude 4.4 earthquake, but analysis showed the seismic signal came from a massive glacier and bedrock collapse. India responded as first responder with relief.

□ **The Event**

➤ The collapse occurred on the northern flank of Langtang Lirung near the Nepal-Tibet border.

➤ The flow entered the Lhende Khola, which joins the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river system.

➤ It was compared to an inland tsunami because of the sudden, high-energy flood wave.

□ **India's Response**

➤ India sent over 68.5 tons of relief and specialised rescue teams.

➤ It offered support for 42 Bailey bridges requested by Nepal.

Places in News: August 2026

Context: Several geographical locations featured in the news in August 2026, from the reopening of the Shipki La border trade to river personhood in Tamil Nadu and international glacier events. Border trade with China through Shipki La in Kinnaur resumed on 1 August 2026 after six years, the Madras High Court granted the Thamirabarani river legal personhood, and Petermann Glacier in Greenland calved a 76.4 sq km ice island.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ Petermann Glacier in Greenland calved a 76.4 sq km ice island, the Arctic's largest calving event since 2020.

➤ Mount Ararat is the highest peak in Turkey; Kanlaon is on Negros Island in the Philippines.

➤ Putin visited Iturup in the Kuril Islands, which Japan claims as its Northern Territories.

□ **National**

➤ Border trade with China through Shipki La in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh resumed on 1 August 2026 after six years; trade there is largely barter.

➤ The Supreme Court banned construction within 100 m of the Jojari River in Rajasthan, the only right-bank tributary of the Luni.

➤ Madras High Court granted the Thamirabarani river legal personhood; it rises at Agastyarkoodam in the Pothigai Hills and drains into the Gulf of Mannar.

➤ Pampa River in Kerala, called Dakshina Bhageerathi, flooded Pathanamthitta; it is Kerala's third-longest river.

➤ Buckingham Canal was built by Basil Cochrane in 1806 and renamed in 1878 after the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

Hanging Glaciers and Uttarakhand's GLOF Early Warning

Context: A 2026 Nature study identified 219 hanging glaciers in the Alaknanda Basin of the Garhwal Himalayas, raising concerns about ice avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods. Uttarakhand is starting real-time GLOF monitoring at Vasundhara Tal in Chamoli.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ Hanging glaciers are ice masses on steep slopes and cliffs that are often structurally unstable.

➤ Break-offs can cause avalanches, river blockage, GLOFs and floods in a cascading hazard.

➤ The NDMA has identified 13 high-risk glacial lakes in Uttarakhand, of which 5 are Category A.

➤ Sensors will track water level, weather, snow depth, flow, vibrations and ground movement.

➤ The solar-powered system sends data by satellite since mobile connectivity is absent.

➤ Ghepan Glacial Lake in Lahaul-Spiti, fed by three hanging glaciers, is also under stricter monitoring for GLOF risk.

National Places in News: Tso Kar, Bakhira and Others

Context: Several Indian lakes, rivers, sanctuaries and forts figured in the news in September 2026, including a Ladakh lake revival project and a Ramsar wetland in Uttar Pradesh. Ladakh launched a project to revive Tso Kar Lake by diverting about 320 million litres a day of glacial water, while Bakhira Lake, an

oxbow wetland of the Rapti, is a Ramsar Site designated in 2022. Debrigarh's Indian gaur count rose to 848 in 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Ladakh launched a project to revive Tso Kar Lake by diverting about 320 million litres a day of glacial water from the Rupsho Kharnak stream.
- Tso Kar is the smallest of Ladakh's three major high-altitude lakes alongside Pangong Tso and Tso Moriri, and a Ramsar Site since 2020.
- Bakhira Lake in Sant Kabir Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh, is an oxbow wetland of the Rapti River and a Ramsar Site designated in 2022.
- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh, Odisha, saw its Indian gaur population rise from 659 in 2024 to 848 in 2026.
- The Rangeet River originates from a glacier of Mt. Kabru in Sikkim and joins the Teesta at Teesta Bazaar.
- The Bhima River rises in the Bhimashankar Hills, joins the Krishna near Raichur, and is called Chandrabhaga at Pandharpur.
- Gooty Fort in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, is also called Ravadurg and has 15 interconnected forts.
- Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka, was declared a tiger reserve in 2011.
- Ramjak (6,318 m) is a peak in Lahaul, Himachal Pradesh, first climbed in 2002.

International Places in News: Kuril Islands, Lebanon, California and Others

Context: Several foreign places featured in the news between July and October 2026. Putin made his first official visit to the Kuril Islands, Lebanon became the first Arab country to abolish the death penalty, and California fixed 18 as the minimum marriage age. India-linked events in New York, Skopje, Baku and Bishkek also made headlines, making this a place-and-event revision set.

□ **Politics and law**

- Kuril Islands: Russian President Putin made his first official visit (August 2026); the islands are administered by Russia but claimed by Japan.
- Lebanon: Parliament abolished the death penalty (August 2026), the first Arab country to do so, replacing it with life imprisonment with hard labour.
- California: Assembly Bill 1267 sets 18 as the minimum marriage age from 1 January 2027.

□ **India-linked events**

- New York and New Jersey proclaimed 15 August 2026 as 'India Independence Day'.
- Skopje: President Droupadi Murmu and North Macedonia's President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova unveiled a Mahatma Gandhi bust (July 2026).
- Baku: permanent exhibition on India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites opened at the Indian Embassy.
- Bishkek: International Centre for Civilizational Studies 'Manas and Mahabharata' inaugurated (July 2026).

Ladakh in News: New Districts, High Court Bench and Border Village

Context: Ladakh saw a series of administrative and developmental events in 2026, the latest in October. Sankoo became the Union Territory's eighth district, a permanent bench of the J&K and Ladakh High Court was inaugurated at Leh, and the first Model Border Village under the Vibrant Villages Programme was started at Chumur. These changes reshape Ladakh's administrative map and are common static-linked questions.

□ **Administration**

- Sankoo became Ladakh's eighth district (October 2026); five districts (Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zanskar, Drass) had been created in April 2026.
- Permanent bench of the J&K and Ladakh High Court inaugurated at Leh (October 2026).
- Union health ministry approved Ladakh's first medical college at Leh from 2027-28.

□ **Border and development**

- Chumur: foundation laid for the first Model Border Village under the Vibrant Villages Programme (June 2026).
- Rongtong (Spiti, Himachal): state's first solar project with battery storage at Kaza; Keylong: ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine foundation laid (October 2026).
- Ladakh's first high altitude health research centre is part of this push.

□ **Delhi**

- Jantar Mantar was denotified as a designated protest site (October 2026); Ramlila Maidan, Burari ground and CBD ground Shahdara were named instead.

Science and Technology

Current Notes

DRDO Ground-Tests Full-Scale Scramjet Engine

Context: DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) successfully ground-tested a full-scale, actively cooled, long-duration scramjet engine, a key step for India's hypersonic missile programme.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India is the fourth country, after the USA, Russia and China, to demonstrate scramjet engine flight testing.
- A scramjet is a supersonic combustion ramjet that works efficiently at hypersonic speeds above Mach 5.
- A ramjet is an air-breathing engine that uses the vehicle's forward speed to compress incoming air without a rotating compressor.
- It normally uses hydrogen as fuel and atmospheric oxygen as oxidiser, and has no moving parts.
- It cannot produce thrust at zero airspeed and needs a rocket or turbojet booster to reach operating speed.

□ **Hypersonic Weapons**

- They travel above Mach 5 and fly lower than ballistic missiles and are highly manoeuvrable, making them hard to track.
- Hypersonic Glide Vehicles are boosted by rocket and then glide in the upper atmosphere.
- Hypersonic Cruise Missiles are self-propelled, precision-guided weapons that sustain controlled flight.

Defence Systems in News: Pralay, LR-AShM, Suryastra

Context: Several indigenous defence platforms and tests made news in January 2026, including DRDO's Pralay launches and the display of a hypersonic anti-ship missile at the Republic Day parade. DRDO launched two Pralay quasi-ballistic missiles from the Odisha coast, while the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) was shown at the 77th Republic Day parade, and the Army signed a contract for the Suryastra rocket launcher.

□ **Key Highlights**

- DRDO launched two Pralay missiles from the Odisha coast; Pralay is an indigenous, short-range, surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile with a range of 150 to 500 km.
- The Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM), India's first long-range hypersonic glide missile, was displayed at the 77th Republic Day parade (2026) and has a range of about 1,500 km.
- LR-AShM can reach Mach 10, averages Mach 5 through skipping, and is powered by a two-stage solid propulsion system.
- The Army signed a Rs 293 crore contract with NIBE Limited for Suryastra, India's first Made in India universal multi-calibre rocket launcher, with a range of 300 km and accuracy within 5 metres.
- DRDO flight-tested the third-generation Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) against a moving target; it uses an imaging infrared homing seeker.
- The Dhruv-NG, a new-generation civil version of HAL's ALH Dhruv, completed its first flight in Bengaluru.
- India's first Made in India C-295 transport aircraft, built at the Airbus-Tata line in Vadodara, is to be ready before September 2026.

Defence systems at a glance

System	Key detail
Pralay	Short-range surface-to-surface missile, 150-500 km
LR-AShM	Hypersonic glide, about 1,500 km, up to Mach 10
Suryastra	Universal rocket launcher, 300 km, Rs 293 crore contract
MPATGM	Third-generation man-portable anti-tank missile
Dhruv-NG	New-generation civil helicopter, first flight at Bengaluru
C-295	Medium tactical transport, up to 11 hours flight, STOL

India's Defence Industry: Output, Exports, Reforms

Context: The Defence Minister reiterated in January 2026 the commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing and to making India a global defence production hub. Domestic defence production rose from Rs 46,425 crore in 2014 to a record of about Rs 1.51 lakh crore in FY 2025, with defence PSUs contributing about 77 percent, supported by iDEX, positive indigenisation lists and two defence industrial corridors.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Domestic defence production rose from Rs 46,425 crore in 2014 to a record of about Rs 1.51 lakh crore in FY 2025.
- Defence PSUs contribute about 77 percent of production.
- India exports to over 100 countries; in 2023-24 the USA, France and Armenia were the leading buyers.
- Funding for military-tech startups rose from Rs 27 crore in 2016 to Rs 1,653 crore in 2025.
- Two defence industrial corridors, in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, spread across 11 nodes.
- Positive Indigenisation Lists to cut imports.
- iDEX, launched in April 2018, supports MSMEs, startups and innovators with grants of up to Rs 1.5 crore.
- FDI up to 74 percent is allowed under the automatic route and up to 100 percent with government approval.

- The Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme funds eight new greenfield test facilities, and the Technology Development Fund supports self-reliance under Make in India.

Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

Context: The Chief of Defence Staff released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework in January 2026, a document with policy and an implementation roadmap for using quantum technologies in the armed forces. It aligns with the National Quantum Mission, budgeted at about Rs 6,000 crore for 2023-24 to 2030-31, and covers applications in navigation, sensing, secure communication and imaging.

□ Key Highlights

- The vision is better coordination among the three services and readiness for technology-driven warfare.
- It aligns with the National Quantum Mission (NQM), which has a budget of about Rs 6,000 crore for 2023-24 to 2030-31.
- NQM prioritises four pillars: quantum communication, quantum computing, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.

□ Military Applications

- Navigation: atomic interferometry with super-cooled atoms reduces dependence on GPS, which can be jammed or spoofed.
- Sensing: quantum magnetometers such as SQUID and gravimeters can detect submerged submarines or underground structures.
- Secure communication: quantum key distribution creates encryption keys that are theoretically unhackable.
- Quantum imaging can give clear images through fog, smoke or darkness.
- Quantum sensors can inspect microchips for hidden hardware trojans without damaging them.

PSLV-C62 Anomaly and India's First Private EO Constellation

Context: ISRO's PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission, the 64th flight of PSLV, encountered an anomaly in its third stage. Separately, a Pixxel-led consortium signed an agreement with IN-SPACe for India's first private Earth observation constellation.

□ Key Highlights

- It was the 9th dedicated commercial mission operated by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), established in 2019 as ISRO's commercial arm.
- It carried the EOS-N1 Earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites.
- It also carried the Spanish start-up payload KID, a small re-entry prototype meant to splash down in the South Pacific.
- PSLV is a third-generation launcher and India's first with liquid stages; it carries up to 1,750 kg to 600 km sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- PSLV set a world record in 2017 by launching 104 satellites in one mission.

AI Content Labelling and 3-Hour Takedown Rules

Context: MeitY amended the IT Rules, 2021 through the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, mandating labelling of AI-generated content and sharply shortening takedown timelines.

□ Key Highlights

- Platforms must prominently label synthetically generated images and videos.
- Platforms with over five million users must obtain user declarations and run technical verification before publishing.
- Automatically retouched smartphone photos and film special effects are excluded.
- Prohibited content includes child sexual abuse material, forged documents, information on making explosives and deepfakes impersonating real people.
- Takedown time falls from 24-36 hours to 2-3 hours for all online content.

Chandrayaan-4 Landing Zone: Mons Mouton

Context: ISRO's Space Applications Centre scientists identified Mons Mouton near the Moon's south pole as the landing zone for Chandrayaan-4, India's first lunar sample return mission, in February 2026. The roughly 6 km mountain lies on the rim of the South Pole-Aitken Basin, has a flat summit with extended sunlight and is close to permanently shadowed craters that may hold water ice. The mission is planned for 2027.

□ Key Highlights

- Mons Mouton is a mountain of about 6 km on the rim of the South Pole-Aitken Basin, the largest and oldest lunar impact basin.
- It is named after NASA mathematician Melba Roy Mouton.
- Its relatively flat summit gets extended sunlight and has line-of-sight communication with Earth.
- It is close to permanently shadowed craters that may hold water ice.
- Chandrayaan-4 is planned for 2027 and will bring back lunar samples.

DRDO Demonstrates Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

Context: DRDO successfully flight-tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the Integrated Test Range off the Odisha coast in February 2026, placing India among a select group with this capability. SFDR is air-breathing missile propulsion that uses atmospheric oxygen to burn solid fuel, enabling sustained supersonic speed and longer range for air-to-air missiles.

□ Key Highlights

- SFDR is air-breathing missile propulsion that uses atmospheric oxygen to burn solid fuel.
- It enables sustained supersonic speed and longer range for air-to-air missiles.

- It has a solid-fuel booster, a ramjet engine, and a nozzle-less booster with flow controller for thrust modulation.

Health Science News: State Microbe and Organ Donation

Context: Kerala became the first State to declare Bacillus subtilis its State microbe in February 2026, and India's organ transplants rose nearly fourfold in a decade. Transplants went from fewer than 5,000 in 2013 to almost 20,000 in 2025, with about 18 per cent from deceased donors, under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 and its NOTTO, ROTTO and SOTTO network.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Organ transplants rose from fewer than 5,000 in 2013 to almost 20,000 in 2025, with about 18 per cent from deceased donors.
- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 has NOTTO, ROTTO and SOTTO.

INS Anjadip and Military Exercises

Context: The Indian Navy commissioned INS Anjadip, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, in February 2026, and several exercises took place. Built by GRSE Kolkata and named after an island off Karwar, Karnataka, it has the hull-mounted sonar Abhay and indigenous ASW weapons. The exercises in news include MILAN, a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by India, and the IAF's Vayu Shakti.

□ **Key Highlights**

- INS Anjadip is built by GRSE Kolkata and named after an island off Karwar, Karnataka.
- It has hull-mounted sonar Abhay and indigenous ASW weapons.
- MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by India; Vayu Shakti is the IAF firepower demonstration.

India's Sovereign AI Ecosystem: Bharat GenAI, Sarvam, VoicERA and India AI Stack

Context: Several launches during the AI Impact Summit in February 2026 and around it strengthened India's sovereign AI capacity. They include Bharat GenAI, run by TIH Foundation at IIT Bombay, Sarvam AI's models under the IndiaAI Mission, the open-source VoicERA voice AI stack from BHASHINI, and the five-layer India AI Stack, alongside health and skills AI initiatives.

□ **Models and Platforms**

- Bharat GenAI, under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems and run by TIH Foundation at IIT Bombay, supports 15 languages and aims to cover all 22 scheduled languages.
- Sarvam AI got Rs 246.72 crore of support under the IndiaAI Mission; its products include Bulbul (text-to-speech, 11 languages) and Saaras (speech-to-text, 22 languages).
- VoicERA, launched by the BHASHINI division of MeitY, is an open-source end-to-end Voice AI stack.
- The India AI Stack has five layers: application, model, compute, data and network, and energy.

□ **Health and Skills**

- SAHI is a national AI-in-healthcare strategy and BODH, built by IIT Kanpur with the National Health Authority, benchmarks health AI models.
- Yuva AI for All, under the IndiaAI Mission, targets AI literacy for 1 crore citizens and launched the Kaushal Rath mobile lab.
- MoSPI launched a beta Model Context Protocol server for the eSankhyiki portal.

LIGO-India and Ladakh Telescopes

Context: L&T won the contract to build LIGO-India in Hingoli, Maharashtra, and the Budget sanctioned two telescopes in Ladakh in February 2026. LIGO-India is a gravitational-wave observatory implemented by the Department of Atomic Energy and DST with the US National Science Foundation, while the Ladakh projects are the National Large Solar Telescope at Merak and the 13.7-metre National Large Optical Telescope at Hanle.

□ **Key Highlights**

- LIGO-India is implemented by the Department of Atomic Energy and DST with the US National Science Foundation, at Aundh in Hingoli district.
- The National Large Solar Telescope is a 2-metre telescope at Merak, Ladakh; Kodaikanal (1899) and Udaipur (1975) are existing solar observatories.
- The National Large Optical Telescope is 13.7 metres, segmented, at Hanle, Ladakh.

AI in Internal Security and Digital Arrest Scams

Context: A parliamentary committee report in March 2026 describes the MHA's use of AI in cybercrime control, while the MHA asked WhatsApp to block devices used in digital arrest scams. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is deploying an AI-assisted complaint system for the 1930 helpline and exploring suspect scores for mule accounts, and a high-level committee set up in December 2025 met WhatsApp.

□ **Key Highlights**

- I4C is deploying an AI-assisted complaint system for the 1930 helpline.
- I4C and IIT Bombay are exploring suspect scores for mule accounts; RBIH's Mulehunter.ai is being integrated.
- A high-level Inter-Departmental Committee set up in December 2025 met WhatsApp.
- DoT in November 2025 directed apps to implement SIM binding.

Dimethyl Ether as Alternative to LPG

Context: CSIR-NCL is ready to scale up Dimethyl Ether (DME) technology to an industrial demonstration to reduce LPG import dependence, in news in March 2026. DME (CH_3OCH_3) is made by catalytic dehydration of methanol, and since India imports about 60-65% of its LPG, blending could save around Rs 9,500 crore annually. The current scale is semi-pilot at about 250 kg per day.

□ **Key Highlights**

- DME (CH3OCH3) is made by catalytic dehydration of methanol.
- India imports about 60-65% of its LPG; blending could save around Rs 9,500 crore annually.
- The current scale is semi-pilot at about 250 kg per day.
- DME cost is about 1.8 times the methanol price.

Ocean Tech Briefs: Dark Oxygen, LTTD and Floating LiDAR

Context: Marine science items in March 2026 included the dark oxygen finding, Kavaratti's LTTD plant and NIOT's Floating LiDAR Buoy. Dark oxygen is produced by polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, Low Temperature Thermal Desalination uses cold deep water at a plant in Lakshadweep, and NIOT tested the buoy off Muttom, Tamil Nadu, to measure winds up to 300 m.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Dark oxygen is produced by polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, discovered in 2013.
- Low Temperature Thermal Desalination uses cold deep water to condense flash-evaporated warm surface water; a plant operates at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- NIOT tested a Floating LiDAR Buoy off Muttom, Tamil Nadu, measuring winds up to 300 m.

Space Briefs: DART, Asteroid 2024 YR4 and Akasha300

Context: Space news in March 2026 included DART's wider effects, NASA ruling out a 2032 lunar impact by asteroid 2024 YR4 and a Kerala-built 3D printer for ISRO. DART hit Dimorphos in 2022 and shortened its orbit by about 33 minutes, while Akasha300, developed by IIST and Kerala Startup Mission, was deployed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

□ **Key Highlights**

- DART (2021) hit Dimorphos in 2022, shortening its orbit by about 33 minutes.
- 2024 YR4 is an Apollo-type near-Earth asteroid discovered in 2024.
- Akasha300 was developed by IIST and Kerala Startup Mission and deployed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- SWOT, launched in 2022 by NASA and CNES, uses KaRIn radar.

Artemis II: Crewed Lunar Flyby Completed

Context: NASA's Artemis II crew returned to Earth after a historic lunar flyby, the first crewed mission of the Artemis programme and the first time humans travelled beyond low-Earth orbit in over five decades.

□ **Key Highlights**

- China and Russia's International Lunar Research Station was announced in 2021. NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services programme began in 2018.
- The crew was Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen aboard the Orion spacecraft.
- The mission lasted about 10 days and used a free-return trajectory.
- Re-entry speed was about 11-12 km/s.
- Artemis I (2022) was uncrewed; Artemis III is planned around 2027 and Artemis IV in 2028 for a crewed landing.
- The Artemis Accords, begun in 2020 with 8 countries, now have 64 signatories; India is a signatory.
- China's Chang'e-7 in 2026 targets the lunar south pole.
- India plans a crewed Moon mission by about 2040 after Chandrayaan-3 in 2023.

BioE3 Policy for Biomanufacturing

Context: The government informed Rajya Sabha about the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, introduced in 2024 to promote high-performance biomanufacturing and a circular bioeconomy.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is implemented by the Department of Biotechnology jointly with BIRAC.
- It is organised around six thematic sectors of national importance.
- The three-tier framework comprises the Discovery Research Network, Bridging the Gap initiatives and the BioEnablers Ecosystem.
- BioEnablers include Bio-AI Hubs, Biofoundries and Biomanufacturing Hubs.
- Ten percent of the budget is earmarked for the North East Region and State BioE3 Cells exist in Assam and Sikkim.

INS Aridhaman: Third SSBN Inducted

Context: India inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, along with the stealth frigate INS Taragiri at Visakhapatnam in April 2026. India now has three operational SSBNs, after INS Arihant and INS Arighaat. SSBNs give credible second-strike capability under India's No First Use doctrine.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Two SSNs will be built indigenously and one leased from Russia by 2027-28. A fourth SSBN is under construction and may carry more K-4 missiles.
- Like INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024), induction was quiet with no formal commissioning announcement.
- SSBNs give credible second-strike capability under India's No First Use doctrine.
- INS Arihant was launched in 2009, completed its first deterrence patrol in 2018 and fired an SLBM in October 2022.
- INS Arighaat displaces 6,000 tonnes; Arihant and Arighaat use 83 MW pressurised light-water reactors.
- Project-75I with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock would build six AIP submarines in India.

IOS SAGAR and Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy 2026

Context: The Indian Navy flagged off INS Sunayna as Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR, operationalising the MAHASAGAR vision. The Naval Commanders' Conference also released the Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026).

□ Key Highlights

- INS Sunayna is a Saryu-class patrol vessel renamed IOS SAGAR.
- MAHASAGAR stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions and was unveiled by PM Modi in 2025.
- It widens the earlier SAGAR initiative beyond the Indian Ocean with a focus on the Global South.
- Personnel from multiple nations serve together as one crew on the same vessel.
- INMSS-2026 outlines maritime priorities for the next decade and aligns with Indian Navy Vision 2047.

India's Defence Exports Reach Record Rs 38,424 Crore

Context: India's defence exports touched a record Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, up 62.66% from the previous year, as reported in April 2026. Exports rose by Rs 14,802 crore from Rs 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25 and have nearly tripled in five years. Defence PSUs contributed 54.84% and the private sector 45.16%, with exports reaching 80+ countries.

□ Key Highlights

- Exports rose by Rs 14,802 crore from Rs 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25 and have nearly tripled in five years.
- DPSUs contributed 54.84% (Rs 21,071 crore) and the private sector 45.16% (Rs 17,353 crore).
- DPSU exports grew 151% while the private sector grew 14%.
- Exports reach 80+ countries and the number of exporters rose from 128 to 145.
- Exports were Rs 686 crore in 2013-14; in 2024-25 the private sector contributed Rs 15,233 crore and DPSUs Rs 8,389 crore.

National Quantum Mission: Quantum Valley and 1,000 km Network

Context: Under the National Quantum Mission, India demonstrated a 1,000 km quantum communication network using indigenous technology by startup QNu Labs, halfway to the 2,000 km target. The foundation stone of the Quantum Valley was also laid in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, which aims to install India's first 133-qubit quantum computer in 2026.

□ Mission Facts

- NQM was approved in 2023 for 2023-31 with an outlay of Rs 6003.65 crore, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Goals include quantum computers of 50-1000 qubits in eight years and satellite plus 2,000 km QKD networks.
- Four thematic hubs: computing at IISc Bengaluru, communication at IIT Madras, sensing and metrology at IIT Bombay, and materials at IIT Delhi.
- Hubs coordinate with spokes and spikes, forming the Hub-Spoke-Spike model.
- Government support has widened to 17 quantum startups.
- C-DoT is developing QKD and post-quantum cryptography devices.

□ Quantum Valley and Milestones

- The Quantum Valley at Amaravati follows a triple helix model of government, industry (IBM, TCS, L&T) and academia.
- In 2022 DRDO and IIT Delhi demonstrated a QKD link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal, 100 km apart.
- Bengaluru-based QpiAI launched QpiAI-Indus, a 25-qubit quantum computer.

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor Attains First Criticality

Context: The indigenously built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu attained first criticality in April 2026, taking India into the second stage of its three-stage nuclear programme. Developed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research using uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, it will make India the second country after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor.

□ Key Highlights

- Nuclear capacity is about 8.78 GW, around 3% of India's electricity, and is expected to reach about 22.38 GW by 2031-32. The Nuclear Energy Mission targets 100 GW by 2047 and allocates Rs 20,000 crore for Small Modular Reactors, with five indigenous SMRs by 2033.
- India will be the second country after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor.
- PFBR was developed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and uses uranium-plutonium MOX fuel made from reprocessed PHWR spent fuel.
- Stage I uses PHWRs with natural uranium; Stage II uses fast breeders; Stage III uses thorium-based reactors fuelled by uranium-233.
- The three-stage plan was conceived by Dr Homi J. Bhabha.
- Liquid sodium coolant poses risks, as seen in Japan's Monju sodium leak and fire of 1995.
- BARC is developing BSMR-200, SMR-55 and a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor for hydrogen.
- The SHANTI Act, 2025 modernises the nuclear legal framework and allows limited private participation.
- India has civil nuclear cooperation agreements with 18 countries.

WHO Milestones: Leprosy, Trachoma, Malaria and US Exit

Context: A cluster of WHO decisions in 2025-26 covers disease elimination validations, a new malaria medicine and a major member's withdrawal. The US formally exited the WHO in

January 2026 and Argentina notified its withdrawal in March 2026. Chile was verified for eliminating leprosy in March 2026, the first in the Americas, and Fiji was validated for eliminating trachoma in October 2025. These are typical international-organisation facts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- WHO prequalified the first malaria treatment designed for newborns and infants weighing 2-5 kg (April 2026).
- The first molecular diagnostic test for Bundibugyo virus entered the Emergency Use Listing on 2 July 2026.
- The US formally exited the WHO on 22 January 2026; Argentina notified its withdrawal in March 2026.
- In May 2026 WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo and Uganda a PHEIC under the International Health Regulations, 2005.

□ **Elimination validations**

- Chile was verified for eliminating leprosy in March 2026, the first country in the Americas and second in the world.
- Fiji was validated for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem in October 2025.

DRDO Tests: TARA, NASM-SR and ULPGM-V3

Context: DRDO conducted several weapon tests: the maiden trial of the TARA glide kit, a first helicopter salvo of the NASM-SR anti-ship missile, and final development trials of the ULPGM-V3 drone-launched missile.

□ **TARA**

- TARA stands for Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation, a modular range extension kit and India's first glide weapon system.
- It converts unguided warheads into precision-guided munitions and was developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad.

□ **NASM-SR**

- Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range was fired in a two-missile salvo from a helicopter off Odisha, a first for India.
- It has man-in-loop guidance through a two-way data link and a waterline hit capability.
- It is meant to replace the 1980s-era British Sea Eagle missile, which weighs about 580 kg.

□ **ULPGM-V3**

- It was tested in air-to-ground and air-to-air modes.
- Features include a dual-channel seeker, two-way data link and three warhead options: anti-armour, penetration-cum-blast and pre-fragmentation.

Defence Updates: New CDS, INS Mahendragiri and Exercises

Context: The Government named new heads for the armed forces in May 2026, the Navy received INS Mahendragiri, and India took part in several exercises including the maiden Pragati 2026. Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani will succeed General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff, and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi as Naval Chief.

□ **Appointments and Induction**

- Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani will succeed General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff.
- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi as Naval Chief.

□ **Exercises and Memorials**

- Pragati 2026, held at Umroi, Meghalaya, was a maiden multilateral army exercise of 13 countries; PRAGATI stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India and Algeria held their first Joint Defence Commission meeting in New Delhi.
- An Indian War Memorial was inaugurated at Imjingak Park, Seoul, at the site of Hind Nagar set up by the Custodian Force of India in 1954.
- Nausena Shaurya Vatika, an open-air naval museum, was inaugurated in Lucknow near Ekana Stadium.

Diabetes in Children Guidelines and JANANI Platform

Context: The Union Health Ministry issued India's first national framework for managing diabetes in children and launched JANANI, a digital platform for maternal and child care, in May 2026. The framework envisages universal diabetes screening for children from birth to 18 years in the public health system. JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) upgrades the RCH portal with records linked to ABHA.

□ **Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children**

- It is the first structured national framework for screening, diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of childhood diabetes.
- It envisages universal diabetes screening for children from birth to 18 years within the public health system.
- It aims to support SDG 3 and the right to life under Article 21.

□ **JANANI**

- JANANI stands for Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care.
- It is an upgraded version of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.
- It creates longitudinal digital health records linked to ABHA for women and children.
- It ensures continuity of care for migratory populations and reduces duplicate records.

Disease Outbreaks: Ebola PHEIC, Hantavirus, CDV and Babesia

Context: WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, while hantavirus, canine distemper and Babesia caused deaths on a cruise ship, in tigers and in lion cubs.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Ebola outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain, for which no approved vaccine or treatment exists.
- A PHEIC is declared under the International Health Regulations, 2005, covering 196 countries.
- A hantavirus outbreak on the Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius killed three; hantaviruses are rodent-borne and only the Andes virus spreads between humans.
- Five tigers died in Kanha Tiger Reserve from suspected Canine Distemper Virus.
- Eight lion cubs died in the Gir landscape from suspected Babesia, a tick-borne parasite infecting red blood cells.

GalaxEye's Drishti and Project Garud

Context: Indian space start-ups made headlines in May 2026: GalaxEye launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, and Dhruva Space secured Rs 105 crore for Project Garud. Drishti combines optical imaging and Synthetic Aperture Radar for all-weather, day-night imaging, while Garud is a 500 kg-class flat-pack communication satellite platform funded under the Research, Development and Innovation Fund.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Agnikul developed Agnilet, the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine.
- IN-SPACe, set up in 2020, is the single-window agency for private participation.

□ **Mission Drishti**

- It was launched on SpaceX's Falcon 9 from California and weighs about 190 kg, India's largest privately built Earth observation satellite.
- It combines optical imaging and Synthetic Aperture Radar on one platform for all-weather, day-night imaging.

□ **Project Garud**

- Dhruva Space received Rs 105 crore under the Research, Development and Innovation Fund.
- Garud is a 500 kg-class flat-pack communication satellite platform with a target of up to two satellites a day.

Health Science: UMMID, IndiaAI-ICMR MoU and PMOS

Context: India launched the UMMID genomic programme and dashboard, IndiaAI and ICMR signed an MoU on responsible healthcare AI, and PCOS was renamed PMOS in May 2026. UMMID is a Department of Biotechnology programme for diagnosis and counselling of inherited disorders, and PMOS (polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome) reflects that the condition affects many hormones and metabolism, not only the ovaries.

□ **Key Highlights**

- UMMID (Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders) is a Department of Biotechnology programme for diagnosis and counselling of inherited disorders, with nearly 30 NIDAN Kendras.
- The IndiaAI-ICMR MoU will share datasets through the AIKosh platform under the MIDAS framework and give subsidised GPU compute.
- IndiaAI is a MeitY mission targeting 10,000-plus GPUs through PPP.
- PCOS is now called polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) because it affects many hormones and metabolism, not only the ovaries.

India Semiconductor Mission: Two More Units Approved in Gujarat

Context: The Union Cabinet cleared two more chip projects under the India Semiconductor Mission in May 2026, taking the total approved projects to 12. Both are in Gujarat, with investment of about Rs 3,936 crore: India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on gallium nitride, and an assembly, testing and packaging unit for discrete semiconductors. It is relevant to questions on electronics manufacturing.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Approved on 5 May 2026; both located in Gujarat with investment of about Rs 3,936 crore and 2,230 skilled jobs.
- One unit is India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on gallium nitride technology.
- The other is an assembly, testing and packaging unit for discrete semiconductors.
- Cumulative investment in approved projects is about Rs 1.64 lakh crore.

□ **Electronics backdrop**

- Electronics production rose from Rs 1.90 lakh crore (2014-15) to about Rs 13.11 lakh crore (2025-26).
- Electronic goods became the third-largest export category at USD 47.96 billion in 2025-26.
- Domestic value addition in electronics rose from 15% to 23%.

Mission Mausam: C-ART, SkyCast, Block Monsoon Forecast

Context: Several initiatives under Mission Mausam were in news in May 2026, including a coastal research testbed, India's first aviation weather system and a block-level AI monsoon forecast. IITM Pune set up the Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed at Andhra University, SkyCast was deployed at Delhi's airport, and IMD launched a weekly forecast covering 3,196 blocks in 15 States and one UT.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed was set up by IITM Pune at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, as a national user facility to improve cyclone forecasting.
- SkyCast, at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, is India's first integrated aviation weather monitoring system; India is the 19th country to deploy one.
- SkyCast builds on the Winter Fog Experiment (WiFEX) begun in 2015, and the next one is planned at Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh.

- IMD launched an AI-driven block-level monsoon forecast issued every Wednesday with up to four-week lead time, covering 3,196 blocks in 15 States and one UT.
- IITM Pune opened an incubation centre for weather and climate startups under the NEAT initiative, with the WISE-2026 meet.

Mission SEHAT by ICMR and ICAR

Context: ICMR and ICAR jointly launched Mission SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation) in May 2026 to link agriculture, nutrition and public health. It is a mission-mode programme using a whole-of-government approach, designed to respond to malnutrition alongside rising hypertension, diabetes and cancer.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a mission-mode programme using a whole-of-government approach.
- It responds to malnutrition alongside rising hypertension, diabetes and cancer.

One Year of Operation Sindoor: Defence Priorities

Context: A year after Operation Sindoor, launched on 7 May 2025 with precision strikes on terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, the armed forces have set post-conflict priorities of underground infrastructure and a national air defence shield.

□ **Priorities**

- Underground command and control centres will be built, starting at Army Command and Corps HQ level, with C4I2SR networks shared across services.
- Other underground facilities include medical centres, living bunkers, ammunition and fuel storage, and 3D-printed bunkers, with emphasis on the western border.
- The Sudarshan Chakra Mission aims at a comprehensive national air defence shield; DRDO has submitted a pre-feasibility report.
- Akashteer is the Army's indigenous automated air defence control and reporting system, integrating with the IAF's IACCS and the Navy's TRIGUN.
- Large-scale counter-UAS procurement is planned, including integration with legacy L/70 guns.
- India disclosed destroying a large Pakistani airborne platform about 300 km away on 7 May.

□ **Dual-Use Infrastructure**

- The IAF conducted an Emergency Landing Field drill on the Purvanchal Expressway at Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, using Su-30MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000 and C-295 aircraft.
- Several border airfields have been opened for civil use.

Pakistan Inducts First Hangor-Class Submarine

Context: Pakistan commissioned its first Hangor-class submarine at Sanya in China in May 2026, the first of eight being acquired from China. The design is based on China's Type 039A (Yuan class) and is armed with torpedoes and anti-ship missiles, with Air-Independent Propulsion for longer submergence. A fleet of eight would shift the naval balance in the Indian Ocean Region.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The design is based on China's Type 039A (Yuan class).
- It is armed with torpedoes and anti-ship missiles and has Air-Independent Propulsion for longer submergence.
- A fleet of eight would shift the naval balance in the Indian Ocean Region.

Space Science: SMILE, Psyche and Chandrayaan-3 Hop

Context: A European-Chinese space weather mission launched, NASA's Psyche imaged Mars, and new findings emerged from Chandrayaan-3's hop experiment in May 2026. SMILE is a joint ESA and Chinese Academy of Sciences mission to image Earth's magnetosphere in soft X-rays, while the Chandrayaan-3 hop revealed a layered, denser regolith below the top 3 cm.

□ **Key Highlights**

- SMILE (Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer) is a joint ESA and Chinese Academy of Sciences mission launched on Vega-C, using soft X-ray imaging of Earth's magnetosphere.
- NASA's Psyche, launched in 2023, will reach asteroid 16 Psyche in 2029 after a Mars gravity assist.
- Chandrayaan-3 landed on 23 August 2023, making India the fourth country to soft-land on the Moon and the first near the south pole.
- In the hop experiment Vikram lifted about 50 cm and the ChaSTE probe was reinserted, revealing a layered, denser regolith below the top 3 cm.

DRDO Multi-Layer BMD and NASM-MR Tests

Context: DRDO demonstrated multi-layered defence against long-range ballistic missiles and an anti-ship capability at medium range, with Phase-II ballistic missile defence (BMD) testing completed in June 2026. Phase-II used AD-1 and AD-2 interceptors against 5,000 km-class missiles, while NASM-MR is an indigenous all-weather over-the-horizon cruise missile that demonstrated sea-skimming flight.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India's BMD programme was initiated by DRDO in 1999.
- Phase-I shields against threats up to 2,000 km using the exo-atmospheric Prithvi Defence Vehicle and endo-atmospheric Advanced Air Defence interceptor.
- In June 2026, Phase-II testing with AD-1 and AD-2 interceptors showed capability against 5,000 km-class missiles.
- Phase-III interceptors AD-AH and AD-AM aim at hypersonic glide vehicles and MIRVs.
- NASM-MR is an indigenous all-weather over-the-horizon cruise missile that demonstrated sea-skimming flight.

□ **Missile Classes**

- Short-range missiles go under 1,000 km, such as Prithvi-II.
- Medium-range is 1,000 to 3,000 km, such as Agni-II.
- Intermediate-range is 3,000 to 5,500 km, such as Agni-IV.
- ICBMs exceed 5,500 km, such as Agni-V.

Defence Tech: Netra FOC, BrahMos, RudraM-II, LRLACM

Context: DRDO achieved Final Operational Clearance for the Netra AEW&C system, and India signed a BrahMos deal with Vietnam at the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2026; new missile tests were also reported. Netra is an indigenous airborne early warning system on an Embraer EMB-145I with AESA radar, while tests included RudraM-II, an air-to-surface missile, and the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Netra got Initial Operational Clearance in 2015 and was inducted in the IAF in 2017.
- It is mounted on a Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I and uses AESA radar; India is the fifth country with indigenous AEW&C capability.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security approved six more AEW&C Mk-1A systems.
- BrahMos is a supersonic missile with Mach 2.8 speed and 290 km range; the Vietnam deal was signed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, organised by IISS.
- RudraM-II, an air-to-surface missile, was flight-tested; it was developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad.
- The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile, successor to Nirbhay, has a reported range of 1,000 km, with ADE Bengaluru as nodal laboratory.
- Russia offered India the fifth-generation Su-57 with joint production.

□ **Exercises**

- India will join the 23rd Khaan Quest in Mongolia.

Flex-Fuel Vehicles and E100 in India

Context: Maruti Suzuki launched India's first flex-fuel car in June 2026, able to run on any ethanol-petrol blend from E20 to E100, after India gave full legal recognition to E100 fuel. A fuel sensor detects the ethanol ratio and the Engine Control Unit adjusts injection and ignition timing. Brazil, with about 80 per cent flex-fuel fleet, is the reference model.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A fuel sensor detects the ethanol ratio and the Engine Control Unit adjusts injection and ignition timing.
- Ethanol has higher octane but lower energy density than petrol, so mileage drops.
- Concerns include food-versus-fuel competition and water stress from sugarcane.
- Brazil, with about 80 per cent flex-fuel fleet, is the reference model.
- India is likely to introduce blending of isobutanol, a four-carbon alcohol, with diesel.

India's Space Ambitions: Key Plans

Context: India aims at a 40 to 45 billion dollar space economy over the next decade, and lunar, solar and human spaceflight missions and reforms are shaping this goal, as discussed in June 2026. Planned missions include Chandrayaan-4 sample return, LUPEX with JAXA, a Venus Orbiter Mission in 2028 and the first Bharatiya Antariksh Station module in 2028, backed by IN-SPACe and NSIL.

□ **Missions**

- Chandrayaan-4 is a sample return mission and LUPEX (Chandrayaan-5) is a collaboration with JAXA on the lunar south pole.
- The Venus Orbiter Mission is planned for 2028.
- The first module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station is scheduled for 2028.

□ **Ecosystem**

- Space start-ups grew from 1 in 2014 to over 400.
- India has launched 399 foreign satellites and signed 300+ agreements with 61 nations.
- Reforms include Indian Space Policy 2023, IN-SPACe and NSIL; NavIC, Bhuvan and VEDAS serve citizens.

NITI Aayog Roadmap for Semiconductors

Context: NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a 10-year roadmap titled Future of India's Semiconductor Industry in June 2026. It envisions a 120 to 150 billion dollar semiconductor value chain by 2035 with India among the top 3 in advanced packaging and OSAT, resting on five pillars, and builds on India's 13 approved semiconductor projects.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The vision is a 120 to 150 billion dollar semiconductor value chain by 2035, with India among the top 3 in advanced packaging and OSAT.
- It seeks 135 to 180 billion dollars of cumulative investment over the decade.
- It rests on five pillars: Pioneering, Policy and Investment, Production, People and Partnership.
- It proposes an autonomous national nodal agency and single window clearance.
- India has 13 approved semiconductor projects and indigenous processors such as DHRUV64, SHAKTI, AJIT, VIKRAM and THEJAS.
- SPECS gives a 25 per cent incentive on capital expenditure for electronic components.

Navy Tri-Commissioning and Fourth S-400 Squadron

Context: The Navy commissioned INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray together at Kolkata in June 2026. India also received the fourth squadron of the Russian S-400 Triumf air defence system. All three ships were built by GRSE with over 75% indigenous components, and the S-400 deal of 5.43 billion dollars was signed in 2018 for five regiments.

□ **Three Ships**

- All three were built by GRSE, Kolkata, with over 75% indigenous components.
- INS Dunagiri is a Project 17A stealth guided-missile frigate of 149 m and 6,670 tonnes.
- INS Sanshodhak is the fourth and last Sandhayak-class survey vessel.
- INS Agray is an Arnala-class anti-submarine shallow water craft of 77 m and 900 tonnes.

□ **S-400**

- The S-400 deal of 5.43 billion dollars was signed in 2018 for five regiments.
- Three squadrons were inducted earlier and the fifth is expected in 2027.
- India is also developing an indigenous air defence ecosystem under the Sudarshan Chakra initiative.

SIPRI Yearbook 2026 Findings

Context: The SIPRI Yearbook 2026, released in June, reported a rise in nuclear warheads and a record global military expenditure. The world had about 12,187 nuclear warheads as of January 2026, with India holding an estimated 190, China 620 and Pakistan 170. Global military spending hit a record 2.9 trillion dollars in 2025, with India the 5th largest spender.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The world had about 12,187 nuclear warheads as of January 2026.
- India has an estimated 190 warheads, China 620 and Pakistan 170.
- Global military spending hit a record 2.9 trillion dollars in 2025, the 11th consecutive annual rise.
- India was the 5th largest spender at 92.1 billion dollars; the US spent 954 billion dollars.
- India remained the second-largest arms importer after Ukraine, with about 8 per cent share.
- Interstate armed conflicts doubled from 3 in 2024 to 6 in 2025.

Science Updates: Synthetic Biology, IMI Mustard, SkyCast, JWST

Context: A cluster of science and technology developments included IMI-resistant mustard hybrids, IIT Madras's brainstem atlas ANCHOR, JWST's methane detection on comet 3I/ATLAS and a new UN declaration on HIV/AIDS.

□ **Key Highlights**

- IMI-resistant mustard hybrids, developed by mutation breeding, resist herbicides that inhibit the ALS enzyme and help control the parasitic weed Orobanche.
- India imported around 16 million tonnes of edible oil worth nearly Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- JWST detected methane on interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS for the first time; it orbits Lagrange point 2.
- IIT Madras created ANCHOR, a 3D atlas of the human brainstem with over 200 nuclei and fibre tracts.
- ICAR-IIOR developed a biopolymer-based smart seed coating technology.
- The UNGA's HIV/AIDS declaration retains 95-95-95 targets for 2030.

World's Largest BESS and Hydrogen Developments

Context: Adani Green commissioned the world's largest single-location Battery Energy Storage System outside China at Khavda, Gujarat, and MNRE launched the Green Hydrogen Certification Portal; India's first hydrogen train was flagged off from Jind.

□ **BESS**

- The Khavda project is 3.37 GWh and uses lithium-ion batteries.
- India targets 47 GW of BESS by 2032, and its VGF scheme supports 4,000 MWh by 2030-31.
- India has committed to 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.

□ **Green Hydrogen**

- The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023 with Rs 19,744 crore outlay through FY 2029-30.
- Green hydrogen is defined as emitting not more than 2 kg CO2e per kg of H2, averaged over 12 months.
- SIGHT provides incentives for electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production; SHIP is a Rs 400 crore R&D scheme.
- The first green hydrogen train under Hydrogen for Heritage was flagged off from Jind, Haryana.
- Germany's Coradia iLint was the world's first commercial hydrogen train in 2018.

Anemia Mukt Bharat Revised and SUMAN Roadmap 2030

Context: The Health Ministry revised the operational guidelines of Anemia Mukt Bharat and launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 for maternal and newborn health in July 2026. The revised strategy, launched in 2018, expands from 6x6x6 to 7x7x7 by adding low birth weight babies as a seventh group, while the roadmap aims to bring the Maternal Mortality Ratio below 70 by 2030.

□ **Anemia Mukt Bharat**

- Launched in 2018, the strategy expands from 6x6x6 to 7x7x7, with low birth weight babies (0-6 months) as the seventh group.
- Intravenous iron therapy and iron-fortified foods are included.
- Anemia affects 67.1 per cent of children aged 6-59 months, 59.1 per cent of adolescent girls and 52.2 per cent of women aged 15-49.

□ **SUMAN Roadmap 2030**

- It aims to bring the Maternal Mortality Ratio below 70 by 2030; the current MMR is 87 (2022-24).
- Present IMR is 24 and NMR is 18.

- It targets 130 districts in 13 high-focus States including Uttar Pradesh.
- PMSMA offers free antenatal check-ups on the 9th of every month.

DRDO Tests Kusha Long-Range SAM

Context: DRDO carried out the maiden flight test of the indigenous Kusha long-range surface-to-air missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha. It intercepted an electronic target simulating a high-speed, high-altitude threat.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Long-range SAMs typically exceed 200 km range; the Russian S-400 reaches 400 km.
- Kusha will complement, not replace, the S-400.
- All elements, missiles, radars and command and control, are indigenous.
- It builds on last year's IADWS test as part of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, a multi-layered air defence shield planned over the next decade.
- Kusha has three interceptor variants of 150 km, 250 km and 350-400 km range and will be part of the Sudarshan Chakra air defence umbrella.
- The project was highlighted at the Advanced Weapon System Complex of DRDL, Hyderabad, as reducing reliance on foreign systems like the S-400.

Dengue Vaccine Approval, Private Turbofan and Quantum Chip

Context: Science and technology milestones were reported from mid-2026. CDSCO granted marketing authorisation in July 2026 to Takeda's Qdenga, the first dengue vaccine approved in India, and Paninian India unveiled Yantur, a 4.5 kN turbofan engine programme believed to be India's first privately developed turbofan in its class. Microsoft revealed the Majorana 2 topological quantum chip in June 2026.

□ **Health**

- CDSCO granted marketing authorisation in July 2026 to Takeda's Qdenga, a tetravalent live-attenuated vaccine; it is the first dengue vaccine approved in India.
- NABL launched an accreditation scheme for mobile food testing laboratories on 10 August 2026.

□ **Technology**

- Paninian India unveiled Yantur, a 4.5 kN turbofan engine programme, believed to be India's first privately developed turbofan in its class.
- Microsoft revealed the Majorana 2 topological quantum chip in June 2026, claiming a 1,000-fold reliability gain over the earlier generation.
- SpaceX launched two Falcon 9 rockets just 38 minutes apart on 15 August 2026, a record for a single provider; the earlier record was 65 minutes.
- China's Northwestern Polytechnical University navigated 116 autonomous underwater vehicles together, a Guinness record.

Digital Threat Report 2025-26 for BFSI

Context: MeitY, CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin and SISA released the second edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025-26 for India's banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector in July 2026. India recorded 2.9 million cyber incidents in 2025, up from around 1.4 million in 2021, and the report warns of AI phishing, deepfakes and 'harvest now, decrypt later' attacks.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India recorded 2.9 million cyber incidents in 2025, up from around 1.4 million in 2021.
- Offensive AI capabilities are growing faster than defences.
- Threats include AI phishing, deepfakes, synthetic identities, API abuse and Quishing.
- 'Harvest now, decrypt later' involves stealing encrypted data to break it with future quantum computers.
- Breaches occur when four gaps align: design, enforcement, signal and response.

□ **Recommendations**

- Prioritise resilience, identity assurance and continuous validation.
- Implement the DPDP Act 2023 and DPDP Rules 2025.
- India is not a signatory to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001.

INS Mahendragiri and INS Malvan Commissioned

Context: The Indian Navy commissioned the stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri at Visakhapatnam and the anti-submarine shallow water craft INS Malvan at Karwar in July 2026. INS Mahendragiri is the sixth of seven Project 17A Nilgiri-class frigates, built by Mazagon Dock with over 75 per cent indigenous content, while INS Malvan is the second Mahe-class craft, built by Cochin Shipyard.

□ **INS Mahendragiri**

- It is the sixth of seven Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigates (CODOG propulsion) inducted in one and a half years, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.
- It has over 75 per cent indigenous content with over 200 MSMEs involved, displaces about 6,670 tonnes and has a top speed of 28 knots.
- It carries BrahMos missiles and is named after the Mahendragiri range in the Eastern Ghats.

□ **INS Malvan**

- It is the second Mahe-class ASW Shallow Water Craft, built by Cochin Shipyard with over 80 per cent indigenous components.
- Its motto is 'Silent Claws' and its crest shows the Bagh Nakha.
- The Defence Acquisition Council cleared 16 such craft in 2013, split between Cochin Shipyard (Mahe-class) and GRSE (Arnala-class).

ISRO's SOLVE Motor Test

Context: ISRO ground-tested the Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE) solid motor at the Static Test Facility, Sriharikota. SOLVE is a testbed for validating Gaganyaan crew module systems.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Its solid stage is derived from the PSLV strap-on motor.
- It lifts the crew module to 10-17 km altitude to test escape, propulsion, parachute descent and splashdown.
- The Gaganyaan deceleration system uses 10 parachutes of four types: 2 apex cover separation, 2 drogue, 3 pilot and 3 main.
- The Integrated Air Drop Test drops a dummy crew module from an IAF Chinook at about 3 km over the sea.

India's First Hydrogen Train

Context: Indian Railways launched India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger train on the Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway in Haryana, a step towards decarbonising non-electrified routes.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It has two hydrogen driving power cars and eight passenger coaches, with capacity of around 2,600 passengers.
- Operating speed is about 75 km/h.
- A Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell generates electricity; the only emissions are water vapour and heat.
- A Lithium Ferro Phosphate battery stores surplus and regenerative braking energy.
- Hydrogen production, storage and refuelling facilities are set up at Jind.

India's First Satellite-Based Landing via GAGAN

Context: The DGCA conducted India's first satellite-based landing system approach on an IndiGo Airbus A320 at Udaipur airport using GAGAN in July 2026. GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation), developed jointly by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India, is a Satellite Based Augmentation System that improves GPS accuracy for civil aviation.

□ **Key Highlights**

- GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation is a Satellite Based Augmentation System developed jointly by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India. It provides real-time correction and integrity information to improve GPS accuracy for civil aviation.
- Elements include reference stations (INRES), master control centres (INMCC) and uplink stations (INLUS).
- GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15 carry GAGAN payloads.
- It is interoperable with the US WAAS, European EGNOS and Japan's MSAS.

□ **GAGAN versus NavIC**

- GAGAN is an augmentation system for GPS, while NavIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system.
- NavIC covers India and a region up to 1,500 km beyond its boundary.

NITI Aayog Roadmap for Bioeconomy by 2035

Context: NITI Aayog launched a blueprint titled 'Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035' in July 2026. India's bioeconomy grew from $10 billion in 2014 to $195.3 billion in 2025, about 4.8 per cent of GDP, and the roadmap targets $691 billion by 2035. It recommends six National BioMissions and a Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund.

□ **Status and Targets**

- The bioeconomy grew from $10 billion in 2014 to $195.3 billion in 2025, about 4.8 per cent of GDP.
- Targets: $392 billion by 2030, $691 billion by 2035 and $2.6 trillion by 2047.
- India has about 12,000 biotech start-ups.

□ **Recommendations**

- Six dedicated National BioMissions.
- A Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation framework.
- A Biomanufacturing PLI scheme and a regulatory sandbox.
- A National BioData Council and a BioEconomy Investment and Policy Forum.

□ **Existing Initiatives**

- BioE3 Policy, National Biopharma Mission and Biotech-KISAN.

NITI Aayog Roadmap to Make Ayurveda Global

Context: NITI Aayog released a Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global in July 2026. Ayurveda exports rose from $1.09 billion in 2014 to $2.16 billion in 2023, reaching about 150 countries, and Ayurveda is included in WHO's ICD-11 (Module 2). The roadmap recommends a Global Ayurveda Register, international Centres of Excellence and Ayush Visa packages.

□ **Status**

- Exports rose from $1.09 billion in 2014 to $2.16 billion in 2023 to about 150 countries.
- Ayurveda is included in WHO's ICD-11 (Module 2) and recognised in nearly 30 countries.

□ **Recommendations**

- A Global Ayurveda Register with WHO-aligned credentials.
- International Ayurveda Centres of Excellence.
- WHO-GMP upgradation of units and an international Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia.
- Medical value travel hubs and Ayush Visa packages.

Nuclear Process Heat Hydrogen Facility at Kalpakkam

Context: The Department of Atomic Energy inaugurated in July 2026 what is described as the world's first nuclear process heat-

based hydrogen production facility at Kalpakkam. It is a technology demonstrator using BARC's copper-chlorine thermochemical process, with heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ It is a technology demonstrator using the copper-chlorine thermochemical process developed by BARC.
- ➤ It uses heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.
- ➤ IGCAR was established in 1971; FBTR supported development of the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor.
- ➤ The Cu-Cl cycle splits water at relatively low temperatures with high efficiency.

Pinaka LRGR, Astra and Navy Exercises

Context: DRDO tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket, Indonesia became the first buyer of Astra missiles and the Navy hosted a multinational readiness exercise in July 2026. Pinaka LRGR was tested at 60 km at ITR Chandipur, Astra Mk1 is a beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile, and Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 was held at Kochi under CTF 154.

□ **Rocket and Missile**

- ➤ Pinaka LRGR was tested at 60 km at ITR Chandipur; its range is 60-120 km.
- ➤ Astra Mk1 is a beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile with 80-110 km range and speed of Mach 4.5; Indonesia is the first country to sign for it.

□ **Exercises**

- ➤ The Navy hosted Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 at Kochi, its first edition in India, under CTF 154 with Combined Maritime Forces.

Qdenga, ZAYNICH and Cell-Gene Therapy Rules

Context: India approved Takeda's Qdenga, its first dengue vaccine, and the Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended to bring advanced cell and gene therapies under uniform regulation. Wockhardt's ZAYNICH became the first new chemical entity fully discovered, developed and commercialised by an Indian pharma company to win US FDA approval in May 2026.

□ **QDENGA**

- ➤ Qdenga is a live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine developed by Takeda GmbH of Germany using recombinant DNA technology, made in Vero cells on a DENV-2 backbone, with WHO prequalification.
- ➤ It is for people aged 4-60 years, given in two doses three months apart with no pre-vaccination screening, and showed protection for up to 7 years across all four serotypes.
- ➤ Approval came from the DCGI/CDSCO.

□ **Drugs Rules Amendment**

- ➤ Cell or stem cell derived products, gene therapeutic products and xenografts now come under the Centrally Licence Approving Authority framework of CDSCO.
- ➤ The framework already covers vaccines, large volume parenterals and r-DNA medicines.

□ **ZAYNICH**

- ➤ It combines cefepime and zidebactam as an intravenous antibiotic of the beta-lactam enhancer class.
- ➤ It treats complicated urinary tract infections caused by multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria.

Space Sector: IN-SPACe Re-entry Rule and Reusable Rockets

Context: IN-SPACe made its approval mandatory for any planned re-entry of a space object in July 2026, while Japan's JAXA tested a reusable rocket prototype. The rule applies to Indian and non-Indian entities, within or outside Indian territory, with expected casualty risk below 1 in 10,000. IN-SPACe is the autonomous single-window agency in the Department of Space.

□ **IN-SPACe**

- ➤ Approval is required from Indian and non-Indian entities, whether re-entry is within or outside Indian territory.
- ➤ It is an autonomous single-window agency in the Department of Space headquartered at Ahmedabad.
- ➤ It acts as the interface between ISRO and non-government entities.
- ➤ Expected casualty risk must be below 1 in 10,000, and NOTAM and NAVAREA warnings must be arranged 45 days in advance.

□ **Reusable Rockets**

- ➤ JAXA successfully conducted the first lift-off and landing test of a prototype reusable rocket, and China achieved its first reusable rocket landing.
- ➤ SpaceX pioneered operational reuse with Falcon 9.
- ➤ ISRO's RLV programme has demonstrated autonomous runway landing through RLV-LEX.

Vikram-1: India's First Private Orbital Rocket

Context: Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, placed technology demonstration satellites into Low Earth Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Its maiden mission was Aagaman.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ It follows the suborbital Vikram-S of 2022, which reached about 89 km.
- ➤ Vikram-1 is a four-stage rocket with three solid stages and a restartable liquid upper stage.
- ➤ It can carry 350 kg to LEO or 260 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit, targeting a 450 km orbit.
- ➤ It has an all-carbon composite structure and 3D-printed liquid engines.
- ➤ Payloads included SOLARAS CubeSat by Grahaa Space and in-orbit demonstrators by Dcubed GmbH of Germany.
- ➤ India becomes the third country after the US and China to show private orbital launch capability.

WAICO and AI for Good Global Commission

Context: China launched the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) in Shanghai in July 2026, while the ITU-led AI for Good Global Commission named its founding members. WAICO has 29 members including Russia and Pakistan, and India is not a member. The Commission has over 40 founding members from heads of state, industry and UN agencies.

□ WAICO

- It was formally established on 16 July 2026 with headquarters in Shanghai.
- It has 29 members including Indonesia, Brazil, Malaysia, South Africa, Senegal, Russia and Pakistan; India is not a member.
- It aims to promote AI cooperation and shape global AI regulation with Global South access.
- China's Moonshot AI also introduced Kimi K3, a 2.8-trillion-parameter open-weight model.

□ AI for Good Global Commission

- It has over 40 founding members drawn from heads of state, industry and UN agencies and is led by the International Telecommunication Union.
- ITU is a UN agency established in 1865, headquartered in Geneva.

Defence Procurement and Indigenisation Updates

Context: India tested the Agni-4 missile, signed deals for Javelin missiles and leased MQ-9B drones, and notified a new indigenisation list in August 2026. The Strategic Forces Command test-fired Agni-4 (range up to 4,000 km) from Chandipur, Odisha, and the sixth Positive Indigenisation List has 405 items worth Rs 3,070 crore.

□ Missiles and Platforms

- The Strategic Forces Command test-fired Agni-4 from Chandipur, Odisha; it has a range up to 4,000 km, two-stage solid propulsion and a 1,000 kg payload.
- India agreed to buy the Javelin anti-tank missile, a fire-and-forget system with 2.5 km effective range and a top-attack mode climbing to 150 m.
- The Defence Ministry signed a contract with General Atomics to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones for the Navy for 30 months.
- The Defence Ministry approved transfer of technology of DRDO's conventional missiles to private industry.

□ Indigenisation

- The sixth Positive Indigenisation List has 405 items worth Rs 3,070 crore.
- The earlier five lists had 5,012 items, of which 3,200 are already indigenised.

GISAT-1A and ISRO's Return to Flight

Context: After a seven-month break following back-to-back PSLV-C61 and C62 failures, ISRO prepared in August 2026 to resume launches with GISAT-1A (EOS-05) on GSLV-F17. It is India's first imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit, at about 36,000 km, and replaces GISAT-1 (EOS-03), which failed to reach orbit in 2021. Applications include disaster monitoring, agriculture, forestry and land use.

□ Key Highlights

- It is India's first imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit, at about 36,000 km, with a mission life of 10 years. GSLV-F17 is the 19th GSLV flight from Sriharikota.
- A study found India's launch cost was about USD 13,302 per kg to LEO in 2025 against a global average of USD 3,868.
- India conducted only 5 launches in 2025.
- It replaces GISAT-1 (EOS-03), which failed to reach orbit in 2021.
- Applications include disaster monitoring, agriculture, forestry and land use.

NASA Moon Base Invitation to ISRO

Context: At the 9th India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting in Bengaluru in August 2026, NASA formally invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme under the Artemis Accords. India became the 27th signatory of the Accords in 2023. The Moon Base aims for a long-term outpost near the lunar South Pole, where permanently shadowed regions may hold water ice.

□ Key Highlights

- The Artemis Accords were established in 2020; India became the 27th signatory in 2023 and Mauritius the 70th in July 2026.
- The Moon Base aims for a long-term outpost near the lunar South Pole, where permanently shadowed regions may hold water ice.
- Phases: Access and Learn (to 2029), Build and Expand (2029-2032) and Live and Work (2032 onwards).
- ISRO can contribute via Chandrayaan, Chandrayaan-4 sample return and Gaganyaan; India plans Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035 and a crewed lunar mission by 2040.
- China and Russia are planning the International Lunar Research Station.

Private Space Milestones: EVEREST and PowerBank-50

Context: Indian space startups reached milestones. Astrobase unveiled EVEREST, the country's first privately built full-flow staged combustion engine, and TakeMe2Space's PowerBank-50 earned flight heritage.

□ EVEREST

- It is an 800 kN LOX-Methane engine, making India the fourth country after Russia, the US and China with FFSC technology.
- It is more than 70 percent indigenous and uses large-scale 3D printing.
- Hot-fire tests are planned at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, with first flight targeted for December 2028.

- The IN-SPACe Technology Adoption Fund is a Rs 500 crore scheme funding up to 60 percent for startups and MSMEs, capped at Rs 25 crore.

□ **PowerBank-50**

- The satellite battery pack stores more than 50 Wh and weighs 380 g.
- It earned flight heritage aboard Skyroot's Vikram-1 during the Aagaman mission.

Science and Health Innovations from India

Context: Indian institutions reported advances in animal health, speech technology and propulsion research in August 2026. ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal developed India's first indigenous live attenuated African Swine Fever vaccine, IISc built the SraVaani speech recognition model for 65 Indian languages and dialects, and D-Propulse demonstrated a rotating detonation engine at a DRDO facility in Hyderabad.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal developed India's first indigenous live attenuated African Swine Fever vaccine, based on an MA-104 cell line.
- ASF was first detected in India in 2020 and has near 100 percent mortality.
- IISc's SPIRE Lab with ARTPARK and Google built SraVaani, a speech recognition model for 65 Indian languages and dialects.
- D-Propulse demonstrated a rotating detonation engine at a DRDO facility in Hyderabad.
- University of Hyderabad patented HYDERACENE, a polymer burn-rate catalyst for solid rocket propellants.

□ **Global Science**

- NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope launched on 30 August 2026 aboard a Falcon Heavy; it has a 2.4 m mirror.
- India's CSIR-CMERI designed beam catchers for the FAIR facility in Darmstadt, Germany.

Australe Basin: Hidden Lunar Impact Basin

Context: Scientists at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, identified a previously untraced lunar impact basin, the Australe Basin, in September 2026 using data from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper on Chandrayaan-1. It lies in the southeastern lunar hemisphere near the south polar region, was missed by conventional imaging because its rim eroded, and may guide sample-return missions such as Chandrayaan-4.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It lies in the southeastern lunar hemisphere near the south polar region.
- Its rim eroded over time, so conventional imaging missed it.
- It may be older than the roughly 4-billion-year-old South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- It holds low-calcium, magnesium-rich basalts and 248 small basalt ponds in a circular arrangement.
- It may guide sample-return missions such as Chandrayaan-4.

Copyright Office on AI-Generated Works and Authorship

Context: India's Copyright Office has clarified that an AI system cannot be recognised as a legal author, even though an AI-generated work may meet the originality requirement for copyright. The ruling concerned the AI system DABUS and separates originality from authorship and ownership.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Section 13 protects original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works, but the Act does not define originality. In Eastern Book Company v. D.B. Modak, the Supreme Court held that a work need not be novel but must show a minimum degree of creativity.
- Section 2(d)(vi) names the author of a computer-generated work as the person who causes the work to be created.
- Section 17 makes the author the first owner, and Sections 18-19 allow assignment of copyright through valid agreements.
- Since DABUS has no legal personality, it cannot hold or transfer copyright.
- In the Suryast case, the Copyright Office had registered the RAGHAV AI Painting App as co-author with artist Ankit Sahni; the registration was later questioned.
- In the USA, copyright generally requires human authorship, so purely AI-generated works are not protected.
- The UK and Ireland link authorship of computer-generated works to the person who makes the arrangements for creation.
- China may protect AI-generated works that reflect human intellectual investment, but does not treat AI as an author.

DoT Financial Fraud Risk Indicator

Context: The Department of Telecommunications' Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), launched in May 2025, has helped prevent suspected cyber-fraud losses of more than Rs 5,000 crore within 15 months, as reported in September 2026. FRI classifies mobile numbers as Medium, High or Very High risk, so banks and UPI platforms can warn, delay, flag or decline suspicious transactions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- FRI classifies mobile numbers as Medium, High or Very High risk using inputs from I4C, the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, Chakshu, banks and financial institutions.
- It is developed under the Digital Intelligence Platform, launched in 2024.
- Banks and UPI platforms can warn, delay, flag or decline suspicious transactions.
- It shifts fraud management from reactive recovery to proactive prevention.

ICMR Study on Antimicrobial Resistance

Context: An ICMR study across 20 tertiary-care hospitals covering 1.59 lakh hospitalised patients between 2022 and 2025 highlights the growing threat from carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacteria.

□ **Key Highlights**

- AMR occurs when microorganisms develop resistance to medicines used against them.
- Major drivers include irrational antibiotic use, weak infection control, poor sanitation and antimicrobial use in livestock.
- India's response includes the National Action Plan on AMR 2.0, the ICMR AMR Surveillance Network and NCDC coordination.
- India follows a One Health approach linking human, animal and environmental sectors.
- The Davos Compact on AMR by the World Economic Forum aims to save over 100 million lives by 2050.
- About 6 lakh Indians die yearly from resistant infections; National Action Plan on AMR 2.0 runs 2025-2029.
- Nafithromycin, India's first indigenous antibiotic, was launched in 2024.

INS Nipun and Diving Support Vessels

Context: The Indian Navy commissioned INS Nipun, the second Nistar-class diving support vessel, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in September 2026. The first, INS Nistar, was commissioned in July 2025. A diving support vessel sustains complex underwater operations such as submarine rescue and inspection, and the 9,000-tonne ship strengthens the Western Naval Command's deep-sea diving capability.

□ **Key Highlights**

- A diving support vessel sustains complex underwater operations such as submarine rescue and underwater inspection.
- The 9,000-tonne vessel will strengthen the Western Naval Command's deep-sea diving capability.
- The Navy earlier relied on Russian-origin submarine rescue vessels and shore diving units.

Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026

Context: The Consumer Affairs Ministry notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, making IST a legally enforceable time reference for official and commercial activities under the idea of One Nation, One Time.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Relevant systems, especially in critical sectors, must use time traceable to IST.
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory maintains India's official time with atomic clocks as UTC (NPLI); IST equals UTC (NPLI) plus 5 hours 30 minutes.
- Time is passed on through NTP, PTP, NavIC satellite links and White Rabbit fibre technology.
- Regional Reference Standard Laboratories under the Department of Legal Metrology keep secondary time scales traceable to NPL.
- The rules mainly affect finance, telecom, power, defence and space, and reduce dependence on GPS and foreign time servers.
- White Rabbit, developed by CERN, gives sub-nanosecond synchronisation over a single optical fibre; a demonstration IST network was inaugurated at the Regional Reference Standards Laboratory, Bengaluru.
- IST is based on the 82 degree 30 minute E meridian passing through Mirzapur.

National Formulary of India 7th Edition and Biovigilance Programme

Context: The Union Minister of State for Health launched the 7th Edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI) and announced a Biovigilance Programme in September 2026 to widen India's patient-safety net. NFI 2026 has 653 drug monographs aligned with the National List of Essential Medicines, while the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission will lead the programme monitoring adverse events linked to biological products.

□ **National Formulary of India**

- First published in 1960, it has been published periodically by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission since 2009.
- NFI 2026 has 34 chapters, 20 appendices and 653 drug monographs, including 42 fixed-dose combinations and 30 immunological products.
- Monographs are aligned with the National List of Essential Medicines.
- It is available digitally as NFI Online.

□ **Biovigilance Programme**

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission will lead the programme.
- It monitors adverse events linked to biological products used in organ and tissue transplantation.
- It complements pharmacovigilance for medicines and materiovigilance for medical devices.

TRISHNA Mission and Sagar Manthan Research Vessel

Context: PSLV is set to launch the Indo-French TRISHNA Earth-observation satellite next year, while GRSE launched the indigenous ocean research vessel Sagar Manthan for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.

□ **TRISHNA**

- TRISHNA stands for Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment.
- It is a joint mission of ISRO and France's CNES to monitor land surface temperature, evapotranspiration and vegetation.
- CNES develops the thermal infrared payload and ISRO develops the VNIR-SWIR payload.

□ **Sagar Manthan**

- The vessel costs Rs 840 crore and is expected in early 2028.
- It can do research up to 6 km depth, including seismic and multibeam surveys and CTD profiling.
- It will launch AUVs and ROVs and cover the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Southern Ocean.

Culture and Tourism

Current Notes

Somnath Swabhiman Parv and Bhadrakali Inscription

Context: The Somnath Swabhiman Parv is being observed in January 2026 to mark 1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's first attack on the Somnath temple in 1026 CE. The temple at Prabhas Patan near Veraval, Gujarat, is regarded as the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas, and a 1169 CE Bhadrakali inscription at the site records its construction by Bhimadeva Solanki.

□ Key Highlights

- Located at Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Gujarat, at the Triveni confluence of Kapila, Hiran and Saraswati rivers. It is regarded as the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas.
- The present temple is in Maru-Gurjara (Chalukya or Solanki) style with a garbhagriha, sabhamandapa and nrityamandapa, a 150 feet shikhara and a 10-tonne kalash.
- Kalidasa's Raghuvamsha, Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind and Amir Khusro's Khazain-ul-Futuh mention the temple.

□ History

- Mahmud of Ghazni attacked the temple in 1026 CE during the reign of Bhima I.
- It was destroyed again in 1297, 1394 and 1706 (on Aurangzeb's orders), and plundered 17 times in total.
- Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt a temple there around 1783.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel began its reconstruction after 1947 and President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated it on 11 May 1951.

□ Bhadrakali Inscription

- A 1169 CE inscription at Prabhas Patan in the wall of the ancient Bhadrakali temple.
- It is a eulogy of Acharya Bhava-Brihaspati, spiritual guru of Solanki king Kumarapala.
- It records that the temple was built in gold, silver, wood and finally in stone by Bhimadeva Solanki.

Bharat GI, Tamil Brahmi Egypt and Ol Chiki

Context: Three heritage items featured in February 2026: Bharat GI, a DPIIT umbrella initiative for global showcasing of India's GI products, was unveiled; Tamil Brahmi inscriptions dating to the 1st to 3rd centuries CE were found in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, naming traders such as Cikai Korran; and the Ol Chiki script, developed by Raghunath Murmu in 1925 for Santhali, completed 100 years.

□ Key Highlights

- Bharat GI is a DPIIT umbrella initiative for global showcasing of GI products.
- Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Egypt date to the 1st to 3rd centuries CE and name traders such as Cikai Korran.
- Tamil Brahmi was in use between 300 BC and 100 AD.
- Ol Chiki was developed in 1925 by Raghunath Murmu for the Santhali language.
- Santhali belongs to the Austroasiatic family and was added to the Eighth Schedule by the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.

Devnimori Relics, Ol Chiki Centenary and Bastar Pandum

Context: Cultural events in February 2026 included the exposition of Devnimori Buddha relics in Sri Lanka, centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script with a commemorative coin and stamp, and the Bastar Pandum festival. The relics come from the Devnimori site near Shamlaji in Aravalli district, Gujarat, and the casket inscription reads 'dashabala sharira nilay' in Brahmi script and Sanskrit. Bastar Pandum is a State-organised tribal festival in Chhattisgarh.

□ Devnimori Relics

- The relics come from the Devnimori site near Shamlaji in Aravalli district, Gujarat, first explored in 1957 by S.N. Chowdhry.
- The casket inscription reads 'dashabala sharira nilay' in Brahmi script and Sanskrit.

□ Ol Chiki and Festivals

- A commemorative coin and stamp were released for the centenary.
- Bastar Pandum is a State-organised tribal festival in Chhattisgarh with over 700 artists across twelve disciplines.
- Thaipusam honours Lord Murugan, who received the Vel from Goddess Parvati.

Indus Valley Civilization Sites at a Glance

Context: A quick comparison of important Indus Valley Civilization sites, their locations, excavators and distinctive features, compiled in February 2026 for revision. Harappa was the first site discovered, Rakhigarhi in Hisar is recognised as the largest, Dholavira was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021, Chanhu-daro is the only city without a citadel and Lothal has the world's earliest dockyard.

□ Key Highlights

- Harappa was the first IVC site discovered and has coffin burials.
- Rakhigarhi in Hisar is recognised as the largest IVC site.
- Dholavira is divided into three parts and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.
- Chanhu-daro is the only IVC city without a citadel.
- Lothal has the world's earliest dockyard.

IVC sites

Site	Location and excavator	Key feature
Harappa	Ravi, Pakistan; Daya Ram Sahni (1921)	First site discovered; six granaries

Kalibangan	Ghaggar, Hanumangarh; B.B. Lal and B.K. Thapar	Earliest ploughed field; fire altars
Banawali	Fatehabad, Haryana; R.S. Bisht (1974)	Radial planning; no systematic drainage
Rakhigarhi	Hisar, Haryana	Largest IVC site; over 350 hectares
Mohenjo-daro	Indus, Larkana; R.D. Banerji (1922)	Great Bath; Dancing Girl
Chanhu-daro	Sindh; N.G. Majumdar (1931)	No citadel; bead making
Sutkagen Dor	Dasht River, Makran	Westernmost; coastal port
Dholavira	Khadir Bet, Kutch; R.S. Bisht	Three-part city; 16 reservoirs
Surkotada	Kutch; J.P. Joshi (1964)	Horse bones
Lothal	Gulf of Khambhat; S.R. Rao (1954)	Dockyard; Persian Gulf seal

National Days of India: Dates and Themes

Context: Important national days of India, with their dates and 2025-26 themes, are compiled here for quick revision since they are often asked in matching questions. National Space Day is observed on 23 August and National Science Day on 28 February, while National Youth Day (12 January) honours Swami Vivekananda and National Voters' Day (25 January) marks the founding of the Election Commission.

□ Key Highlights

- National Space Day is observed on 23 August; National Science Day on 28 February.
- National Youth Day (12 January) honours Swami Vivekananda; National Voters' Day (25 January) marks the founding of the Election Commission.
- National Mathematics Day (22 December) commemorates Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- National Pollution Control Day falls on 2 December.

National days

Day	Date	Theme / Note
National Cancer Awareness Day	7 Nov	-
National Education Day	11 Nov	-
Constitution Day	26 Nov	-
National Pollution Control Day	2 Dec	Sustainable Living for a Greener Future
National Energy Conservation Day	14 Dec	-
National Mathematics Day	22 Dec	-
National Consumer Rights Day	24 Dec	-
Good Governance Day	25 Dec	-
National Youth Day	12 Jan	Ignite the Self, Impact the World
National Girl Child Day	24 Jan	Empowering Girls for a Sustainable Future
National Voters' Day	25 Jan	My India, My Vote
National Tourism Day	25 Jan	-
Safer Internet Day	10 Feb	Smart tech, safe choices: safe and responsible use of AI
National Science Day	28 Feb	Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat
National Statistics Day	29 Jun	Data for Development
Kargil Vijay Diwas	26 Jul	-
National Flag Day	22 Jul	-
National Handloom Day	7 Aug	-
Indian Akshay Urja Day	20 Aug	-
National Space Day	23 Aug	Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership
National Sports Day	29 Aug	Khelo India Samvaad - Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath
National Small Industry Day	30 Aug	-
National Teachers' Day	5 Sep	-

UN International Years Announced for 2026-2029

Context: The United Nations has declared a series of international years for 2026 to 2029, which are useful for the exam. 2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer and also the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, 2027 will be the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism, and 2029 will be the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence.

□ Key Highlights

- 2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- 2026 is also the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.
- 2027 will be the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.
- 2029 will be the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence.
- International Day of Charity is observed on 5 September.

Chapchar Kut and Return of Thirumangai Alvar Statue

Context: In March 2026 Mizoram celebrated Chapchar Kut, its spring festival held after jhum clearing, and the Ashmolean Museum returned a 16th-century bronze statue of Saint Thirumangai Alvar. Thirumangai Alvar is the last of the twelve Alvars, and his main work Periya Tirumoli has 1084 hymns within the 4,000-hymn Divya Prabandham.

□ Key Highlights

- Chapchar Kut is Mizoram's spring festival, held after jhum clearing, with theme 'Zo nun ze mawi - Inremna'.
- Thirumangai Alvar is the last of the twelve Alvars; his main work is Periya Tirumoli with 1084 hymns.
- The Divya Prabandham has 4,000 Tamil hymns.

World Days Jan-Mar 2026: Dates and Themes

Context: The UN and international days observed in the first quarter of 2026 carried new themes, which are regularly used for matching questions. World Water Day (22 March) focuses on water and gender, the International Day of Forests (21 March) on forests and economies, and World Wildlife Day is dedicated to medicinal and aromatic plants. Dates and themes of such days are standard exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- World Water Day (22 March) 2026 focuses on water and gender; International Day of Forests (21 March) on forests and economies.
- International Women's Day 2026 carries the theme of rights, justice and action for all women and girls.
- World Wildlife Day 2026 is dedicated to medicinal and aromatic plants.
- World Hindi Day (10 January) is observed to promote the Hindi language globally.

Days of January-March 2026

Day	Date	Theme
World Hindi Day	10 Jan	Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence
International Day of Education	24 Jan	The power of youth in co-creating education
World Leprosy Day	25 Jan	Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma
World Wetlands Day	2 Feb	Wetlands and traditional knowledge: celebrating cultural heritage
World Cancer Day	4 Feb	United by Unique
Int'l Day of Human Fraternity	4 Feb	Dialogue Over Division
Zero Tolerance for FGM Day	6 Feb	Towards 2030: No End to FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment
World Pulses Day	10 Feb	Pulses of the world: from modesty to excellence
World Radio Day	13 Feb	Radio and AI: AI is a tool, not a voice
Int'l Mother Language Day	21 Feb	Youth voices on multilingual education
Rare Disease Day	28 Feb	More Than You Can Imagine
World Civil Defence Day	1 Mar	Managing environmental risks for a resilient and sustainable future
World Wildlife Day	3 Mar	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods
World Obesity Day	4 Mar	8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity
International Women's Day	8 Mar	Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls
World Sleep Day	13 Mar	Sleep Well, Live Better
Int'l Day of Mathematics	14 Mar	Mathematics and Hope
World Consumer Rights Day	15 Mar	Safe Products, Confident Consumers
Int'l Day of Happiness	20 Mar	Social Media and Happiness
Int'l Day of Forests	21 Mar	Forests and Economies
World Down Syndrome Day	21 Mar	Together Against Loneliness
Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day	21 Mar	Mobilizing political will: 60 years of commemoration
World Water Day	22 Mar	Water and Gender
World Meteorological Day	23 Mar	Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow
World TB Day	24 Mar	Yes! We can end TB

Piprahwa Relics and Kapilavastu

Context: The sacred Piprahwa relics arrived in Leh on Buddha Purnima in April 2026. The relics were found at Piprahwa in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh, which is widely identified with ancient Kapilavastu, capital of the Shakya republic. They were discovered in 1898 by William Claxton Peppe, and gems linked to them were repatriated from a British family in July 2025.

□ Key Highlights

- Piprahwa lies near the Nepal border and is widely identified with Kapilavastu, capital of the Shakya republic.
- The relics were discovered in 1898 by William Claxton Peppe while excavating a stupa.
- A Brahmi inscription on a casket indicates the Shakyas deposited the relics.
- ASI excavations in the 1970s revealed more relics and showed the stupa was enlarged, possibly in the Mauryan period.
- Gems and offerings linked to the relics were repatriated from a British family in July 2025.

Rock-Cut Caves of India

Context: India has a rich tradition of rock-cut architecture spanning Mauryan to early medieval times. The major cave sites differ in religion, period and location and are frequently asked in heritage questions.

□ Key Highlights

- Barabar caves (Jehanabad, Bihar, about 250 BCE) are the earliest rock-cut caves with polished walls and belong to the Ajivika sect.
- Jogimara caves (Surguja, Chhattisgarh, 3rd century BCE) hold early murals and a Brahmi inscription mentioning Devadasi Sutnuka.
- Hathigumpha inscription of King Kharavela is at Udayagiri-Khandagiri in Khurda, Odisha.
- Pandavleni caves in Nashik contain the Gautami Balashri inscription on the Satavahanas.
- Ajanta caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983 and contain the Padmapani Bodhisattva painting.

- Elephanta caves in Mumbai Harbour hold the Trimurti Shiva sculpture and are a UNESCO site.

Major Rock-Cut Caves

Cave	Location	Period / Religion	Key Feature
Bagh	Dhar, Madhya Pradesh	5th-7th century CE; Mahayana Buddhism	Mural paintings of Jataka tales
Udayagiri (MP)	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh	4th-5th century CE; Hinduism	Varaha avatar sculpture in Cave 5
Ajanta	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra	2nd century BCE-6th century CE; mostly Buddhism	Murals of Jataka tales; UNESCO 1983
Pandavleni	Nashik, Maharashtra	1st century BCE-3rd century CE; Hinayana	Gautami Balashri inscription
Elephanta	Mumbai Harbour, Maharashtra	5th-8th century CE; Shaivism	Trimurti Shiva sculpture
Badami	Bagalkot, Karnataka	6th century CE; Hinduism and Jainism	Chalukya carvings
Barabar	Jehanabad, Bihar	About 250 BCE; Ajivika	Polished granite walls
Udayagiri-Khandagiri	Khurda, Odisha	1st-2nd century BCE; Jainism	Hathigumpha inscription
Jogimara	Surguja, Chhattisgarh	3rd century BCE	Earliest murals; Brahmi inscription
Undavalli	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	4th-5th century CE	Reclining Vishnu from a single block

GI-Tagged Products in News: Pilibhit Bansuri to Salem Sago

Context: A set of Geographical Indication products featured in the news in May 2026, including Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit Bansuri, a handcrafted bamboo flute that received its GI tag in 2024. India has over 650 registered GI tags, with Tamil Nadu leading with 56. Other products include Sulai Honey, Muga Silk, Vasmat Haldi, Ponduru Khadi and Salem Sago.

□ Key Highlights

- Pilibhit Bansuri from Uttar Pradesh received its GI tag in 2024 and is a handcrafted bamboo flute.
- Sulai Honey from Ramban, Jammu and Kashmir, got its tag in 2021.
- Joha Rice (2017) and Muga Silk (2007) are Assam products; Muga silk is called Golden Silk.
- Tai Khamti Textile (Arunachal Pradesh) and Tripura Risa Textile were tagged in 2024.
- Vasmat Haldi of Maharashtra (2024) has curcumin content of 3-8 per cent.
- Hupari Silver Craft of Kolhapur (2021) is known for ghungroos and anklets.
- Ponduru Khadi of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh (2025) uses a Valuga fish jawbone for cleaning cotton.
- Salem Sago of Tamil Nadu (2023) is tapioca starch pearls.

GI products and states

Product	State	GI year
Pilibhit Bansuri	Uttar Pradesh	2024
Sulai Honey	Jammu and Kashmir	2021
Joha Rice	Assam	2017
Muga Silk	Assam	2007
Tai Khamti Textile	Arunachal Pradesh	2024
Tripura Risa Textile	Tripura	2024
Vasmat Haldi	Maharashtra	2024
Hupari Silver Craft	Maharashtra	2021
Ponduru Khadi	Andhra Pradesh	2025
Salem Sago	Tamil Nadu	2023

Ru-Soam Cane Bridges, Algoza and Somnath Swabhiman Parv

Context: Cultural news in May 2026 included UNESCO's documentation of Sikkim's Ru-Soam cane and bamboo bridges built by the Lepcha community, a Padma Shri for Algoza player Taga Ram Bheel, and the Somnath Swabhiman Parv. The Parv marks 1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's 1026 raid and 75 years since the 1951 reopening of Somnath by President Rajendra Prasad.

□ Key Highlights

- Ru-Soam are cane and bamboo bridges built by the Lepcha community in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve; several withstood the 2023 glacial lake outburst flood.
- Algoza is a double-flute folk instrument of Rajasthan and Punjab requiring circular breathing.
- The Somnath Swabhiman Parv marks 1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's 1026 raid and 75 years since the 1951 reopening by President Rajendra Prasad.
- Somnath, at Prabhas Patan near Veraval, Gujarat, is the first of the twelve Jyotirlingas, built in Maru-Gurjara (Chaulukya) style.

Gyan Bharatam Mission and Manuscript Survey

Context: In June 2026 the Gyan Bharatam National Survey of Manuscripts was reported to have mapped over 1 crore manuscripts across the country. The Mission was announced in Union Budget 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 491.66 crore for 2025 to 2031, with the Ministry of Culture as nodal ministry, and over 44.07 lakh manuscripts are documented on the Kriti Sampada repository.

□ Key Highlights

- The Mission was announced in Union Budget 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 491.66 crore for 2025 to 2031.
- The Ministry of Culture is nodal; the National Mission for Manuscripts (2003) has been restructured into it as a Central Sector Scheme.
- Over 44.07 lakh manuscripts are documented on the Kriti Sampada repository.
- A manuscript must be at least 75 years old; the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 bars private export of such manuscripts.

□ **UNESCO Memory of the World**

- ➤ Rigveda manuscripts were inscribed in 2007.
- ➤ Gilgit Manuscripts, India's oldest, were inscribed in 2017.
- ➤ Manuscripts of Natyashastra of Bharatamuni and the Bhagavad Gita were inscribed in 2025.

Harappan Artefacts and Dancing Girl

Context: In June 2026 NCERT modified and then restored the original image of the Harappan Dancing Girl in a Class 9 textbook, bringing Harappan artefacts into focus. The Dancing Girl is a bronze figurine from Mohenjo-daro, dated roughly 2600 to 1900 BCE and kept in the National Museum, New Delhi. Other key artefacts include the Priest-King, Pashupati Seal and Dholavira gameboard.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ The Dancing Girl is a bronze figurine from Mohenjo-daro, dated roughly 2600 to 1900 BCE, discovered in 1926 under John Marshall and kept in the National Museum, New Delhi.
- ➤ The Priest-King sculpture from Mohenjo-daro is made of steatite.
- ➤ The Pashupati Seal shows a three-faced deity surrounded by animals.
- ➤ Seals carry an undeciphered pictographic script written in boustrophedon style.
- ➤ Fire altars were found at Kalibangan and Lothal; carnelian beads were produced at Chanhudaro and Lothal.
- ➤ A gameboard engraved on stone was found at Dholavira.

Jharkhand's 11 New GI Tags

Context: In June 2026 eleven traditional products of Jharkhand received Geographical Indication tags, including textiles, crafts, paintings and a sweet. The list covers Bhoya Saree, Kuchai Silk Saree, Kesaria Kalakand, Dokra Craft, Tumka Chadar, Baroni Paintings, Munda Jewellery, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, Tussar Silk and Sarees, Jadopatia Painting and Pancho Saree and Fabric.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Kuchai Silk is made in Seraikela-Kharsawan district from Tussar silk.
- ➤ Kesaria Kalakand is associated with Jhumri Tilaiya in Koderma district.
- ➤ Jadopatia comes from Jadu (magic) and Pat (scroll).

□ **Newly Tagged**

- ➤ Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kuchai Silk Saree, Kesaria Kalakand, Dokra Craft and Tumka Chadar.
- ➤ Baroni Paintings, Munda Jewellery, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, Tussar Silk and Sarees, Jadopatia Painting and Pancho Saree and Fabric.

Rakhigarhi Excavation Findings

Context: In June 2026 the ASI sent nearly 5,000-year-old skeletons from Rakhigarhi, Haryana, for scientific examination. The study aims to reveal cause of death, ancestry, height, social status and facial features of Harappans. The excavation also found painted pots and multipurpose earthen stands, and some graves held up to 40 pottery offerings, above the earlier highest of 22.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Studies will determine ailments, ancestry, height and social status.
- ➤ Facial reconstruction is a key objective.
- ➤ Painted pots and multipurpose earthen stands were found.
- ➤ Some graves held up to 40 pottery offerings, above the earlier highest of 22.

Udant Martand, Xuanzang and Cultural Awards

Context: Hindi Journalism Day marked the first Hindi newspaper Udant Martand, India and China discussed a joint UNESCO nomination for Xuanzang's travelogue, and Sangeet Natak Akademi announced awards.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Hindi Journalism Day is observed on 30 May to mark Udant Martand, started in Calcutta in 1826 under Kanpur lawyer Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla.
- ➤ Xuanzang spent 16 years in India, visited Harshavardhana's court, studied at Nalanda under Shilabhadra and wrote the Great Tang Records on the Western Regions.
- ➤ Sangeet Natak Akademi (est. 1953) announced Fellowships, Awards and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025.
- ➤ Gallantry awards: Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra for wartime; Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra for peacetime.
- ➤ Khurasani Imli (baobab) from Mandu, Madhya Pradesh, received a GI tag, along with Jharkhand's Bhagaiya silk, Kuchai silk, Munda jewellery and bamboo craft.

World Days Apr-June 2026: Dates and Themes

Context: The international days observed from April to June 2026 carried fresh themes, which are often asked in date-and-theme questions. World Health Day (7 April) stresses togetherness for health and standing with science, the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) has the theme 'Acting locally for global impact', and World Environment Day (5 June) has the theme 'Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.'

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ World Health Day (7 April) 2026 stresses togetherness for health and standing with science.
- ➤ International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) has the theme 'Acting locally for global impact'.
- ➤ World Environment Day (5 June) 2026 theme: Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.
- ➤ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June) is focused on rangelands.
- ➤ International Yoga Day (21 June) 2026: Yoga for Healthy Ageing.

Days of April-June 2026

Day	Date	Theme
Int'l Day of Sport for Development and Peace	6 Apr	Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
World Health Day	7 Apr	Together for health. Stand with science
International Earth Day	22 Apr	Our Power, Our Planet
World Malaria Day	25 Apr	Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must
World Immunization Week	24-30 Apr	For every generation, vaccines work
World Intellectual Property Day	26 Apr	-
Labour Day / May Day	1 May	-
World Press Freedom Day	3 May	Shaping a Future at Peace: promoting press freedom for human rights, development and security
World Asthma Day	6 May	Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	8 May	United in Humanity
World Thalassaemia Day	8 May	Together for Thalassaemia Care: Equity, Access and Hope
International Nurses Day	12 May	Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives
World Hypertension Day	17 May	Controlling Hypertension Together
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	17 May	Digital lifelines: strengthening resilience in a connected world
International Museum Day	18 May	Museums Uniting a Divided World
Int'l Day for Biological Diversity	22 May	Acting locally for global impact
World No Tobacco Day	31 May	Unmasking the appeal - countering nicotine and tobacco addiction
World Milk Day	1 Jun	Celebrating Women Farmers
World Bicycle Day	3 Jun	Cycling for a Greener Future
World Environment Day	5 Jun	Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future
World Food Safety Day	7 Jun	From burden to solutions - safe food everywhere
World Oceans Day	8 Jun	Reimagine: beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean
World Day Against Child Labour	12 Jun	Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults
World Blood Donor Day	14 Jun	One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives
Global Wind Day	15 Jun	Our wind, our community
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	17 Jun	Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore
Autistic Pride Day	18 Jun	Autism is trending. Now do something about it
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	19 Jun	Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease
World Refugee Day	20 Jun	Get Involved Until Everyone Is Safe
International Day of Yoga	21 Jun	Yoga for Healthy Ageing
World Music Day	21 Jun	A day that brings us together
World Hydrography Day	21 Jun	Transforming how ocean data is shared

Jodhpur Mojari and Himachal Products Get GI Tags

Context: The Centre granted a Geographical Indication tag to the roughly 200-year-old Jodhpur Mojari of Rajasthan. Separately, Spiti Seabuckthorn and seven other traditional products of Himachal Pradesh also received GI tags.

□ Key Highlights

- GI is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The GI Registry is in Chennai and registration is valid for 10 years, renewable.

□ Jodhpur Mojari

- It is handcrafted leather footwear from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, known for intricate embroidery and a curved toe.
- It is made mainly by the Jingar community, traditionally saddle makers.

□ Himachal GI Products

- Himachal GIs: Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma), Salooni Safed Makka, Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, Sepuvadi of Mandi, Kinnauri apple and Kinnauri jewellery.
- Seabuckthorn is called the Golden Bush of the Himalayas, grows at 2,500-4,500 m, fixes nitrogen and prevents soil erosion.

Pollen Study on Harappan Decline from Deoria Tal

Context: In July 2026 BSIP scientists analysed pollen in sediments from Deoria Tal in the Garhwal Himalaya to trace why the Harappan civilisation declined. The study points to a weakening Indian Summer Monsoon that caused prolonged drought and reduced river flow in the Indus region, with populations moving gradually to the Ganga plains. The civilisation spans about 2,000 sites, with mature phase dated 2600-1900 BCE.

□ Key Highlights

- It spans about 2,000 sites; major cities include Rakhigarhi and Dholavira in India. Daimabad is the southernmost site, Alamgirpur in UP the easternmost and Manda in Jammu the northernmost.

- A weakening Indian Summer Monsoon caused prolonged drought and reduced river flow in the Indus region.
- Populations moved gradually to the Ganga plains for water and fertile land.
- The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences is an autonomous institute of DST.
- Phases: early 6000-2600 BCE, mature 2600-1900 BCE and late 1900-1300 BCE.

Samarasya Sankalp Abhiyan: Sant Ravidas 650th Year

Context: The 650th birth anniversary year of Sant Guru Ravidas will be marked through the Samarasya Sankalp Abhiyan, a national campaign from Guru Purnima on 29 July to his birth anniversary on 20 February next year.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Ravidas was born in 1377 CE in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and is also called Raidas, Rohidas and Ruhidas.
- Ravidas Jayanti falls on Magh Purnima.
- About 41 of his poems are in the Adi Granth of Sikhism.
- He opposed caste distinctions and is regarded as the founder of the Ravidasia religion and as a spiritual guide of Meera Bai.

Freedom Fighters and Buddhist Heritage in News

Context: In August 2026 the 150th birth anniversary of flag designer Pingali Venkayya, the unveiling of Gopabandhu Das's statue and fresh excavation at Vaishya Tekri in Ujjain highlighted cultural history. Venkayya (1876-1963) designed India's national flag, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das (1877-1928) founded the Satyabadi school, and Madhya Pradesh began fresh excavation at the stupa site after the first dig in 1938-39.

□ **Personalities**

- Pingali Venkayya (1876-1963) designed India's national flag; he presented a design to Gandhi at the 1921 Bezwada Congress session.
- Gandhi suggested adding a white band and a charkha; the flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947.
- Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das (1877-1928) founded the Satyabadi school and the newspaper The Samaj in 1919.

□ **Vaishya Tekri, Ujjain**

- Madhya Pradesh began fresh excavation after the first dig in 1938-39.
- The stupa is estimated to be around 100 feet high, bigger than the 54-foot Great Stupa at Sanchi.
- Local tradition links the site to Devi, who Ashoka met in Vidisha and who became mother of Mahinda and Sanghamitta.

Important Inscriptions of Ancient India

Context: A compilation of ten major ancient inscriptions, highlighting rulers, locations, scripts and historical value, compiled in August 2026 as a frequent source of Prelims questions. Examples include the Sohgaura copper plate from Gorakhpur, the Prayag Prashasti composed by Harishena for Samudragupta, the Aihole inscription of Ravikirti on Pulakeshin II and the Uttaramerur inscriptions on Chola village administration.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Sohgaura copper plate from Gorakhpur is the earliest known Indian copper-plate inscription and mentions state granaries for famine relief.
- The Prayag Prashasti at Prayagraj was composed by Harishena and records Samudragupta's conquests.
- The Aihole inscription by Ravikirti records Pulakeshin II's victory over Harshavardhana on the Narmada banks.
- The Maski inscription uses the name Devanampriya Asoka explicitly.
- The Uttaramerur inscriptions describe village administration and the Kudavolai secret ballot under the Cholas.

Selected inscriptions

Inscription	Ruler	Location
Mehrauli Iron Pillar	King Chandra	Mehrauli, Delhi
Sohgaura Copper Plate	Mauryan period	Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
Prayag Prashasti	Samudragupta	Prayagraj
Besnagar Pillar	Heliodorus	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
Junagadh Inscription	Rudradaman I	Junagadh, Gujarat
Hathigumpha	Kharavela	Udayagiri, Odisha
Kalinga Edicts	Ashoka	Dhauli and Jaugada, Odisha
Aihole Inscription	Pulakeshin II	Aihole, Karnataka
Maski Inscription	Ashoka	Maski, Karnataka
Uttaramerur Inscriptions	Cholas (Parantaka I)	Uttaramerur, Tamil Nadu

World Days June-Aug 2026: Dates and Themes

Context: The international observances from late June to August 2026 carried newly announced themes that are useful for date-and-theme questions. Olympic Day (23 June) has the theme 'You Can Do This. Let's Move.', World Population Day (11 July) focuses on the hopes and aspirations of young people, and International Tiger Day falls on 29 July, with World Lion Day and World Biofuel Day on 10 August.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Olympic Day (23 June) 2026: You Can Do This. Let's Move.
- International Day against Drug Abuse (26 June) deals with the world drug problem and illicit trafficking.
- World Population Day (11 July) focuses on the hopes and aspirations of young people.
- International Tiger Day (29 July), World Lion Day and World Biofuel Day (both 10 August) are conservation and energy dates.
- International Youth Day (12 August) theme: Different Contexts, Common Aspirations.

Days of late June-August 2026

Day	Date	Theme / Note
UN Public Service Day	23 Jun	Transforming Public Institutions:

		Advancing innovation, participation and inclusion
Olympic Day	23 Jun	You Can Do This. Let's Move
International Widows' Day	23 Jun	-
Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	26 Jun	World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses
UN MSME Day	27 Jun	The Future Generation of MSMEs; AI-Driven Future
International Day of the Tropics	29 Jun	-
International Asteroid Day	30 Jun	-
National Doctors' Day	1 Jul	Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?
World Zoonoses Day	6 Jul	One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses
World Population Day	11 Jul	Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people today and for the future
Malala Day	12 Jul	-
World Youth Skills Day	15 Jul	Skills for a Shared Future
World Day for International Justice	17 Jul	-
Nelson Mandela International Day	18 Jul	-
International Chess Day	20 Jul	One Game. Infinite Possibilities
International Moon Day	20 Jul	One Moon, One Vision, One Future
World Nature Conservation Day / World Hepatitis Day	28 Jul	-
International Tiger Day	29 Jul	-
International Day of Friendship	30 Jul	-
World Lung Cancer Day / World Wide Web Day	1 Aug	-
Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	9 Aug	Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being
World Lion Day / World Biofuel Day	10 Aug	-
International Youth Day	12 Aug	Different Contexts, Common Aspirations
World Elephant Day	12 Aug	Bringing the world together to help elephants
World Organ Donation Day	13 Aug	-
World Photography Day	19 Aug	HOME
World Humanitarian Day	19 Aug	#ActForHumanity
World Mosquito Day	20 Aug	No single official theme
Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	23 Aug	-
World Sanskrit Day	28 Aug	-

Revival of Namey Dogra Akhar Script

Context: In September 2026 new public signboards in Jammu began showing area names in the Namey Dogra Akhar script alongside Devanagari and Roman, as part of an effort to revive the Dogri script. Dogri joined the Eighth Schedule in 2003 and became an official language of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020. Namey Dogra Akhar is a modified form of Takri, the original script of Dogri.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language of the Western Pahari group, mainly spoken by the Dogras of Jammu.
- It joined the Eighth Schedule in 2003 and became an official language of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.
- Namey Dogra Akhar is a modified form of Takri, the original script of Dogri.
- Under Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who became ruler in 1856, vowel signs were borrowed from Devanagari to create it.
- It was later adopted for court and administrative work alongside Persian.

Shekhawati Havelis on UNESCO Tentative List

Context: Rajasthan's Shekhawati havelis have been added to the UNESCO Tentative List, a preliminary step toward World Heritage status. Separately, the ASI declared Telangana's Gollala Gudi temple a site of national importance.

□ **Shekhawati Havelis**

- The listing covers heritage properties in 14 towns including Mandawa, Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Jhunjhunu and Churu.
- The havelis, built largely by merchant families, are known for painted frescoes on facades, courtyards and gateways.
- The murals depict religious themes, portraits, everyday life and changes in transport and lifestyle in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

□ **Gollala Gudi Temple**

- It is in Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana, near the UNESCO site Ramappa temple, and dates to the Kakatiya period.
- It is a Trikutalaya with a mandapa facing east surrounded by three garbhagrihas.
- National importance status brings protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Ramappa (Rudreswara) temple was built in 1213 AD by Recharla Rudra, a general of Ganapati Deva.

Art Exhibition and Literacy Prizes 2026

Context: Cultural prizes and exhibitions were in the news in 2026. The Lalit Kala Akademi's 65th National Exhibition of Art received 6,175 artworks from 2,495 artists, and President Murmu presented awards in October 2026 along with the 3rd Print Biennale India. UNESCO honoured six literacy programmes from six countries at Chiapas, Mexico in

September 2026, with the King Sejong Prize recognising mother-language projects.

□ **65th National Exhibition of Art**

- Organised by Lalit Kala Akademi; received 6,175 artworks from 2,495 artists across 27 states and UTs.
- President Murmu presented awards on 21 October 2026 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, along with the 3rd Print Biennale India.

□ **UNESCO Literacy Prizes 2026**

- Six programmes from six countries honoured at Chiapas, Mexico on 8-9 September 2026; theme: Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.
- King Sejong Prize recognised mother-language projects from Colombia, the Netherlands and Nigeria.

World Days Sept-Dec 2026: Dates and Themes

Context: The international observances from September to December 2026 carried newly announced themes, covering literacy, peace, tourism, mental health and human rights. International Literacy Day (8 September) has the theme 'Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity', International Day of Peace (21 September) 'Invest in Peace', and World Teachers' Day (5 October) marks 60 years of the teachers' status recommendation. Dates and themes are common exam facts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- International Literacy Day (8 Sept): Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.
- World Tourism Day (27 Sept) focuses on a digital agenda and AI for redesigning tourism.
- International Day of Peace (21 Sept): Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.
- World Teachers' Day (5 Oct) marks 60 years of the teachers' status recommendation.
- International Day of Democracy (15 Sept) and Human Rights Day (10 Dec) are key UN observances.

Days of September-December

Day	Date	Theme
International Literacy Day	8 Sep	Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity
World Suicide Prevention Day	10 Sep	Changing the Narrative on Suicide
World First Aid Day	12 Sep	First Aid in Migration Contexts
International Day of Democracy	15 Sep	Bring human rights into focus
World Ozone Day	16 Sep	Global action for a cooler planet
World Patient Safety Day	17 Sep	Safe care for noncommunicable diseases
International Day of Peace	21 Sep	Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day
World Alzheimer's Day	21 Sep	The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do
World Rhino Day	22 Sep	Keep the Five Alive
World Maritime Day	24 Sep	From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence
World Contraception Day	26 Sep	No Barriers, Just Choices
World Tourism Day	27 Sep	Digital Agenda and AI to Redesign Tourism
World Heart Day	29 Sep	Don't Miss a Beat
International Translation Day	30 Sep	Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights
Int'l Day of Non-Violence	2 Oct	Non-Violence as a means to Peace and Development
World Animal Day	4 Oct	See the World Through Their Eyes
World Teachers' Day	5 Oct	Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession
World Post Day	9 Oct	One postal network, infinite possibilities
World Mental Health Day	10 Oct	Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change
Int'l Day of the Girl Child	11 Oct	End child marriage and invest in girls' rights
Int'l Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	13 Oct	Resilience Starts at Home
World Standards Day	14 Oct	Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG 7
Int'l Day of Rural Women	15 Oct	Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature
World Food Day	16 Oct	Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow
Int'l Day for the Eradication of Poverty	17 Oct	Safe Homes for All
World Polio Day	24 Oct	Make Polio History
World Kindness Day	13 Nov	Kindness in a Digital World
World Children's Day	20 Nov	My Day, My Rights
Elimination of Violence against Women Day	25 Nov	UNiTE to End Digital Violence against Women and Girls
World AIDS Day	1 Dec	Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response
Int'l Civil Aviation Day	7 Dec	Safe Skies and Sustainable Future for All
Int'l Anti-Corruption Day	9 Dec	Uniting with Youth Against Corruption
Human Rights Day	10 Dec	Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials
Universal Health Coverage Day	12 Dec	Unaffordable health costs
International Migrants Day	18 Dec	My Great Story: Cultures and Development

Sports, Awards, Personalities, Books and Reports

Current Notes

56th IFFI Goa and Other Film Festival Honours

Context: Film festival winners with Indian relevance were announced across 2025-26. The 56th IFFI in Panaji (November 2025) gave the Golden Peacock to Skin of Youth (Vietnam) by Ash Mayfair, Angh by Naga filmmaker Theja Rio won the Platform Prize at TIFF 2026, a first for India, and Ilaiyaraaja was selected for the Padmapani Award at Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival. Winners are standard exam facts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Ilaiyaraaja was selected for the Padmapani Award at Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (Jan-Feb 2026).
- Angh by Naga filmmaker Theja Rio won the Platform Prize at TIFF 2026, a first for India.
- James Gray received the career award at the 79th Locarno Film Festival (5-15 Aug 2026).

□ **56th IFFI, Panaji (20-28 Nov 2025)**

- Golden Peacock: Skin of Youth (Vietnam) by Ash Mayfair.
- Silver Peacock Director: Santosh Davakhar for Gondhal (Marathi).
- Best Actor Male: Ubeimar Rios (A Poet); Female: Jara Sofija Ostan (Little Trouble Girls).
- Best Web Series: Bandish Bandits Season 2.

Global Reports: GEP, ILO Trends and UNCTAD Investment Monitor

Context: Three international reports released in January 2026 carried India-specific data on growth, employment and foreign investment. The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects projects India's growth for FY 2025-26 at 7.2 percent, the ILO's Employment and Social Trends 2026 covers global informal work, and UNCTAD's World Investment Trends Monitor shows FDI into India rose 73 percent to 47 billion dollars in 2025.

□ **Global Economic Prospects (World Bank)**

- Published twice a year, in January and June.
- India's growth for FY 2025-26 is projected at 7.2 percent, up from 6.3 percent estimated in June 2025, owing to strong domestic demand, higher private consumption, tax reforms and rising rural real incomes.
- Global trade growth is expected to slow from 3.4 percent in 2025 to 2.2 percent in 2026.
- Government debt in emerging markets and developing economies has risen to about 70 percent of GDP, the highest in 55 years.

□ **Employment and Social Trends 2026 (ILO)**

- Between 2015 and 2025, extreme poverty among working people fell by only 3.1 percent.
- About 2.1 billion workers are expected to be in informal employment worldwide in 2026.
- India's share in global manufacturing is 3 percent.

□ **World Investment Trends Monitor (UNCTAD)**

- FDI into India rose 73 percent to 47 billion dollars in 2025.
- Growth came from large investments in services such as finance, IT and R&D, rising manufacturing investment and policies linking India to global value chains.

New Logos: MoSPI and Regional Rural Banks

Context: The Statistics Ministry and the Finance Ministry each unveiled new visual identities. MoSPI released its logo and a mascot in January 2026 with the tagline 'Data for Development', and the Finance Ministry released a single common logo for all Regional Rural Banks in December 2025, after restructuring of the RRB system. Symbolism and taglines are favoured for short factual questions.

□ **MoSPI logo and mascot**

- Unveiled on 1 January 2026; tagline 'Data for Development'.
- Ashoka Chakra stands for truth and good governance; the rupee symbol shows the role of statistics in planning.
- Colours: saffron, white, green and deep blue; an upward growth bar signals progress.
- A citizen-friendly mascot will be used by the NSS wing of the National Statistics Office for outreach.

□ **Common logo for RRBs**

- Finance Ministry released a single logo for all Regional Rural Banks on 18 December 2025, after restructuring of the RRB system.
- Dark blue denotes finance and trust; green denotes life and growth.

Padma Awards 2026 and Gallantry Awards

Context: On Republic Day in January 2026 the President approved 131 Padma Awards, comprising 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri, and 70 armed forces personnel were awarded gallantry awards. The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and are not titles under Article 18(1), as held in Balaji Raghavan vs Union of India (1996). Gallantry awards are announced twice a year.

□ **Padma Awards**

- The list has 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards.
- It includes 19 women, 6 persons from the foreigner, NRI, PIO or OCI category and 16 posthumous awardees.
- Padma Vibhushan is for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.
- Instituted in 1954; the Padma Vibhushan, Bhushan and Shri names came in 1955; awards were not given in 1978-79 and 1993-97.
- In Balaji Raghavan vs Union of India (1996) the Supreme Court held they are not titles under Article 18(1).
- The annual limit is 120 awards, excluding posthumous and foreign cases.

□ **Gallantry Awards**

- Wartime awards: Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra, started on 26 January 1950.
- Peacetime awards: Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra, started on 4 January 1952 and renamed in 1967.
- Order of precedence: Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, Shaurya Chakra.
- Announced twice a year, on Republic Day and Independence Day.

Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 and Deaflympics 2025

Context: India won the second Women's Kabaddi World Cup, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 17 to 24 November 2025, for its second title. At the 25th Summer Deaflympics in Tokyo, held in November 2025, India finished sixth with 9 gold medals and 20 in all. Host cities, winners and medal positions are frequently asked.

□ **Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025**

- Second edition, Dhaka (Bangladesh), 17-24 November 2025.
- India champion (2nd title); Chinese Taipei runner-up; Bangladesh and Iran won bronze.
- MVP: Sanju Devi.

□ **25th Summer Deaflympics 2025**

- Held in Tokyo, Japan, 15-26 November 2025.
- Top three: Ukraine (32 gold, 100 total), USA, Japan; India sixth with 9 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze (20).
- Gold medallists included Diksha Dagar (golf), Mahit Sandhu and Dhanush Srikanth, Anuya Prasad, Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Dhumal (shooting) and Sumit Dahiya (wrestling 97 kg).

C. Rajagopalachari: Statue at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Context: In February 2026 President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a statue of C. Rajagopalachari in the central courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhavan, replacing the bust of Edwin Lutyens. Rajaji, born in 1878 in Thorapalli, Krishnagiri, led the Salt Satyagraha in the South in April 1930, proposed the Rajaji formula of 1944, and in 1948 succeeded Mountbatten as Governor-General. He received the Bharat Ratna in 1954.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Born in 1878 in Thorapalli, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.
- In April 1930 he led the Salt Satyagraha in the South from Trichy to Vedaranyam.
- The Rajaji formula of 1944 proposed a Congress-Muslim League agreement tied to a plebiscite on Pakistan.
- In 1938, as Premier of Madras, he backed legislation making discrimination in access to wells, schools and jobs punishable.
- In 1948 he succeeded Mountbatten as Governor-General and was Home Minister in 1950-51 and Chief Minister of Madras in 1952-54.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 1954, launched the Swatantra Party in 1959 and won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1958.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 and Power Gap Index

Context: India improved its rank from 96th to 91st with a score of 39 on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025. The Power Gap Index, drawn from the Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index, shows India below its strategic potential.

□ **Corruption Perceptions Index**

- It is released annually by Transparency International on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- Denmark topped for the eighth consecutive time with a score of 89.
- Venezuela scored 10, while Somalia and South Sudan scored 9 each.
- The index excludes tax fraud, illicit financial flows, money laundering and private-sector corruption.

□ **Power Gap Index**

- It is derived from the Asia Power Index of Australia's Lowy Institute, which ranks 27 countries on 131 indicators across 8 thematic measures.
- India's power gap score in the 2025 edition is -4.0.

Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report

Context: In February 2026 the Square Circle Clinic released The Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report (2016-2025), tracking ten years of capital punishment data. Sessions Courts handed 1,310 death sentences to 1,279 persons from 2016 to 2025, and 574 persons were on death row as of December 2025, the highest since 2016. No death sentence has been confirmed by the Supreme Court since 2023.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sessions Courts handed 1,310 death sentences to 1,279 persons in 822 cases from 2016 to 2025.
- As of December 2025, 574 persons were on death row, the highest since 2016.

- High Courts confirmed only 70 of 842 sentences considered; the Supreme Court confirmed 19 of 153 cases decided.
- No death sentence has been confirmed by the Supreme Court since 2023, and it acquitted 10 death row prisoners in 2025.
- 364 persons were wrongly convicted and later acquitted, spending about 9.4 years on average.
- Ten women were sentenced to death in 2025, the highest since 2016.

Global Teacher Prize 2026 and BAFTA for Boong

Context: In February 2026 Indian teacher Rouble Nagi won the $1 million Global Teacher Prize 2026, chosen from over 5,000 nominations from 139 countries, and the Manipuri film Boong won the BAFTA for Best Children's and Family Film in London. Her foundation runs more than 800 centres across India. The prize, established in 2014, is presented by GEMS Education.

□ **Global Teacher Prize**

- She was chosen from over 5,000 nominations from 139 countries.
- Her foundation runs more than 800 centres across India and uses 'living walls of learning'.
- The prize was established in 2014 and is presented by GEMS Education, set up with the Varkey Foundation and UNESCO.

□ **BAFTA**

- Boong won the award in London.
- BAFTA is the British equivalent of the Oscars.

Khelo India Winter Games 2026 and University Games 2025

Context: The Khelo India programme held two multi-sport events: the Winter Games in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, and the University Games in Rajasthan. The Winter Games 2026 were held at Leh in January and Gulmarg in February, with Army topping the medal tally. The University Games 2025 were held in Rajasthan from 24 November to 5 December 2025. Hosts, dates and toppers are exam-relevant.

□ **Khelo India Winter Games 2026**

- Held in two chapters: Leh (Ladakh), 20-26 January 2026, and Gulmarg (J&K), 23-26 February 2026.
- Top three: Army (9 gold, 23 total), Himachal Pradesh (6 gold), Haryana (4 gold).

□ **Khelo India University Games 2025**

- Held in Rajasthan, 24 November-5 December 2025.
- Mascots: two camels, Khamma and Ghani.
- Top three: Chandigarh University (42 gold), Lovely Professional University (32 gold, 78 medals), Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (32 gold).

Airport of the Year 2026 and World's Safest Airline

Context: Two aviation rankings were released in 2026. Singapore Changi won Airport of the Year at the 2026 World Airport Awards, London, in March 2026, for the 13th time, and Etihad Airways was named the world's safest full-service airline for 2026 by AirlineRatings.com, the first Gulf carrier to top it. Such ranking toppers are common in the awards and rankings section.

□ **Changi**

- Singapore Changi won Airport of the Year at the 2026 World Airport Awards, London, on 18 March 2026, its 13th time.

□ **Etihad**

- Etihad Airways was named the world's safest full-service airline for 2026 by AirlineRatings.com, the first Gulf carrier to top it.

Books and Authors: Memoirs and Political Biographies

Context: A set of recently released memoirs, autobiographies and political biographies was in the news during 2025-26 and is useful for the 'Books and Authors' section of the exam. Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography traces his journey from a small village to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Sonia Gandhi's memoir is titled 'Belonging', and Gen. M. M. Naravane wrote 'Four Stars of Destiny'. Book-author pairs are a common question type.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography covers his life and the journey from a small village to Rashtrapati Bhavan; a Hindi edition also appeared.
- Sonia Gandhi's memoir 'Belonging' is a personal account of her life in public service.
- Former Army Chief Gen. M. M. Naravane wrote 'Four Stars of Destiny', recounting his military career.
- Shikhar Dhawan's 'The One' is a cricketing memoir; Harinder Baweja's work traces her journalism through conflict zones.

Memoirs and biographies

Book	Author / Editor	Theme
Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles	Ram Nath Kovind	Autobiography of the former President
Belonging: A Journey of Love	Sonia Gandhi	Memoir
Four Stars of Destiny	Manoj Mukund Naravane	Autobiography of former Army Chief
Janpriya Neta Venkaiah Naidu: Udayagiri Se Uparashtrapati Tak	Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad	Biography of former Vice-President
Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu	Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad	Biography of President Murmu (Telugu)
Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman	Vijay Goel	Coffee-table book
M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India	Priyambada Jayakumar	Biography of the Green Revolution scientist
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	Srinath Raghavan	Biography
A Different Kind of Power	Jacinda Ardern	Memoir of the former New Zealand PM
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan	Cricket memoir
They Will Shoot You,	Harinder Baweja	Journalist's memoir

Madam - My Life Through Conflict		
Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician	Arun Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma	Biography
Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Experiences with the PM
Janata Ki Kahani, Meri Aatmakatha	Bandaru Dattatreya	Autobiography of Haryana Governor
The Library Man of India	P. P. Sathyan	Life of P. N. Panicker
Gunned Down - Murder of an Olympic Champion	Sundeep Misra	Sports non-fiction

Food Security Index and Other Reports in March 2026

Context: In March 2026 IIED released a food security index of 162 countries, and UNEP published a report on safe disposal of unused medicines. In the index the global average score is 6.74 and India's baseline is 5.31, projected to fall to 4.96 at 1.5 degrees C of warming. Iceland tops at 9.26 and Somalia is lowest at 1.29.

□ Food Security Index

- Global average score is 6.74; India's baseline is 5.31, projected to 4.96 at 1.5 degrees C and 4.52 at 2 degrees C.
- Iceland tops at 9.26, followed by Denmark, Austria, Ireland and Belgium; Somalia is lowest at 1.29.

□ UNEP Report

- Four pillars: waste prevention, take-back systems, legal support and awareness.
- India's CDSCO guidelines include a flush list of 17 medicines.

Governors and Lt Governors Appointed March 2026

Context: A reshuffle of Governors and Lt Governors was announced in March 2026, covering eight states and Union Territories. Appointments included R.N. Ravi in West Bengal, Taranjit Singh Sandhu in Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena in Ladakh and Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain in Bihar. Governor and Lt Governor appointments are a standard current-affairs question.

March 2026 appointments

State/UT	Name
Telangana	Shiv Pratap Shukla
West Bengal	R.N. Ravi
Himachal Pradesh	Kavinder Gupta
Nagaland	Nand Kishore Yadav
Bihar	Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain
Delhi	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Ladakh	Vinai Kumar Saxena
Maharashtra	Jishnu Dev Verma

ICC Tournaments 2025-26: T20 World Cups, U19 and Women's World Cup

Context: India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, the Men's U-19 World Cup and the Women's ODI World Cup within a year. India and Sri Lanka co-hosted the 10th Men's T20 World Cup from February to March 2026, and India beat New Zealand in the final at Ahmedabad for a record third title. The Women's T20 World Cup in England was won by Australia.

□ ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- 10th edition, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, 7 February-8 March 2026; 20 teams, 55 matches.
- India beat New Zealand in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, for a record third title.
- Player of the Tournament: Sanju Samson (24 sixes); final POM: Jasprit Bumrah.
- Fastest fifty: Abhishek Sharma (18 balls); highest score: Yuvraj Samra (Canada, 110).

□ ICC Men's U-19 World Cup 2026

- Zimbabwe and Namibia, 15 January-6 February; India beat England for a record 6th title; Player of the Series: Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

□ ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025

- 13th edition, hosted by India, 30 September-2 November 2025; final at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai.
- India won its first title, beating South Africa.

□ ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

- England and Wales, 12 June-5 July; expanded to 12 teams; Netherlands debuted.
- Australia beat England at Lord's for a 7th title; Player of the Tournament Beth Mooney.

Khelo India Tribal Games and IOC Eligibility Policy

Context: In March 2026 the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games were held in Chhattisgarh across Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja with seven medal sports, and the IOC restricted women's events to biological females verified by SRY gene test from the 2028 Olympics. The IOC policy follows US pressure. The Games' mascot is Morveer.

□ Key Highlights

- The Tribal Games were held across Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja with seven medal sports; mascot is Morveer.
- The IOC policy takes effect from the 2028 Olympics and follows US pressure.

Literary Awards 2025: Jnanpith, Saraswati Samman, Sahitya Akademi

Context: In March 2026 R. Vairamuthu won the Jnanpith Award 2025, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay the Saraswati Samman 2025 for the Bengali novel Hara Parbati Katha, and the Sahitya Akademi announced its 2025 awards. Vairamuthu is the third Tamil writer to win the Jnanpith and the first for poetry. Navtej Sarna won in English for Crimson Spring.

□ Key Highlights

- Vairamuthu is the third Tamil writer to win the Jnanpith, after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), and the first for poetry.

- Jnanpith carries Rs 11 lakh and a statue of Vagdevi; the first recipient was G. Sankara Kurup in 1965.
- Saraswati Samman went to the Bengali novel Hara Parbati Katha; it carries Rs 15 lakh and was instituted in 1991 by K.K. Birla Foundation.
- Navtej Sarna won in English for Crimson Spring; Mamta Kalia won for the memoir Jeete Jee Allahabad.

Oscars 2026 (98th Academy Awards)

Context: The 98th Academy Awards were held at the Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, in March 2026 with Conan O'Brien hosting. One Battle After Another dominated by winning six awards, Sinners won four and Frankenstein three. India's official entry was Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound. The winners, host and India's entry are typical film-awards questions in the exam.

□ Key Highlights

- One Battle After Another won six awards, Sinners four and Frankenstein three.
- India's official entry was Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound.

Major winners

Category	Winner
Best Picture	One Battle After Another
Director	Paul Thomas Anderson
Actor	Michael B. Jordan (Sinners)
Actress	Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
Animated Feature	KPop Demon Hunters
International Feature	Sentimental Value (Norway)
Original Score	Ludwig Goransson (Sinners)
Cinematography	Autumn Durald Arkapaw (Sinners)
Documentary Feature	Mr. Nobody against Putin

Sports Awards 2025-26: Naman, Hockey India, Laureus, FIFA, Wisden, FPAI

Context: A series of annual sporting honours were announced between December 2025 and August 2026. Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka won the Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year 2026, Ousmane Dembele and Aitana Bonmati took The Best FIFA Awards 2025, and the BCCI Naman Awards were held in New Delhi on 15 March 2026. Award names and winners are standard exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2026: Carlos Alcaraz; Sportswoman: Aryna Sabalenka.
- The Best FIFA Awards 2025 (16 Dec 2025): Ousmane Dembele (men) and Aitana Bonmati (women).
- Wisden 2026: Mitchell Starc (leading men's cricketer), Deepti Sharma (leading women's), Abhishek Sharma (leading T20).
- FPAI Awards 2026: Lallianzuala Chhangte (Indian Player of the Year) and Manisha Kalyan (Women's).

□ BCCI Naman Awards 2026 (15 March, New Delhi)

- Polly Umrigar Award (Best International Cricketer, Men 2024-25): Shubman Gill.
- Best International Cricketer (Women): Smriti Mandhana.
- Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award: Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid.
- BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women: Mithali Raj.

□ Hockey India Annual Awards 2025 (8th edition, 27 March 2026)

- Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year: Hardik Singh (men) and Navneet Kaur (women).
- Baljit Singh Goalkeeper of the Year: Bichu Devi Kharibam.
- Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Zafar Iqbal.

Books and Authors: Polity, Governance and Defence

Context: Books on democracy, the judiciary, audit, delimitation and defence preparedness were released during 2025-26 and feature in the 'Books and Authors' section. Kailash Satyarthi authored 'Karuna: The Power of Compassion', Sudha Murty's 'Tides of Time' narrates India's history through the murals of the Parliament building, and CDS Gen. Anil Chauhan wrote 'Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II'. Matching books with authors is typical.

□ Key Highlights

- Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace laureate, authored 'Karuna: The Power of Compassion'.
- Sudha Murty's 'Tides of Time' narrates India's history through the murals of the Parliament building.
- A commemorative volume on Operation Sindoor was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- CDS Gen. Anil Chauhan's 'Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II' deals with building a future-ready force.
- 'The Emergency Diaries' was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah; 'Sustainable Wellness of Students' by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami.

Polity, governance and defence titles

Book	Author / Editor	Subject
Why the Constitution Matters: Selected Speeches	Justice D. Y. Chandrachud	Judicial speeches
The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks	Edited by S. Sivakumar	Speeches of Justice B. R. Gavai
Demography, Representation, Delimitation: The North-South Divide in India	Ravi K. Mishra	Delimitation debate
VIP Culture in India: Power, Privilege and the Distance from Democracy	Nabam Rebia and Sandeep Kumar	VIP culture
When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference	Edited by Vinod Rai	Role of CAG
In Praise of Coalition Politics and other essays on Indian Democracy	Manoj Kumar Jha	Coalition politics
PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years	Himanshu Roy	Study of the PMO
Fractured Communities: Adivasi	Umar Khalid	Tribal politics

Histories and the Politics of Power		
Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World	Anil K. Antony	Foreign policy and economy
A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey	Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian	Development history
Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force	Gen. Anil Chauhan (CDS)	Military modernisation
Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament	Sudha Murty	Parliament murals
Dapaan: Tales from Kashmir's Conflict	Ipsita Chakravarty	Kashmir
Modi's Niti Shastra: The World's His Oyster	Adish C. Aggarwala	Foreign policy
The Chief Minister and the Spy	Amarjeet Singh Daulat	Intelligence memoir (ex-RAW chief)
Sanskriti ka Paanchva Adhyay	Compiled by Prabhat Ojha and Ram Bahadur Rai	PM Modi's speeches on culture

Chandra Shekhar Centenary Begins; Bharat Tribes Fest; Breakthrough Prizes

Context: In April 2026 the 100th birth anniversary year of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar began, Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was held in New Delhi, and the 2026 Breakthrough Prizes were announced. Chandra Shekhar was India's 8th Prime Minister from November 1990 to June 1991 and was born in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Bharat Tribes Fest was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with TRIFED and launched the RISA brand.

□ Key Highlights

- Chandra Shekhar was India's 8th Prime Minister from November 1990 to June 1991 and was born in 1927 in Ibrahimpatti village, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was a member of the 'Young Turks', was jailed during the Emergency and undertook the Bharat Yatra in 1983-84.
- Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with TRIFED and launched the RISA brand.
- The Breakthrough Prizes 2026 awarded six prizes of $3 million each; they were founded in 2013 by Mark Zuckerberg, Priscilla Chan, Sergey Brin, Anne Wojcicki and Yuri and Julia Milner.
- A new Vera Rubin New Frontiers Prize for women physicists was announced.

Books and Authors: Fiction, Spirituality and Other Titles

Context: Literary, spiritual and miscellaneous titles were in the news during 2025-26 and feature in the 'Books and Authors' section. Kiran Desai's 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' is among the prominent novels of the year, 'Rocket Dreams' by Christian Davenport deals with the new commercial space race of Musk and Bezos, and several titles mark the life of Srila Prabhupada, founder of ISKCON. Book-author matching is the usual question type.

□ Key Highlights

- Kiran Desai's 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' is among the prominent novels of the year.
- 'Rocket Dreams' by Christian Davenport deals with the new commercial space race of Musk and Bezos.
- Several titles mark the life and legacy of Srila Prabhupada, founder of ISKCON.
- 'Gen V Bano and Mahatma' was launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Other titles

Book	Author	Note
The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny	Kiran Desai	Novel
Antim Din (Hindi translation of 'The Last Day')	Jaroslavas Melnikas	Translated novel
Rocket Dreams	Christian Davenport	Space race
Karuna: The Power of Compassion	Kailash Satyarthi	Compassion and activism
Different But No Less	Anupam Kher	Memoir
Dancing with Joy	Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant	Dance
Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada	Dr. Usha Upadhyay	Spiritual biography
Sing, Dance and Lead	Hindol Sengupta	Leadership lessons from Prabhupada
Mahatma: A Great Communicator	Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia	Gandhi as communicator
History That India Ignored	Prem Prakash	History
Palanivelu GUTS	Dr. C. Palanivelu	Surgeon's autobiography
Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict	V. S. Ravi	Literary essays
Win the Battle of Your Mind in the Age of Social Media	Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta	Self-help
Crooked Seeds	Karen Jennings	Novel
John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs	Ian Leslie	Music

Chess Grandmasters of India 2026 and Young Achievers

Context: India added several new Grandmasters in 2025-26, raising its total to nearly 100. Aaryan Varshney became the 92nd GM in January 2026, Mayank Chakraborty the 94th and first from Assam and the Northeast, and 14-year-old Ethan Vaz of Goa the 96th in June 2026. Bodhana Sivanandan of England, aged 11, became the youngest woman Grandmaster.

□ Key Highlights

- Aaryan Varshney became India's 92nd GM (January 2026); Mayank Chakraborty the 94th and first from Assam/Northeast.
- Ethan Vaz (Goa, 14) became 96th GM in June 2026; G.B. Harshavardhan 97th, Aswath S. 98th, V.S. Rathanvel 99th.
- Bodhana Sivanandan (England, aged 11) became the youngest woman Grandmaster.

Environment and Science Awards 2026

Context: Prizes honouring ecology and science achievements were announced in 2026, with Indian winners. The Goldman Environmental Prize (the Green Nobel) went entirely to women for the first time, presented in San Francisco in April 2026, and an Indian team won The Earth Prize for the first time. Chandrayaan-3 won the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award, and Mahesh Kakde (IISc) won the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians.

□ **Environment**

- Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 (the Green Nobel) went entirely to women for the first time; presented in San Francisco on 20 April 2026.
- Tyler Prize: Toby Kiers for underground fungal network research (Jan 2026).
- The Earth Prize 2026: Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal and Avyana Mehta, first Indian team, for Plas-Stick to remove microplastics.
- Whitley Awards (Green Oscars) 2026: Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba were among six winners; each gets 50,000 pounds.

□ **Science**

- Chandrayaan-3 won the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from AIAA.
- Mahesh Kakde (IISc) won the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians, the fifth Indian awardee ($10,000; ICTP and IMU).
- Deepak Dhar received the 2026 ICTP Dirac Medal.
- India won 1 gold, 3 bronze and an honourable mention at the 2026 International Linguistics Olympiad, Romania.
- The 36th Ig Nobel Awards were held in Zurich with fungi as theme.

European and World Football 2025-26: UEFA Cups and FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

Context: The 2025-26 UEFA club competitions and the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup were decided. Paris Saint-Germain won a second Champions League title and Aston Villa won their first Europa League. At the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Poland in September 2026, Spain won its second title, beating North Korea.

□ **Key Highlights**

- FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2026 in Poland, 5-27 September: Spain (2nd title) beat North Korea.
- Paris Saint-Germain won a second Champions League title.
- Aston Villa won their first Europa League.

UEFA competitions 2025-26

Competition	Champion	Runner-up
Champions League	Paris Saint-Germain (2nd title)	Arsenal
Europa League	Aston Villa (1st title)	SC Freiburg
Women's Champions League	FC Barcelona Femeni (4th title)	Olympique Lyonnais

Indian Football 2025-26: ISL, IFL, Durand Cup, Santosh Trophy

Context: The 2025-26 Indian domestic football season concluded with East Bengal FC winning its first Indian Super League title in the 12th season, which ran from February to May 2026. East Bengal also won the Indian Women's League and Durand Cup 2026, Services won the Santosh Trophy, and India won the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 in Goa.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ISL 12th season: 14 February-21 May 2026; East Bengal FC won its first ISL title.
- Indian Women's League 2025-26 (Kolkata and Kalyani): East Bengal FC (2nd title).
- Indian Football League 2025-26 (27 February-23 May): Diamond Harbour FC.
- SAFF Women's Championship 2026 (Margao, Goa, 25 May-6 June): India won 6th title beating Bangladesh; MVP Sanfida Nongrum; top scorer Aveka Singh (4 goals).

Indian football winners

Tournament	Winner	Runner-up
ISL 2025-26	East Bengal FC (1st title)	Not recorded
Durand Cup 2026	East Bengal FC	Mohun Bagan Super Giant
Santosh Trophy 2025-26	Services (8th title)	Kerala
SAFF U-20 Championship 2026 (Male)	Bangladesh (2nd title)	India
SAFF Women's Championship 2026	India (6th title)	Bangladesh

NCRB Crime in India 2024 and ADSI Report

Context: The NCRB's Crime in India 2024 report shows the overall crime rate falling by about 6 per cent while cybercrime rose sharply. The companion Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024 report recorded 1,70,746 suicides.

□ **Crime in India 2024**

- Total cognisable crimes fell from 62.41 lakh in 2023 to about 58.86 lakh in 2024, and the crime rate per lakh population fell from 448.3 to 418.9.
- The dip is largely linked to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, under which simple hurt became non-cognisable; hurt cases fell 30.58 per cent from 6.36 lakh to 4.41 lakh.
- Cybercrime cases rose 17.9 per cent from 86,420 to 1,01,928, and the rate rose from 6.2 to 7.3 per lakh; about 72.6 per cent were online fraud.
- Economic offences rose 4.6 per cent to about 2.14 lakh cases, with forgery, cheating and fraud forming nearly 90 per cent.
- Kerala (94.5 per cent), Puducherry (91.0 per cent) and West Bengal (90.6 per cent) had the highest charge-sheeting rates.
- Nagaland recorded the lowest crime rate.

□ **ADSI 2024 and Road Accidents**

- The suicide rate fell marginally to 12.2 per lakh population.
- Nearly 7 in 10 victims were men, and daily wage earners were the largest group at about 31 per cent (52,910).

- Dowry-related suicides rose 6.7 per cent to 1,693.
- Drug overdose deaths jumped 50 per cent to 978, with Tamil Nadu and Punjab highest.
- Road accidents killed nearly 1.99 lakh people, about 546 a day, with Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra recording the most deaths; speeding was the biggest cause.

NITI Aayog Report on School Education System

Context: NITI Aayog's report 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement' finds near-universal primary access but weak secondary retention and learning outcomes.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India has 14.71 lakh schools and 24.69 crore students, with 7.3 lakh primary schools but only 1.64 lakh higher secondary schools.
- Nearly 4 in 10 students drop out before higher secondary, and only 5.4 per cent of schools offer continuous Grade 1-12 schooling.
- Around 7,993 schools have zero enrolment, highest in West Bengal and Telangana.
- Grade 8 reading proficiency fell from 74.7 per cent in 2014 to 71.1 per cent in 2024.
- PARAKH is the national assessment regulator under NCERT, set up under NEP 2020.
- UDISE+ 2024-25 shows 1.19 lakh schools without electricity, 14,505 without drinking water and 59,829 without hand-washing facilities.
- One-third of schools lack internet.

National Panchayat Awards 2025

Context: In May 2026 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj announced the National Panchayat Awards 2025, recognising 42 Panchayats from 17 States and Union Territories. Karnataka won the most awards (6), followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (5 each), with incentives ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore. The awards fall under the Incentivization of Panchayats component of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Karnataka won the most awards (6), followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (5 each).
- Incentives range from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore.
- The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar rewards Gram Panchayats across 9 themes of Localisation of SDGs.
- The Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar honours the best District, Block and Gram Panchayats overall.
- Special categories include the Climate Action Special Panchayat Award and the Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award.
- The awards fall under the Incentivization of Panchayats component of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

Newly Elected Heads of State and Government 2025-26

Context: Several countries chose new heads of state or government between November 2025 and August 2026, among them Bolivia, Japan, the Netherlands and Chile. Sanae Takaichi became Japan's first woman Prime Minister, and Rob Jetten became the youngest and first openly gay Dutch Prime Minister. Who holds which office is a regular current-affairs question.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sanae Takaichi is Japan's first woman Prime Minister.
- Rob Jetten is the youngest and first openly gay Dutch Prime Minister.

Leaders sworn in

Country	Leader	Office	Time
Bolivia	Rodrigo Paz Pereira	President	Nov 2025
Tanzania	Samia Suluhu Hassan	President (second term)	Nov 2025
Cameroon	Paul Biya	President (eighth term)	Nov 2025
Czech Republic	Andrej Babis	Prime Minister	Dec 2025
Japan	Sanae Takaichi	105th Prime Minister	2026
Yemen	Shaya Mohsen Al-Zindani	Prime Minister	Jan 2026
Netherlands	Rob Jetten	Prime Minister	Feb 2026
Chile	Jose Antonio Kast	38th President	Mar 2026
Mongolia	Uchral Nyam-Osor	Prime Minister	Mar 2026
Iraq	Nizar Amedi	President	Apr 2026
Vietnam	To Lam	President (5-year term)	Apr 2026
Myanmar	Min Aung Hlaing	President	Apr 2026
Djibouti	Ismail Omar Guelleh	President (sixth term, 97.81%)	Apr 2026
Hungary	Peter Magyar (Tisza party)	Prime Minister	May 2026
Bulgaria	Rumen Radev	Prime Minister	May 2026
Benin	Romuald Wadagni	President (succeeds Talon)	May 2026
Uganda	Yoweri Museveni	President (seventh term)	May 2026
Denmark	Mette Frederiksen	Prime Minister (third term)	Jun 2026
Slovenia	Janez Jansa	Prime Minister (fourth term)	Jun 2026
South Korea	Han Seong-sook	Prime Minister	Jun 2026
United Kingdom	Andy Burnham	Prime Minister (succeeds Starmer)	Jul 2026
Ukraine	Sergii Koretskyi	Prime Minister (succeeds Svyrydenko)	Jul 2026
Peru	Keiko Fujimori	President	Jul 2026
Hungary	Andras Baka	President	Aug 2026
Colombia	Abelardo de la Espriella	President (2026-30)	Aug 2026
Bangladesh	Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir	23rd President	Aug 2026
Zambia	Hakainde Hichilema	President (second term)	Sep 2026
Morocco	Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri	First woman Prime Minister	Sep 2026

Prison Statistics India 2024

Context: In May 2026 the NCRB released Prison Statistics India 2024, which reports continued overcrowding and a high share of undertrial prisoners. India had 1,333 prisons in 2024, national occupancy was about 112.7 per cent with Delhi highest at 194.6 per cent, and undertrials made up about 74 per cent of prisoners.

□ **Key Highlights**

- India had 1,333 prisons in 2024.
- National occupancy was about 112.7 per cent, and Delhi had the highest at 194.6 per cent.
- Undertrials made up nearly three-fourths (about 74 per cent) of prisoners.
- About 95.8 per cent of inmates were male and women were about 4.14 per cent.
- Jharkhand reported prison staff vacancies above 60 per cent.

Women and Men in India 2025

Context: In May 2026 MoSPI released the 27th edition of 'Women and Men in India 2025', compiling gender-disaggregated data. Sex ratio at birth improved from 904 in 2017-19 to 917 in 2021-23, and Arunachal Pradesh has the highest sex ratio (1085) while Jharkhand (899) and Bihar (900) are lowest. The Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 254 in 2004-06 to 88 in 2021-23.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sex ratio at birth improved from 904 in 2017-19 to 917 in 2021-23.
- Arunachal Pradesh has the highest sex ratio (1085), then Nagaland (1007) and Goa (973); Jharkhand (899) and Bihar (900) are lowest.
- Urban TFR fell from 1.7 in 2019 to 1.1 in 2023.
- Mean age at marriage for women is 24.3 years urban and 22.4 rural.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 254 in 2004-06 to 88 in 2021-23.

AB-PMJAY Achieves Nationwide Coverage

Context: In June 2026 Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY reached nationwide coverage after West Bengal joined the scheme. Launched in September 2018 and implemented by the National Health Authority, it covers 12 crore families, about 55 crore beneficiaries, with cashless cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Senior citizens aged 70 and above get universal cover through the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The scheme was launched in September 2018 and is implemented by the National Health Authority.
- It covers 12 crore families, about 55 crore beneficiaries, with cashless cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- Senior citizens aged 70 and above get universal cover through the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card.
- It covers 1,961 packages across 27 specialties.
- As of February 2026, 43.52 crore cards were issued and 36,229 hospitals empanelled.
- Cashless treatment worth Rs 1.73 lakh crore has been provided.

Army Chief Appointment and NDA Women Officers

Context: In June 2026 Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth was appointed the next Chief of Army Staff, succeeding Gen Upendra Dwivedi, and the first batch of 17 NDA-trained women cadets was commissioned. The women cadets joined NDA in July-August 2022 as part of the 148th Course, following a Supreme Court interim order of August 2021. Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in 1986.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in 1986.
- Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai became Military Adviser to the NSCS, the first serving officer in the post.
- The 17 women cadets joined NDA in July-August 2022 as part of the 148th Course.
- Their entry followed a Supreme Court interim order of August 2021.

Asian Events 2026 in India and Region: Fencing, Bridge, Sanda, Beach Games

Context: Several continental sports events were held in 2026, with India hosting the Asian Fencing Championships for the first time in New Delhi in June. The Asia Cup Bridge Championship was held in Goa, the IWUF Sanda World Cup in Macao in May and the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, in April. India won gold at the Sanda World Cup and Beach Games.

□ **Asian Fencing Championships 2026**

- Held in New Delhi, 19-24 June 2026, India's first time hosting.
- Top: Japan (6 gold), South Korea (4), Kazakhstan (2).

□ **Asia Cup Bridge Championship 2026**

- Fifth edition, Goa, 21-27 June 2026.
- Top: Australia and Hong Kong, China (2 gold each); India sixth with 3 silver and 1 bronze.

□ **IWUF Sanda World Cup 2026**

- 11th edition in Macao, China, 13-15 May 2026; China led (7 gold), Vietnam second, India third with 2 gold (Aparna Dahiya 52 kg, Shivani 75 kg).

□ **Asian Beach Games 2026**

- 6th edition in Sanya, China, 22-30 April 2026; China topped with 24 gold.
- India sixth (3 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze): women's beach kabaddi, Pushpa Yadav (60 kg) and Priya Malik (70+ kg) in wrestling.

Asian Beach Games 2026 top three

Rank	Nation	Gold	Total
1	China	24	55
2	Thailand	10	28
3	Iran	9	10

Bimal Patel Elected ITLOS Judge; Vivek Aggarwal FATF Vice President

Context: In June 2026 Indian jurist Bimal Patel was elected a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal became the first Indian Vice President of FATF, appointed at the close of the FATF Plenary in Paris. ITLOS was established by UNCLOS 1982, is headquartered in Germany and has 21 independent members. Aggarwal serves from July 2026 to June 2027.

□ **ITLOS**

- ITLOS was established by UNCLOS 1982 and is headquartered in Germany.
- It has 21 independent members elected by States Parties.
- India's Neeru Chadha is its Vice President.

□ **FATF**

- Vivek Aggarwal will serve from July 2026 to June 2027.
- He was appointed at the close of the FATF Plenary in Paris.

Boxing 2025-26: World Boxing Cup, Futures Cup and Asian Championship

Context: Indian boxers performed strongly at World Boxing events in 2025-26. India topped the World Boxing Cup Finals at Greater Noida in November 2025 with 9 gold medals, and finished second at the Asian Boxing Championship in Ulaanbaatar with 5 gold. Smaller wins came at the Futures Cup in Bangkok in March and World Boxing Cup Stage 2 in Guiyang in June 2026.

□ **World Boxing Cup Finals 2025**

- Held in Greater Noida (UP), 16-20 November 2025.
- India topped with 9 gold, 6 silver, 5 bronze (20).
- Golds: Minakshi Hooda, Nikhat Zareen, Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Arundhati Choudhary, Nupur Sheoran, Parveen Hooda, Sachin Siwach, Hitesh Gulia.

□ **World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 (Bangkok, 8-15 March)**

- Uzbekistan topped; India fourth with 1 gold (Chandrika Pujari, 51 kg).

□ **World Boxing Cup Stage 2 2026 (Guiyang, China, 15-21 June)**

- China topped; India fifth with 1 gold (Jyoti Gulia, 48 kg), 3 silver, 2 bronze.

□ **Asian Boxing Championship 2026 (Ulaanbaatar, 30 March-10 April)**

- Kazakhstan 6 gold; India second with 5 gold, 3 silver, 8 bronze.
- Golds: Minakshi Hooda (48), Preeti Pawar (54), Priya Ghanghas (60), Arundhati Choudhary (70), Vishvanath Suresh (men's 50).

Cricket Leagues and Domestic 2026: IPL, WPL, Asia Cup, Duleep Trophy

Context: Results of major domestic and regional cricket events were completed in 2026. Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the 19th IPL, held from March to May 2026, beating Gujarat Titans in the final, and also won the TATA WPL 2026. India Women won the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup in Dubai, and East Zone won the Duleep Trophy 2026-27.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 (Dubai): India Women champions beating Sri Lanka; Shafali Verma Player of the Tournament (236 runs), Deepti Sharma 14 wickets.
- Duleep Trophy 2026-27: East Zone (3rd title).

□ **IPL 2026**

- 19th edition, 28 March-31 May 2026, 13 venues, 10 teams, 74 matches.
- Final: Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Gujarat Titans at Ahmedabad (RCB's 2nd title).
- Orange Cap and MVP: Vaibhav Suryavanshi (776 runs); Purple Cap: Kagiso Rabada (29 wickets); fastest century: Suryavanshi (36 balls); fastest fifty: Urvil Patel (13 balls).

□ **TATA WPL 2026**

- RCB champions (2nd title), Delhi Capitals runner-up.
- MVP and Purple Cap: Sophie Devine; Orange Cap: Smriti Mandhana; hat-trick: Nandani Sharma.

International Appointments: Corporate, Security and Global Bodies

Context: Key international posts were filled between November 2025 and October 2026. Lucas Philippe became INTERPOL General Assembly President, Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh was elected President of the 81st UN General Assembly session, and Qatar's Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani became President of the Olympic Council of Asia. Corporate and security leadership changes, such as Apple's new CEO, were also announced.

□ **Global bodies**

- Lucas Philippe elected INTERPOL General Assembly President (November 2025), succeeding Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of the UAE.
- Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani (Qatar) elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia at the 46th General Assembly in Tashkent (January 2026).
- Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh elected President of the 81st UN General Assembly session (June 2026).
- Michael Kremer, Nobel laureate economist, became World Bank Group Chief Economist from 1 October 2026.
- Tavengwa Mukuhlani (Zimbabwe) appointed ICC Deputy Chair till November 2027.

□ **Security and defence**

- Pakistan created the post of Chief of Defence Forces; Field Marshal Asim Munir appointed for five years (December 2025).
- Roman Gofman named head of Israel's Mossad (April 2026).
- Lt Gen Susan Coyle became the first woman Chief of the Australian Army (took charge July 2026).
- Mehrdad Akhlaghi approved as Iran's Defence Minister (October 2026).

□ **Corporate**

- John Ternus replaces Tim Cook as Apple CEO from 1 September 2026.
- Dina Powell McCormick named Meta President and Vice Chairman (January 2026).
- Anil Chakravarthy named CEO of Adobe (Executive Chair from 1 December 2026).
- Tewolde Gebremariam became CEO and MD of Air India, succeeding Campbell Wilson (August 2026); Willie Walsh took charge as IndiGo CEO.
- Shailesh Chandra became President of OICA (November 2025).
- Kanishka Narayan (Indian-origin) appointed UK Minister of State for AI (July 2026).

NFHS-6: Fertility, Nutrition and Health Findings

Context: The Health Ministry released NFHS-6, conducted during 2023-24 by IIPS, Mumbai, covering 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts except Manipur. It is the first round after the COVID-19 pandemic and shows fertility below replacement level, falling child stunting and wider health insurance cover, but also a fall in exclusive breastfeeding.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The survey was carried out by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, as nodal agency.
- Total Fertility Rate stayed at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1.
- The share of population under 15 years fell from 26.5 per cent to 25.5 per cent, while the 60-plus share rose from 11.8 per cent to 12.9 per cent.
- Women who married before 18 fell from 23.3 per cent to 20.1 per cent.

□ **Maternal and Child Health**

- Institutional deliveries rose from 88.6 per cent to 90.6 per cent, while caesarean births rose from 21.5 per cent to 27.2 per cent.
- First-trimester antenatal registration improved from 70.0 per cent to 76.2 per cent, and four or more ANC visits rose from 58.5 per cent to 65.2 per cent.
- Mothers taking iron-folic acid for at least 180 days rose from 26.0 per cent to 37.8 per cent.
- Stunting fell from 35.5 per cent to 29.3 per cent and severe wasting from 7.7 per cent to 5.2 per cent; underweight stood at 31.8 per cent.
- Full immunisation of children aged 12-23 months reached 87.1 per cent, up from 83.8 per cent; rotavirus vaccine coverage rose from 36.4 to 85.4 per cent.
- Exclusive breastfeeding below six months fell from 63.7 per cent to 55.8 per cent, and only 15.3 per cent of children aged 6-23 months get an adequate diverse diet.

□ **Socio-Economic Indicators**

- Women using the internet rose from 33.3 per cent to 64.3 per cent.
- Women operating their own bank accounts reached 89.0 per cent.
- Household health insurance coverage rose from 41.0 per cent to 60.2 per cent.

NFHS-5 vs NFHS-6

Indicator	NFHS-5	NFHS-6
Stunting	35.5%	29.3%
Full immunization	83.8%	87.1%
Institutional deliveries	88.6%	90.6%
Women using internet	33.3%	64.3%
Caesarean births	21.5%	27.2%

PMSMA at 10, Digital Health and NHA Estimates

Context: In June 2026 the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan completed 10 years, as India reported over 90 crore ABHA accounts and fresh National Health Accounts estimates. PMSMA gives free specialist antenatal care on the 9th of every month at public facilities. NHA 2022-23 shows government health spending rose from 1.15 to 1.43 per cent of GDP and out-of-pocket spending fell from 64.2 to 43.4 per cent.

□ **PMSMA**

- PMSMA gives free specialist antenatal care on the 9th of every month at public facilities.
- Over 7.5 crore check-ups were done, identifying nearly 1.2 crore high-risk pregnancies.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 130 (SRS 2014-16) to 87 per lakh live births (SRS 2022-24).
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Karnataka have met the SDG target of 70.

□ **Digital Health and NHA**

- India has created over 90 crore ABHA accounts and over 100 crore linked digital health records.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission started in 2021; PM-ABHIM has Rs 64,180 crore.
- NHA 2022-23: government health spending rose from 1.15 to 1.43 per cent of GDP and out-of-pocket spending fell from 64.2 to 43.4 per cent.

QS World University Rankings 2027

Context: In June 2026 India had 52 universities in QS World University Rankings 2027, the fifth highest globally, and IIT Delhi gained India's best-ever rank of 118th. IIT Bombay ranks 134th and IIT Madras 170th, but no Indian institution is in the global top 100. MIT ranks first for the 15th consecutive year.

□ **Key Highlights**

- IIT Delhi ranks 118th, IIT Bombay 134th and IIT Madras 170th.
- No Indian institution is in the global top 100.
- Weak points are internationalisation and faculty-student ratio.
- MIT ranks first for the 15th consecutive year.

Sports Obituaries 2026: Randhir Singh, Jaspal Rana and Others

Context: Several Indian sports figures passed away in 2026. They include Davinder Singh Garcha, who scored eight goals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, shooter Randhir Singh, the first Indian to win Asian Games shooting gold in 1978, and shooter Jaspal Rana. Their achievements, honours and posts held are the usual basis for questions on sports personalities.

Sports obituaries

Person	Achievement	Date
Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey, 8 goals at Moscow 1980, India's eighth and last Olympic hockey gold (73)	10 Jan 2026
I.S. Bindra	Former BCCI President 1993-96 (84)	25 Jan 2026
C.D. Gopinath	India's oldest Test cricketer (96)	9 Apr 2026
Gurbax Singh Grewal	Hockey bronze, Mexico City 1968 (84)	24 Apr 2026
Vijay Kumar	Golfer, Indian Open 2002 winner, four-time Order of Merit (57)	28 Apr 2026
Randhir Singh	Shooter, first Indian Asian Games shooting gold (Bangkok 1978, trap), Arjuna 1979, OCA President 2024 (79)	27 May 2026
Jaspal Rana	Shooter, 15 Commonwealth Games medals (9 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze) 1994-2006 (49)	12 Jun 2026

Student Mental Health, Education Panel Reports

Context: In June 2026 the Supreme Court's National Task Force, constituted in 2025 in Amit Kumar v. Union of India, submitted an interim report on student mental health, and a Parliamentary Standing Committee reported on higher and teacher education. The Task Force noted that 65 per cent of 2,119 surveyed institutions offer no mental health service provider, while public spending on education is about 4.12 per cent of GDP against the NEP target of 6 per cent.

□ Task Force

- The Supreme Court constituted the NTF in 2025 in Amit Kumar v. Union of India.
- Student suicides were 7.6 per cent of total suicides (NCRB 2022).
- 65 per cent of 2,119 surveyed institutions offer no mental health service provider.

□ Parliamentary Committee

- Public spending on education is about 4.12 per cent of GDP against the NEP target of 6 per cent.
- Only 12 of 20 proposed Institutes of Eminence have been notified.
- The 380th Report on Teacher Education led to the Rs 9,195 crore scheme to upgrade 613 DIETs.

UNHCR Global Trends Report on Displacement

Context: In June 2026 UNHCR's Global Trends Report on forced displacement showed 117.8 million people displaced by end-2025, the first decline in a decade, equal to one in every 70 people globally. Seven in ten refugees came from Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela. Rohingya, at 1.8 million, are the largest stateless population, and India hosted 22,700.

□ Key Highlights

- That equals one in every 70 people globally.
- Seven in ten refugees came from Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela.
- Rohingya, at 1.8 million, are the largest stateless population; India hosted 22,700.
- Children are 39 per cent of refugees.
- UNHCR was established in 1950 and is headquartered in Geneva.

23rd Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2026

Context: The 23rd Commonwealth Games began in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2026 with a much reduced programme of only 10 sports after nine, including cricket, hockey, badminton and wrestling, were dropped. The previous edition was held at Birmingham in 2022. The Games began in 1930 as the British Empire Games, making host cities and sports lists a frequent exam topic.

□ Key Highlights

- Dropped sports: badminton, cricket, hockey, squash, table tennis, wrestling, triathlon, beach volleyball and rugby sevens.
- Remaining sports include athletics, boxing, lawn bowls, swimming, artistic gymnastics, track cycling, netball, weightlifting and para-powerlifting, judo and 3x3 basketball.
- The Games began in 1930 as the British Empire Games and are overseen by the Commonwealth Games Federation.

72nd National Film Awards and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards

Context: The 72nd National Film Awards for 2024 films were announced in July 2026 by a jury headed by Malayalam filmmaker Jayaraj, along with Dadasaheb Phalke Awards for three years. Article 370 won Best Feature Film, Mammootty and Kartik Aaryan shared Best Actor, and Yami Gautam won Best Actress. The Phalke Award went to Mithun Chakraborty (2022), Mohanlal (2023) and Anant Nag (2024).

□ Key Highlights

- Best Feature Film: Article 370; Best Actor: Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion) shared; Best Actress: Yami Gautam (Article 370).
- Best Direction: Rajkumar Periasamy (Amaran); Best Debut Film of a Director: Swatantrya Veer Savarkar (Randeep Hooda).

- Best Popular Film: Kalki 2898 AD; Children's Film: 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu.
- Music: Shashwat Sachdev (songs), G.V. Prakash Kumar (background); Lyrics: Manoj Muntashir; Choreography: Vijay Ganguly (Stree 2).

□ Phalke Awards

- Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2022: Mithun Chakraborty; for 2023: Mohanlal; for 2024: Anant Nag.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Records and Messi's Retirement

Context: The 2026 FIFA World Cup produced several records, and Lionel Messi announced his international retirement on 31 August 2026. Kylian Mbappe became the first player to win the Golden Boot at two consecutive World Cups, and four hat-tricks were scored in the tournament. Messi retired after 208 matches and 126 goals, with a record eight Ballon d'Or awards.

□ World Cup

- Kylian Mbappe became the first player to win the Golden Boot at two consecutive World Cups (2022 and 2026).
- Four hat-tricks: Messi, Jonathan David, Ousmane Dembele and Bukayo Saka.

□ Messi

- Lionel Messi announced international retirement on 31 August 2026 after 208 matches and 126 goals; second to Cristiano Ronaldo; record 8 Ballon d'Or.

□ Other

- Lando Norris won the 2025 F1 title; Roger Federer elected to International Tennis Hall of Fame 2026.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Spain Crowned Champions

Context: The 23rd men's FIFA World Cup was played from 11 June to 19 July 2026 and was the first co-hosted by three nations, Canada, Mexico and the USA, and the first with 48 teams. Spain beat Argentina in the final at New York-New Jersey Stadium on 19 July to win its second title after 2010. Hosts, format changes, mascots and award winners are exam-relevant.

□ Tournament facts

- Hosts: Canada, Mexico and the USA; matches in 16 host cities.
- Teams rose from 32 (1998-2022) to 48; total matches rose from 64 to 104.
- Semi-finalists: Spain, France, Argentina, England; England beat France in the third-place match.
- Final: Spain v Argentina at New York-New Jersey Stadium on 19 July 2026; Spain won its second title after 2010.

□ Mascots

- Three mascots: Maple (moose, goalkeeper, Canada), Zayu (jaguar, striker, Mexico) and Clutch (bald eagle, midfielder, USA).

FIFA World Cup 2026 awards

Award	Winner
Golden Ball	Rodri (Spain)
Golden Boot	Kylian Mbappe (France)
Golden Glove	Unai Simon (Spain)
Best Young Player	Pau Cubarsi (Spain)
Fair Play Trophy	Netherlands

Fields Medal 2026 Winners

Context: The Fields Medal 2026 was announced, with four mathematicians winning the prize that is given once every four years to mathematicians under 40. Yu Deng and Hong Wang became the first Chinese nationals to win it, and Hong Wang is the third woman winner. John Pardon and Jacob Tsimerman were the other winners. Winners and frequency are common static-linked questions.

□ Key Highlights

- The other winners are John Pardon (US) and Jacob Tsimerman (Soviet-born Canadian).
- Hong Wang is the third woman to win, after Maryam Mirzakhani and Maryna Viazovska.
- Both Chinese winners teach at American universities but remain Chinese nationals.

ICC Admits Mauritius as 111th Member

Context: The ICC Board approved Mauritius as its 111th member in July 2026, raising the membership of the International Cricket Council to 111. The ICC is headquartered in Dubai. Such expansions of membership of international sports bodies, along with the headquarters, are commonly tested in the sports section of the exam.

□ Key Highlights

- Membership of the International Cricket Council rises to 111.
- The ICC is headquartered in Dubai.

India's R&D Spending Crosses 0.8 Per Cent of GDP

Context: The Department of Science and Technology's Research and Development Statistics 2025-26 show India's R&D spending crossing 0.8 per cent of GDP for the first time since 2010. Gross expenditure on R&D reached Rs 2.45 lakh crore (0.84 per cent) in 2023-24, and the private sector overtook government in share. It matters for questions on GERD, ANRF and the RDI Fund.

□ Key Highlights

- GERD rose from Rs 1.33 lakh crore (0.66 per cent of GDP) in 2019-20 to Rs 2.45 lakh crore (0.84 per cent) in 2023-24.
- The private sector share rose from 33.8 to 51.8 per cent, overtaking government.
- Higher education share rose from 7.5 to 12.6 per cent.
- Drivers include ANRF and the Rs 1 lakh crore RDI Fund.

Indian Sports Achievers 2026

Context: Indian athletes recorded several records and wins during 2026. Harmanpreet Kaur became the most-capped women's international cricketer with 356 matches, Esha Singh set a world-record score in women's 25 m pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, and Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Everest a

record 32nd time. Pragyan Ojha also replaced Ajit Agarkar as BCCI chief selector in October 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Harmanpreet Kaur became the most-capped women's international cricketer (356 matches).
- Sheetal Devi named Para Archer of the Year at World Archery Awards 2025.
- Esha Singh won women's 25 m pistol gold at the ISSF World Cup, Munich, with a world-record score.
- Neeru Dhanda won women's trap gold at ISSF Shotgun World Cup, Lonato.
- Anahat Singh first Indian junior squash World Champion.
- Sumit Antil improved his F64 javelin world record to 74.82 m.
- Gurindervir Singh ran 10.09 s, a national record in 100 m.
- Akshara Gupta scored unbeaten 306 in a U-19 women's one-day match.
- Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Everest a record 32nd time.
- Kaamya Karthikeyan became youngest Indian to ski to the South Pole.
- Gurjant Singh retired from international hockey; Sjoerd Marijne reappointed women's hockey coach.
- Pragyan Ojha replaced Ajit Agarkar as BCCI chief selector in October 2026.

Literary and Journalism Awards 2026

Context: Writing and media awards were announced in 2026. Yang Shuang-zi won the International Booker Prize 2026 for Taiwan Travelogue, translated by Lin King, and it will be renamed Bukhman International Booker from 2027. Anand RK and Suparna Sharma won the Pulitzer Prize 2026 in Illustrated Reporting and Commentary for the project trAPPed, and Dr Ashutosh Parida won the 47th Sarala Puraskar.

□ **Literary**

- Yang Shuang-zi won the International Booker Prize 2026 for Taiwan Travelogue, translated by Lin King; it will be renamed Bukhman International Booker from 2027.
- Dr Ashutosh Parida won the 47th Sarala Puraskar for the Odia poetry collection Bishwas De Pruthwi.

□ **Journalism**

- Anand RK and Suparna Sharma won the Pulitzer Prize 2026 in Illustrated Reporting and Commentary with Natalie Obiko Pearson for the project trAPPed.
- The 20th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards were held in New Delhi.

Samudra Pradakshina: Tri-Service Women Circumnavigation

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated nine women officers for completing Samudra Pradakshina, India's first Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition. The officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force sailed aboard IASV Triveni for about 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans in 314 days. The vessel, distance and feats such as crossing the Equator twice are likely fact-based questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The crew sailed aboard IASV Triveni for about 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans in 314 days.
- They crossed all meridians, the Equator twice and the International Date Line, and rounded the three Great Capes including Drake Passage.
- The officers belong to the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Shooting World Cups 2025-26

Context: India won medals at the ISSF Shooting World Cups of 2025-26. At the World Cup Final in Doha in December 2025 India finished second with 2 gold, and again at Munich in May 2026. At Hangzhou in July 2026 India was third, with Esha Singh winning women's 25m pistol gold. China topped all three events.

□ **Key Highlights**

- World Cup Final (Doha, 4-9 December 2025): China first; India second with 2 gold (Suruchi Inder Singh 10m air pistol; Simranpreet Kaur Brar 25m pistol).
- World Cup Munich (24-31 May 2026): China first; India second with 2 gold (Suruchi Inder Singh and Esha Singh).
- World Cup Hangzhou (20-29 July 2026): China first; India third with Esha Singh winning women's 25m pistol gold.

ISSF events 2025-26 (top nations)

Event	1st	India
World Cup Final Doha 2025	China (4 gold)	2nd, 2 gold
World Cup Munich 2026	China (4 gold)	2nd, 2 gold
World Cup Hangzhou 2026	China (7 gold)	3rd, 1 gold

UNCTAD World Investment Report and WIPO Intangible Report 2026

Context: UNCTAD released its World Investment Report 2026, showing global FDI rose in 2025, while WIPO and Italy's Luiss Business School published the World Intangible Investment Report 2026. India grew fastest in intangible investment among the 15 largest economies. For the exam, note India's improved FDI ranks (11th inward, 18th outward) and who publishes each report.

□ **World Investment Report 2026**

- Global FDI rose 6 per cent to $1.6 trillion in 2025; developed economies grew 11 per cent and developing ones 2 per cent.
- India climbed from 13th to 11th in inward FDI and from 20th to 18th in outward FDI.

□ **World Intangible Investment Report 2026**

- It is published by WIPO and Italy's Luiss Business School.
- Intangible investment has grown over three times faster than tangible investment since 2008.
- The US leads in total intangible investment and Sweden in intensity; in India software and databases grow fastest.

Athletics 2026: U20 Worlds, Asian U23, Asian Relays and 24-Hour Run

Context: India took part in junior and continental athletics meets during 2026. At the World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, USA, in August, India won three medals, and at the inaugural Asian Under-23 Championships in Ordos, China, in July it finished fourth. In May, India also swept the men's individual podium at the IAU 24 Hour Asia and Oceania Championships in Hirosaki, Japan.

□ World Athletics U20 Championships 2026

- Eugene, Oregon (USA), 5-9 August 2026; India won 3 medals (2 silver, 1 bronze) and ranked 27th.
- Silver: Ashish Yadav (javelin) and Basant Kumar Meghwal (high jump); bronze: Shahnavaz Khan (long jump).

□ Asian Under-23 Athletics Championships 2026

- Inaugural edition at Ordos, China, 9-12 July 2026.
- China (23 gold) topped; India fourth with 3 gold, 4 silver, 9 bronze (16).
- Golds: mixed 4x400m relay, Anand Singh (javelin) and women's 4x400m relay.

□ Asian Relays Championships 2026

- Shaoxing, China, 20-21 June 2026; India won one gold (women's 4x100m), one silver and one bronze.

□ IAU 24 Hour Asia and Oceania Championships 2026

- Hirosaki, Japan, 23-24 May 2026; India won five medals including a clean sweep of the men's individual podium: Amar Singh Devanda gold (282.881 km), Geeno Antony silver and Saurav Kumar Ranjan bronze.
- Men's team gold; women's team bronze.

Chess Tournaments 2025-26: Results Table

Context: Leading invitational and league chess events of 2025-26 were completed, with R. Praggnanandhaa winning the Grand Chess Tour Finals, Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz and Norway Chess 2026. Tata Steel Chess India 2026 was held in Kolkata in January. Winners and runners-up of events such as the Global Chess League and Sinquefield Cup are collected for revision.

□ Key Highlights

- R. Praggnanandhaa won the Grand Chess Tour Finals, Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz and Norway Chess 2026.
- Tata Steel Chess India 2026 in Kolkata, 7-11 January.

Chess events results

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Global Chess League S3 (Mumbai, Dec 2025)	Alpine SG Pipers	Triveni Continental Kings
Tata Steel Masters 2026 (Wijk aan Zee, 88th)	Nodirbek Abdusattorov	Javokhir Sindarov
Norway Chess 2026	R. Praggnanandhaa	Wesley So
Sinquefield Cup 2026	Wesley So	R. Praggnanandhaa
Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026	R. Praggnanandhaa	Javokhir Sindarov
Chennai Grand Masters 2026	Alireza Firouzja	Dmitry Andreikin
Grand Chess Tour Finals 2026	R. Praggnanandhaa	Fabiano Caruana
Asian Rapid & Blitz 2026 (Open Rapid)	Aleksey Grebnev	Goutham Krishna H

Gallantry Awards on 80th Independence Day 2026

Context: The President approved 78 gallantry awards (13 posthumous) and 89 Mentions-in-Despatches on the eve of the 80th Independence Day in August 2026. Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award, was the top honour announced, and Major Aditya Pratap Singh received a Bar to Shaurya Chakra. The order of gallantry awards and recipients are frequent exam questions.

□ Key Highlights

- Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award, was the top honour announced; recipients included Lt Col Maneo Francis PF, Major Jitendra Rathee and several posthumous MHA personnel.
- Major Aditya Pratap Singh received a Bar to Shaurya Chakra.
- Shaurya Chakra recipients included Major Paramveer, Major Tarun Vasudevan, Lt Cdr Shivam Kumar and Lance Naik Narender Sindhu (posthumous).

Governors, Chief Ministers and Speakers: 2026 Changes

Context: State-level constitutional posts changed hands in 2026. D.K. Shivakumar became Karnataka's 25th Chief Minister in June, Yumanam Khemchand Singh became Manipur CM in February, and Sunetra Pawar became Maharashtra's first woman Deputy CM in January. New Governors were appointed in October 2026, and new Speakers were elected, so names and posts are key revision points.

□ Key Highlights

- Yumanam Khemchand Singh sworn in as Manipur CM (February 2026) with deputies Nemcha Kipgen and Losii Dikho.
- D.K. Shivakumar became Karnataka's 25th Chief Minister (June 2026) with G. Parameshwara as Deputy CM.
- Sunetra Pawar became Maharashtra's first woman Deputy CM (January 2026).
- Dinesh Sharma sworn in as 14th Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan elected Speaker of Kerala's 16th Assembly; Ranjeet Kumar Dass re-elected Assam Speaker.
- Harivansh Narayan Singh elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman for a third time.

Governors appointed October 2026

State	Governor
Keralam	Om Prakash Mathur
Tamil Nadu	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Odisha	Braj Mohan Ram
Karnataka	Dr Sudha Yadav
Uttarakhand	Dr Dhal Singh Bisen
Sikkim	Dushyant Gautam

Hockey 2025-26: World Cup, Pro League and Other Events

Context: Hockey results for 2025-26 were completed, including the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands in August 2026. Germany won the men's title and Argentina the women's. India won the Women's Nations Cup in Auckland, the Junior Asia Cup and the Men's U-18 Asia Cup, and finished third at the Men's Junior World Cup 2025.

□ Key Highlights

- India won the Men's U-18 Asia Cup (3rd title) and the Junior Asia Cup (men's 6th title, women's 3rd).
- The Women's Nations Cup in Auckland was won by India (2nd title); top scorers Ashley Sessa and Deepika Sehrawat (6 each).
- India finished third in the Men's Junior World Cup 2025 (Chennai and Madurai), won by Germany (8th title).

□ FIH Hockey World Cup 2026

- Hosted jointly by Belgium and the Netherlands, 15-30 August 2026.
- Germany won the men's title (4th); Argentina won the women's (3rd).

Hockey results 2025-26

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Pro League 2025-26	Belgium (2nd)	England
Women's Pro League 2025-26	Netherlands (6th)	Argentina
Men's Nations Cup (Cape Town)	France (1st)	South Africa
Men's Hockey India League	Vedanta Kalinga Lancers (2nd)	Ranchi Royals
Women's Hero HIL (Ranchi)	SG Pipers	Shrachi Bengal Tigers
Men's Junior World Cup 2025	Germany (8th)	Spain
Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 (31st)	Belgium (1st)	India
Youth Hockey 5s Asia (Muscat)	India U18 men	Pakistan
World Cup 2026 men	Germany	Spain
World Cup 2026 women	Argentina	Netherlands

Indian Personalities in News: Honours, Firsts and Records

Context: Many Indians were recognised or appeared in the news between November 2025 and October 2026. Viswanathan Anand became Interim President of FIDE in July 2026, the first Indian to hold the role, while L. Subramaniam received Sri Lanka's highest state honour. Several women officers also recorded firsts in the armed forces and police, which are common 'who is the first' questions.

□ Key Highlights

- Viswanathan Anand became Interim President of FIDE (July 2026), the first Indian to hold the role.
- Raghuram Rajan co-leads a US Federal Reserve task force on balance sheet policy.
- D.Y. Chandrachud appointed by Russia as arbitrator in an Oschadbank treaty dispute.
- N. Chandrasekaran will not seek another term as Tata Sons Chairman after February 2027.

□ Honours and recognition

- L. Subramaniam was conferred Sri Lanka's highest state honour (July 2026).
- Major Abhilasha Barak won the 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year award; Major Swathi Shantha Kumar won the UN Secretary-General's award 2025.
- Sharmila Mona Sinha inducted into the US National Women's Hall of Fame, second Indian-origin woman after Indra Nooyi.
- Smriti Mandhana became UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate (October 2026) and was named among TIME's 100 most influential in sports.

□ Firsts

- Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth: first IAF woman Fighter Combat Leader.
- Captain Hansja Sharma: first woman Army pilot qualified on the Rudra helicopter.
- Major Navya Shekhawat: first woman Army officer as ADC to the President.
- Sanjukta Parashar: first woman IG of CoBRA.
- Saba Shawl: Kashmir's first woman jail superintendent.
- Menaka Guruswamy: India's first openly queer MP (April 2026).

Other Tennis 2026: Masters, Davis Cup and Indian Events

Context: Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka both completed the 'Sunshine Double' in March 2026 by winning Indian Wells and the Miami Open in the same year. Results of other non-Slam events, including the Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup and tournaments held in India such as the WTA Mumbai Open, ATP Delhi Open and ATP Chennai Challenger, also made news.

□ Sunshine Double

- Winning both Indian Wells and Miami Open in the same year is called the Sunshine Double.
- In March 2026 both Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka completed it.

□ Team and Indian events

- Davis Cup Finals 2025: Italy champion (4th title).
- Billie Jean King Cup Finals 2026 in Shenzhen: Czech Republic beat Ukraine.
- WTA Mumbai Open 2026 women's singles: Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Thailand).
- ATP Delhi Open 2026: Stefanos Sakellaridis (men's singles); Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski (doubles).
- ATP Chennai Challenger 2026: Frederico Ferreira Silva won singles; Pruchya Isaro and Niki Poonacha won doubles.
- ATP Bonn Open 2026: Jan Choinski won singles; Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Ramkumar Ramanathan (India) won doubles.

Tennis tournaments 2026

Tournament	Men's singles	Women's singles
Indian Wells	Jannik Sinner (runner-up Daniil Medvedev)	Aryna Sabalenka (Elena Rybakina)
Miami Open	Jannik Sinner (Jiri Lehecka)	Aryna Sabalenka (Coco Gauff)
Madrid Open	Jannik Sinner (Alexander Zverev)	Marta Kostyuk (Mirra Andreeva)
Italian Open	Jannik Sinner (Casper Ruud)	Elina Svitolina (Coco Gauff)
Cincinnati Open	Arthur Fils (Frances Tiafoe)	Coco Gauff (Jessica Pegula)

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2024 and 2025

Context: The President conferred Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 on 115 artistes at Vigyan Bhawan in August 2026. The Akademi awards have been given since 1952. Fellows included Ramlal Bareth, A.V. Anand, Rita Ganguly and Sudharani Raghupathy, while awardees covered Hindustani and Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Chhau and other forms. Art-form linked winners are commonly asked.

□ Fellows

- Ramlal Bareth, A.V. Anand, Rita Ganguly, Puru Dadheech, Chittaranjan Jyotishi, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma and Sudharani Raghupathy.

□ Selected 2024 awardees

- Hindustani vocal: Arun Nagesh Kashalkar; Dhrupad: Nirmalya Dey; Tabla: Sanjay Mukherjee; Carnatic vocal: Krishna Vageesh and N. Vijay Siva.
- Dance: Rajeswari Sainath (Bharatanatyam), Bipul Chandra Das (Kathak), Veena Murthy Vijay (Kuchipudi), Nripen Sahis (Chhau).

□ Selected 2025 awardees

- Roja Kannan (Bharatanatyam), Krishna Mohan Mishra trio (Kathak), Irengbam Nalini Devi (Manipuri), Mallika Kandali (Sattriya), Girija Chandran (Mohiniattam), Pagulu Jena (Chhau), Ileana Citaristi (Odissi).
- Music: Krishna Mohan Pathak (Dhrupad), Shailesh Bhagwat (Shehnai), Jyoti Ganpati Hegde (Rudra Veena).

Safdar Hashmi and B.M. Shah Awards

Year	Safdar Hashmi	B.M. Shah
2021	Manoj Kumar Mishra, Rewa	Satish Anand, Delhi
2022	Rajesh Singh, New Delhi	Kamal Jain, Bhopal
2023	Ajay Kumar, Ghaziabad	Ravishankar Khare, Gorakhpur
2024	Shubhdeep Raha, Lucknow	Sanjay Mehta, Bhopal

Squash 2025-26: World Cup and Other Events

Context: India won its first Squash World Cup, held in Chennai from 9 to 14 December 2025, beating Hong Kong, China, in the final. The Indian team comprised Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh, Anahat Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar. Indian players also won several other international titles during 2026, including the Budapest Open and the Asian Doubles Squash Championship.

□ Key Highlights

- Tuanku Muhriz Trophy (Seremban, Malaysia): Abhay Singh won men's.
- Budapest Open (Hungary, 24-28 August): Velavan Senthilkumar won.
- Asian Doubles Squash Championship (Sarawak, 18-21 June): Velavan Senthilkumar and Abhay Singh won men's doubles beating Pakistan.
- Grasshopper Cup: Karim Gawad (men), Sivasangari Subramaniam (women).

□ Squash World Cup 2025

- Fifth edition, Chennai, 9-14 December 2025; 12 nations in the mixed team event.
- India champion (first title), Hong Kong, China runner-up.
- Indian team: Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh, Anahat Singh, Velavan Senthilkumar.

Vigyan Awards 2025

Context: The national science honours, the Vigyan Awards, were announced for 2025. Vigyan Ratna went posthumously to Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar for Physics, Vigyan Team went to the Aroma Mission CSIR team for Agricultural Science, and Vigyan Shri was given to eight scientists including K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thalappil and Mahan Mj. The award categories and winners are standard exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- Vigyan Ratna: Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (posthumous), Physics.
- Vigyan Team: Aroma Mission CSIR team, Agricultural Science.
- Vigyan Shri: Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Yusuf Mohammad Seikh, K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thalappil, Aniruddha Pandit, S. Venkata Mohan, Mahan Mj and Jayan N.

Weightlifting, Commonwealth Fencing and World Yogasana Championship 2026

Context: Weightlifting, fencing and yoga events were held in 2026, notably India's first overall Commonwealth Fencing title, won at Lagos in August with a record 35 medals. The Asian Weightlifting Championships were held at Gandhinagar in May, and the inaugural World Yogasana Championship at Ahmedabad in June, where India topped with 102 gold medals.

□ Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026

- Held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, 11-17 May 2026.
- China first (21 gold), North Korea second, Chinese Taipei third; India 11th with 10 medals, one silver in total lift by Gyaneshwari Yadav (women's 53 kg).

□ Commonwealth Youth/Junior Weightlifting and Universal Cup 2026

- Apia, Samoa, 27 April-2 May 2026.
- India won 15 medals (6 gold, 8 silver, 1 bronze) at the senior Universal Cup.

□ Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026

- Lagos, Nigeria, 9-19 August 2026.
- India won its maiden overall title (U23 and Senior) with a record 35 medals (13 gold, 8 silver, 14 bronze).
- This earned the Wilkinson Sword Trophy for best overall performance.

□ World Yogasana Championship 2026

- Inaugural edition at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 4-8 June 2026; India topped with 102 gold and 114 medals.

World Yogasana Championship 2026 medal table

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	102	9	3	114
2	Japan	3	3	5	11
3	Argentina	2	3	0	5
4	Singapore	2	2	3	7
5	Nepal	1	36	15	52

Wrestling 2026: U20 Worlds, Asian Championships and PWL

Context: Indian wrestlers took part in several events during 2026. At the U20 World Championships in Bratislava in August, India won 6 medals, including women's 76 kg gold by Kajal Dhochak, her second consecutive U20 world title. India also won 17 medals at the Asian Championships in Bishkek in April, and the 5th Pro Wrestling League was held in Noida in January and February.

□ U20 World Championships (Bratislava, 16-23 August 2026)

- India won 6 medals (1 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).
- Kajal Dhochak won women's 76 kg gold, her second consecutive U20 world title.

□ Asian Wrestling Championships (Bishkek, 6-12 April 2026)

- India won 17 medals (2 gold, 6 silver, 9 bronze).
- Gold: Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70 kg).

□ Pro Wrestling League 2026

- 5th edition, Noida (UP), 15 January-1 February 2026.
- Champion Haryana Thunders; runner-up Delhi Dangal Warriors.

Archery 2026: World Cup Stages, Final and Asia Cup

Context: The 2026 Archery World Cup series saw Indian archers win medals at each stage. India won women's compound team gold at Stage 1 in Puebla, Mexico, in April, women's recurve team gold at Stage 2 in Shanghai in May, and Dhiraj Bommadevara took men's recurve gold at the World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico, in September. India also finished second at Archery Asia Cup Stage 1 in Bangkok.

□ Stage 1 (Puebla, Mexico, 7-12 April)

- China topped; India fifth with 1 gold in the women's compound team (Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Pragati).

□ Stage 2 (Shanghai, 5-10 May)

- Turkiye topped; India sixth with 1 gold, 1 bronze.
- Women's recurve team gold: Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari, Kumkum Mohod.

□ Archery World Cup Final (Saltillo, Mexico, 12-13 September 2026)

- India, Czech Republic, Austria and USA each won one gold.
- Dhiraj Bommadevara won men's recurve gold.

□ Archery Asia Cup Stage 1 (Bangkok, 21-28 March 2026)

- Kazakhstan 3 gold; India second with 2 gold and 10 medals.

Badminton 2025-26: Tournament Winners

Context: Major BWF badminton tournaments were completed in 2025-26, with An Se Young dominating women's singles. China won the Thomas Cup 2026 in Denmark and South Korea won the Uber Cup, while New Delhi hosted the BWF World Championship in August 2026. P.V. Sindhu won the Japan Open, and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won China Masters men's doubles.

□ Key Highlights

- Thomas Cup 2026 (Denmark, 24 April-3 May): China beat France.
- Uber Cup 2026: South Korea beat China.
- BWF World Championship 2026 hosted in New Delhi, 17-23 August.
- P.V. Sindhu won the Japan Open; Tanvi Sharma won Taipei Open; Ashmita Chaliha won Korea Masters; Devika Sihag won Thailand Masters.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won China Masters men's doubles.

BWF singles winners 2026

Tournament	Men's singles	Women's singles
Thailand Masters	Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah	Devika Sihag
All England	Lin Chun-Yi (Lakshya Sen runner-up)	Wang Zhi Yi
Asia Championships (Ningbo)	Shi Yu Qi (Ayush Shetty runner-up)	An Se Young
US Open	Su Li Yang	Line Christophersen
Japan Open	Christo Popov	P.V. Sindhu
Taipei Open	Yudai Okimoto	Tanvi Sharma
Korea Masters	Zhu Xuan Chen	Ashmita Chaliha
Syed Modi India Intl 2025 (Lucknow)	Jason Gunawan	Hina Akechi

Beauty Pageants 2025-26

Context: Winners of major beauty contests were crowned during 2025-26. Fatima Bosch of Mexico won Miss Universe 2025 in Thailand in November 2025, and Joheiry Mola of the Dominican Republic won Miss World 2026 in Nha Trang, Vietnam, where India's Nikita Porwal made the Top 40. Sadhvi Satish Sail (Goa) won Miss India World 2026. Winners and hosts are typical exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- Fatima Bosch of Mexico won Miss Universe 2025 (21 Nov 2025, Thailand).

- Joheiry Mola of the Dominican Republic won Miss World 2026 in Nha Trang, Vietnam; India's Nikita Porwal made the Top 40.
- Sadhvi Satish Sail (Goa) won Miss India World 2026.
- Kaziah Liz Mejo (Kerala) won Miss Universe India 2026; Vaishnavi Ganesh (Tamil Nadu) was Miss International India 2026.

Chess 2025-26: World Cup, Candidates and Olympiad

Context: Major chess events were held in 2025-26, with India's third straight Gaprindashvili Trophy at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, in September 2026. The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 was held in Goa from October to November 2025, and Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan won it as the youngest champion at 19. He also won the Candidates in 2026, earning a title match with Gukesh Dommaraju.

□ FIDE Chess World Cup 2025

- Held in Goa, 31 October-27 November 2025; India's second time after 2002; 11th edition.
- Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan) won, beating Wei Yi, becoming the youngest champion at 19.
- The trophy is named the Viswanathan Anand Trophy.

□ FIDE Candidates 2026 (Pegeia, Cyprus, 28 March-16 April)

- Javokhir Sindarov won and earns a title match with Gukesh Dommaraju.
- Women's Candidates winner Vaishali Rameshbabu will face Ju Wenjun.

□ 46th Chess Olympiad (Samarkand, 15-27 September 2026)

- Open: Uzbekistan (2nd title), India runner-up, Germany bronze. Women: China, Kazakhstan, India bronze.
- India won the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy for best combined rating, third straight after 2022 and 2024.

Civil Services and Economy Appointments 2025-26

Context: Top bureaucratic, regulatory and corporate postings were announced between November 2025 and October 2026. The Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary received extensions into 2027, and Anurag Jain became CEO of NITI Aayog in August 2026. Prahlad Joshi was also given additional charge of Union Education Minister after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned, and Anup Bagchi was named HDFC Bank CEO.

□ Extensions

- Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan extended to 30 August 2027.
- Home Secretary Govind Mohan extended to 22 August 2027.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri extended to 14 July 2027.
- CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal extended till December 2026.

□ New posts

- Anurag Jain: CEO of NITI Aayog (August 2026), two-year term.
- Prahlad Joshi given additional charge of Union Education Minister after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned.
- Deepti Gaur Mukerjee: Higher Education Secretary.
- Mandeep Bhandari: CBSE Chairperson.
- Lav Aggarwal: Director General of Foreign Trade.
- Vir Vikram Yadav: DGCA.
- Saurabh Vijay: CEO, IndiaAI Mission.

□ Finance

- Anup Bagchi: MD and CEO of HDFC Bank from 27 October 2026.
- Ravi Ranjan: SBI MD (December 2025).
- Vinay Tonse: YES Bank MD and CEO (April 2026).
- Sanjay Khanna: BPCL CMD.
- Uday Kotak: Chairman of GIFT City.
- RBI Executive Directors: Usha Janakiraman, Ravi Shankar, Monisha Chakraborty.
- K.V. Ramana Murty: SEBI whole-time member.

Dadasaheb Phalke 2024, Tenzing Norgay Awards and Archery Gold

Context: Actor Anant Nag received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024, the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024 were announced, and Dhiraj Bommadevara won gold at the Archery World Cup Final.

□ Key Highlights

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest cinema honour, first presented in 1969, with Devika Rani as first recipient.
- It includes a Swarna Kamal medallion, a shawl and a cash prize.
- Tenzing Norgay Awards cover Land, Water and Air Adventure and Lifetime Achievement, each carrying Rs 15 lakh.
- Awardees include Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin (Land), Rimo Saha (Water) and Shiv Prasad Chamoli (Lifetime).
- Dhiraj Bommadevara became the first Indian male recurve archer to win Archery World Cup Final gold, beating Japan's Nakanishi Junya in Mexico.
- Dola Banerjee won the women's individual title in 2007, the only other Indian gold.

Global Gender Gap Index 2026: India's Position

Context: The World Economic Forum released its 2026 Global Gender Gap Index covering 145 economies, in which India retained its 131st rank with 64.5% gender parity, below the global average of 69.2%. The index began in 2006 and measures Economic Participation, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. India's rank and sub-index scores are standard exam facts.

□ Key Highlights

- The index began in 2006 and measures Economic Participation, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

- India's economic participation parity is 41.2%, labour-force parity is 44.1% and legislators, officials and managers parity is 13.1%.
- India's educational attainment parity is 96.6% and health and survival parity is 95.6%.
- Political Empowerment is India's best subindex at 24.5%, with global rank 67th.
- India's ministerial parity is 5.9% against its best of 30% in 2019.

Golden Globes, Grammys, BAFTA and Emmys 2026

Context: Major international entertainment awards were presented in 2026. The 83rd Golden Globes in January went to Hamnet for Drama and One Battle After Another for Musical or Comedy, the 68th Grammys in February gave Album of the Year to Bad Bunny, and the 79th BAFTA in February named One Battle After Another Best Film. The 78th Emmys in September saw Widow's Bay win 14 awards.

□ 83rd Golden Globes (11 Jan 2026)

- Drama: Hamnet; Musical or Comedy: One Battle After Another; Animated: KPop Demon Hunters; Director: Paul Thomas Anderson.

□ 68th Grammys (1 Feb 2026)

- Album of the Year: Bad Bunny, Debi Tirar Mas Fotos; Record: Kendrick Lamar with SZA, Luther; Song: Billie Eilish, Wildflower; New Artist: Olivia Dean.

□ 79th BAFTA (22 Feb 2026)

- Best Film: One Battle After Another; Outstanding British Film: Hamnet; Leading actor Robert Aramayo (I Swear); Leading actress Jessie Buckley.

□ 78th Emmys (14 Sep 2026)

- Comedy series: Widow's Bay (Matthew Rhys lead actor), Jean Smart (Hacks) lead actress; Drama series: The Pitt (Noah Wyle); Limited series: DTF St. Louis; Bob Hope Humanitarian Award: Michael J. Fox; Widow's Bay won 14 awards, the most.

India's Ambassadors and High Commissioners Appointed 2026

Context: India announced a new set of ambassadors and High Commissioners between May and October 2026. Periasamy Kumaran was named High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Vikram K. Doraiswami Ambassador to China and Dinesh Trivedi the 18th High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Postings to Ukraine, North Korea, Qatar, Malaysia, Cuba, Iraq and Nepal were also announced.

Diplomatic postings

Country	Envoy
United Kingdom (HC)	Periasamy Kumaran
China	Vikram K. Doraiswami
Bangladesh (HC)	Dinesh Trivedi (18th)
Ukraine	Anjani Kumar
North Korea	Sanjeev Jain
Qatar	K. Srikar Reddy
Malaysia (HC)	Somnath Ghosh
Cuba	Hansraj Singh Verma
Iraq	Ajay A. Kumar
Nepal	Sudhakar Dalela

PMRBP 2025, National Teachers' Awards and Governance Awards

Context: A set of national civil honours was conferred between December 2025 and September 2026. The PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025 was given to 20 children by President Murmu in December 2025, 48 teachers received the National Teachers' Awards in September 2026, and the Panchayat Advancement Index won the Gold at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026. Awardee states and categories are commonly asked.

□ PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025

- Conferred on 26 December 2025 on 20 children by President Murmu.
- Bravery awardees included Vyoma Priya (posthumous, Tamil Nadu), Kamlesh Kumar (posthumous, Bihar), Muhammed Sidan P (Kerala) and Ajay Raj (UP); Science and Technology awardees were Aishi Prisha Borah (Assam) and Arnav Anupriya Maharshi (Maharashtra).

□ National Teachers' Awards 2026

- 48 teachers (26 men, 22 women) honoured on 5 September 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan.

□ Governance

- Panchayat Advancement Index won the Gold at National Awards for e-Governance 2026.
- Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Awards (18 Nov 2025): Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan ranked top three states; Raipur Municipal Corporation topped municipal bodies.
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026 went to NCSC chairman Kishor Makwana.
- Ajit Doval was selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award; Shantanu Moitra received the Rashtriya Lata Mangeshkar Alankaran Samman for 2026.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026 Winners

Context: The 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Awards were announced, going to Tommy Koh of Singapore, Bo Kyi of Myanmar and Runa Khan of Bangladesh. Koh was honoured for promoting international dialogue and the rule of law, having presided over the conference that adopted the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. The award is Asia's prominent honour, so winners and their fields are asked.

□ Key Highlights

- Tommy Koh was recognised for promoting international dialogue and the rule of law and presided over the UN conference that adopted the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982.
- Bo Kyi spent seven years in prison for resisting human rights violations by Myanmar's military.
- Runa Khan founded Friendship Bangladesh in 2002 to help the poorest cope with climate change.

- The award was established in 1957 and is regarded as Asia's counterpart of the Nobel Prize.
- It was funded by trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Table Tennis 2026: WTT Series and Commonwealth Championships

Context: Indian table tennis players won several titles in 2026, at WTT events and the Commonwealth Championships. Manush Shah won titles at WTT events in Vadodara, Muscat and Lagos, and Sreeja Akula won the women's singles at WTT Feeder Puerto Princesa in September. India won both men's and women's team events at the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in New Delhi, from July to August 2026.

□ Key Highlights

- Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won mixed doubles at WTT Contender Muscat and Lagos.
- Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah won men's doubles at Lagos.
- Sreeja Akula won women's singles at WTT Feeder Puerto Princesa; Ankur Bhattacharjee won men's singles at WTT Feeder Olomouc.

□ Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships

- 22nd edition at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi, 27 July-2 August 2026.
- India won both men's and women's team events, beating Malaysia in each final.

WTT events 2026 (Indian winners)

Event	Result
WTT Feeder Vadodara (Jan)	Manush Shah won men's singles; Payas Jain & Syndrela Das won mixed doubles
WTT Contender Muscat (Jan)	Manush Shah & Diya Chitale won mixed doubles
WTT Contender Lagos (May)	Men's doubles: Manav Thakkar & Manush Shah; mixed: Manush Shah & Diya Chitale
WTT Feeder Istanbul II (Jul)	Women's doubles: Swastika Ghosh & Taneesha Kotecha
WTT Feeder Olomouc (Aug)	Ankur Bhattacharjee won men's singles and (with Akash Pal) men's doubles
WTT Feeder Puerto Princesa (Sep)	Sreeja Akula won women's singles

Tennis Grand Slams 2026: Doubles and Mixed Doubles

Context: The 2026 Grand Slam season also produced doubles and mixed doubles champions. Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend won the women's doubles at both the French Open and the US Open, while Christian Harrison and Neal Skupski won men's doubles at the Australian Open and US Open. Winners by Slam are asked in the exam.

□ Key Highlights

- Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend won the women's doubles at both the French Open and the US Open.
- Christian Harrison and Neal Skupski won men's doubles at the Australian Open and US Open.

Grand Slam doubles champions 2026

Slam	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Australian Open	Christian Harrison & Neal Skupski	Elise Mertens & Zhang Shuai	Olivia Gadecki & John Peers
French Open	Marcel Granollers & Horacio Zeballos	Katerina Siniakova & Taylor Townsend	Sara Errani & Andrea Vavassori
Wimbledon	Harri Heliovaara & Henry Patten	Hanyu Guo & Kristina Mladenovic	Marcelo Arevalo & Jelena Ostapenko
US Open	Christian Harrison & Neal Skupski	Katerina Siniakova & Taylor Townsend	Karolina Muchova & Jakub Mensik

Tennis Grand Slams 2026: Winners Table

Context: The four Grand Slam tournaments of 2026 produced a varied set of champions. Carlos Alcaraz won the Australian Open and Jannik Sinner won Wimbledon, while Alexander Zverev won both the French Open and US Open. Among women, Elena Rybakina won the Australian and US Opens, Mirra Andreeva the French Open and Linda Noskova Wimbledon.

□ Key Highlights

- Carlos Alcaraz won the Australian Open; Jannik Sinner won Wimbledon.
- Alexander Zverev won both the French Open and the US Open.
- Elena Rybakina won the Australian Open and US Open; Mirra Andreeva won the French Open; Linda Noskova won Wimbledon.

Grand Slam singles 2026

Slam	Men's singles (runner-up)	Women's singles (runner-up)
Australian Open	Carlos Alcaraz (Novak Djokovic)	Elena Rybakina (Aryna Sabalenka)
French Open	Alexander Zverev (Flavio Cobolli)	Mirra Andreeva (Maja Chwalinska)
Wimbledon	Jannik Sinner (Alexander Zverev)	Linda Noskova (Karolina Muchova)
US Open	Alexander Zverev (Ben Shelton)	Elena Rybakina (Aryna Sabalenka)

V-Dem Democracy Report 2026 and India

Context: The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination raised concerns over alleged voter exclusion linked to the Special Intensive Revision, in line with observations in the latest V-Dem report, which classes India as autocratising.

□ Key Highlights

- The V-Dem report is published annually by the Varieties of Democracy Institute at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- India ranks 106th of 179 countries on the Electoral Democracy Index with a score of 0.38.

- India ranks 105th on the Liberal Democracy Index and is classed an electoral autocracy since 2017.
- India is among 44 countries undergoing democratic backsliding.
- Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are the other autocratising countries in South and Central Asia.

Asian Games 2026: Aichi-Nagoya

Context: The 20th Asian Games were held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 19 September to 4 October 2026, with China topping the medal table. Nagoya is the third Japanese city to host after Tokyo and Hiroshima, and 46 teams took part across 43 sports. Mascot, slogan, debut sports and the medal table are common exam questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Nagoya is the third Japanese city to host after Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994).
- Mascot: Honohon (meaning 'flame'); slogan: 'Imagine One Asia'.
- 46 teams took part (45 National Olympic Committees plus the OCA Refugee Team); 43 sports.
- Debut sports: freestyle BMX, mixed martial arts, padel, surfing, teqball and virtual taekwondo.

Asian Games 2026 medal table (top 5)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	169	89	83	341
2	Japan	83	95	91	269
3	South Korea	39	43	68	150
4	India	21	27	37	85
5	Uzbekistan	21	25	24	70

Constitutional and Statutory Appointments 2025-26

Context: Heads of constitutional and statutory bodies were appointed after November 2025. Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on 24 November 2025, succeeding B.R. Gavai, and three Supreme Court judges were appointed in October 2026. New heads were also named for the Information Commission, Vigilance Commission and several national commissions, so office-holders are a regular Prelims topic.

□ **Judiciary**

- Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on 24 November 2025, succeeding B.R. Gavai; retires 9 February 2027.
- Three SC judges appointed in October 2026: Sunita Agarwal, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Aparesh Kumar Singh.
- Mahesh Chandra Tripathi became the 50th Chief Justice of Bombay High Court; V. Kameswar Rao became Chief Justice of Patna High Court.

□ **Commissions**

- Raj Kumar Goyal: Chief Information Commissioner (December 2025).
- Praveen Vashista: Vigilance Commissioner (January 2026).
- Prakash Rajpurohit: Deputy Election Commissioner till April 2030.
- Ranjana Prakash Desai: Chairperson of the 8th Central Pay Commission.
- Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti: NCBC Chairperson (March 2026).
- Harjit Singh Grewal: NCM Chairperson (July 2026).
- Bhagwat Prasad Makwana: National Commission for Safai Karamcharis chair.
- Lata Gupta: Delhi Commission for Women chair.
- Mohsin Raza: UP Minorities Commission chair.

Defence and Security Chiefs Appointed 2026

Context: Leadership of India's armed forces and security agencies changed during 2026. Gen Dhiraj Seth became the 31st Chief of Army Staff in June 2026, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit became the 29th Chief of Air Staff on 31 October 2026, and Mahesh Dixit took over as Director, Intelligence Bureau. New directors general were also named for NIA, ITBP, BSF and RPF.

Security appointments

Post	Officer	Date
Chief of Army Staff (31st)	Gen Dhiraj Seth, succeeding Gen Upendra Dwivedi	30 Jun 2026
Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen Sandeep Jain	1 Jul 2026
Chief of Air Staff (29th)	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, succeeding A.P. Singh	31 Oct 2026
Director, Intelligence Bureau	Mahesh Dixit, succeeding Tapan Deka	30 Jun 2026
DG NIA	Rakesh Aggarwal	Jan 2026
DG ITBP	Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor	Jan 2026
DG BSF	Praveen Kumar	Jan 2026
DG RPF	Jitendra Kumar (till Mar 2030)	Oct 2026
Director, NCRB	Amit Garg	Jul 2026
Commissioner of Police, Delhi	Anurag Kumar	Jul 2026
Director, ED	Rahul Navin (extended to Aug 2027)	Aug 2026
C-in-C Andaman and Nicobar Command	Vineet McCarty (20th)	Jun 2026
DCNS	Vice Adm A.N. Pramod	Aug 2026
DG GSI	Varsha Ashok Aglawe, first woman in 176 years	Jul 2026

India at Asian Games 2026: Records and Gold Medallists

Context: India finished fourth at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with 85 medals including 21 gold, its second-highest tally after 2022. Several firsts were recorded, such as Pranavi Urs's individual golf gold and Jay Meena's first soft tennis medal. Vithya Ramraj also broke P.T. Usha's 42-year-old national record in the 400m hurdles.

□ **Ceremonies**

- Flag-bearers at the opening: Manu Bhaker (shooting) and Pawan Sehrawat (kabaddi).
- Neeru Dhanda (shooting) carried the flag at the closing ceremony.

□ **Firsts and records**

- Archery gave nine medals including five gold.
- Pranavi Urs became the first Indian woman to win an individual golf gold.
- Kumkum Mohod became the first Indian woman to win Asian Games individual recurve gold.
- Jay Meena won India's first-ever soft tennis medal.
- Vithya Ramraj won bronze in women's 400m hurdles, breaking P.T. Usha's 42-year-old national record.
- Baranica Elangovan won India's first Asian Games pole vault medal; Sawan Barwal took marathon silver with a national record.
- Anahat Singh became the first Indian woman with a squash singles silver at the Games.
- Athletics gave 24 medals, but only one gold.

□ **Selected gold medallists**

- Neeru Dhanda (trap), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing 75 kg), Parveen Hooda (boxing 65 kg), Ankush Panghal (boxing 80 kg).
- Sujeet Kalkal and Aman Sehrawat (freestyle wrestling), Pranavi Urs (golf).
- Team golds: women's and men's cricket, women's and men's kabaddi, women's and men's hockey, women's 4x400m relay, several archery compound and recurve teams.

International Honours for Indians 2026

Context: Indians were recognised abroad during 2026. Sunil Bharti Mittal received France's Legion d'Honneur (Knight rank), Captain Smit Machhhar was chosen for Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism after the flydubai FZ1073 incident, and Major Abhilasha Barak won the 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, as the Army's first woman combat helicopter pilot. Honour and country pairings are common questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sunil Bharti Mittal received France's Legion d'Honneur (Knight rank).
- Captain Smit Machhhar was chosen for Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism after the flydubai FZ1073 incident of 30 September 2026.
- Major Abhilasha Barak won the 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award; she is the Army's first woman combat helicopter pilot.
- Sethuraman Panchanathan is the first Indian American to win the Arthur M. Bueche Award (NAE).
- Two Indian women, ZT Lalrithangi (Mizoram) and Priyanka Mahesh Shelke (Maharashtra), featured in FAO's 100 Women Heroes initiative.
- Soma Mandal won the 2026 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award for South Asia.
- UNMISS awarded the UN Medal to 210 Indian peacekeepers; India is the second-largest uniformed contributor with 4,200+ personnel.

International Obituaries 2025-26

Context: Notable global figures died between November 2025 and October 2026. The most significant was Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in office since 1989, who was killed in an attack by Israel and the US in February 2026. Actors, writers, scientists and former heads of state also passed away, and persons with their field of fame are asked in the exam.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (Supreme Leader since 1989) was killed in an attack by Israel and the US in February 2026.

International obituaries

Person	Known for	Date	Age
Lee Soon-jae	South Korean actor	25 Nov 2025	91
David J. Farber	'Grandfather of the Internet'	7 Feb 2026	91
Robert Duvall	US actor; Oscar for Tender Mercies (1983)	15 Feb 2026	95
Ali Khamenei	Iran's Supreme Leader 1989-2026	Feb 2026	-
Jeffrey Archer	British novelist	30 Mar 2026	67 as reported
Mal Anderson	Australian tennis champion	10 May 2026	91
Sonny Rollins	Jazz saxophonist	24 May 2026	95
Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani	Emir of Qatar 1995-2013	12 Jul 2026	74
Chandrikapersad Santokhi	Former President of Suriname (2020-25)	2026	-

Major Marathons 2026: Winners

Context: Leading road races of 2026 produced notable results, including a new men's marathon world record in London. Sabastian Sawe of Kenya won the London Marathon in 1:59:30, while Kartik Karkera won the men's New Delhi Marathon. Winners of the major marathons, such as Berlin, Boston, Chicago and Tokyo, are collected for revision.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Sabastian Sawe (Kenya) won London in 1:59:30, recorded as a new world record.
- Kartik Karkera won the men's New Delhi Marathon.

Marathon winners 2026

Race	Men	Women
Chicago	Amos Kipruto (Kenya)	Hawi Feysa Gejia (Ethiopia)
Berlin	Guye Adola (Ethiopia)	Tigst Assefa (Ethiopia)
Cape Town	Mohamed Esa (Ethiopia)	Dera Dida Yami (Ethiopia)
London	Sabastian Sawe (Kenya)	Tigst Assefa (Ethiopia)

Boston	John Korir (Kenya)	Sharon Lokedi (Kenya)
Tokyo	Tadese Takele (Ethiopia)	Brigid Kosgei (Kenya)
Lisbon Half	Jacob Kiplimo (Uganda)	Tsigie Gebreselama (Ethiopia)
TCS World 10K Bengaluru	Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi)	Florence Niyonkuru (Rwanda)
New Delhi	Kartik Karkera (India)	Nirmaben Thakor (India)
Mumbai	Tadu Abate (Ethiopia)	Yeshi Chekole (Ethiopia)
Los Angeles	Nathan Martin (USA)	Priscah Cherono (Kenya)

National Obituaries 2025-26: Arts, Literature and Public Life

Context: Prominent Indian personalities from arts, literature and public life died between November 2025 and October 2026. They include Asha Bhosle, Teejan Bai, S. Janaki and Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who died in an air crash at Baramati. Their honours, such as Padma awards, and the field they are known for are frequently asked in Prelims.

□ Key Highlights

- Asha Bhosle: Padma Shri 1997, Padma Vibhushan 2008.
- Teejan Bai: Padma Shri 1988, Bhushan 2003, Vibhushan 2019.
- S. Janaki won the National Award for Best Female Playback Singer four times.
- Ajit Pawar died in an air crash at Baramati; he was Maharashtra's longest-serving Deputy CM.

National obituaries

Person	Field and note	Date
Andesri	Telugu poet and lyricist	10 Nov 2025
Kamini Kaushal	Early Hindi film star (98)	13 Nov 2025
Dharmendra	Actor, Padma Bhushan 2012 (89)	24 Nov 2025
Swraj Kaushal	Senior advocate, ex-Governor of Mizoram	4 Dec 2025
Ram V. Sutar	Sculptor of Statue of Unity (100)	18 Dec 2025
Gyanranjan	Hindi writer, editor of Pahal (90)	7 Jan 2026
Ajit Pawar	Maharashtra Deputy CM	28 Jan 2026
Geeta Patnaik	Odia playback singer (68)	15 Feb 2026
Mani Shankar Mukherjee ('Sankar')	Bengali author (92)	20 Feb 2026
K.N. Panikkar	Historian	9 Mar 2026
Hermann Kulke	Indologist, Odisha history	10 Mar 2026
Vijaypat Singhania	Ex-Raymond chairman (87)	28 Mar 2026
Asha Bhosle	Playback singer (92)	12 Apr 2026
Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri	Ex-Uttarakhand CM (91)	19 May 2026
Bashir Badr	Urdu poet, Padma Shri 1999, Sahitya Akademi 1999 (91)	28 May 2026
Suman Kalyanpur	Singer (89)	31 May 2026
Teejan Bai	Pandvani folk singer (70)	5 Jul 2026
S. Janaki	Playback singer (88)	11 Jul 2026
M.P. Parameswaran	Nuclear scientist, science communicator (91)	11 Aug 2026
Solomon Pappaiah	Tamil orator	11 Sep 2026
Nana Patekar	Actor, Padma Shri 2013 (75)	8 Oct 2026
Guruvayur Dorai	Mridangam maestro, Padma Shri 2025 (91)	10 Oct 2026
A.V.S. Raju	Founder of NCC Ltd, Padma Shri 2010 (89)	13 Oct 2026

PM Modi: Longest-Serving Elected Head of Government and Foreign Honours

Context: Narendra Modi completed 25 continuous years as head of a government on 7 October 2026, counting from his time as Gujarat Chief Minister from October 2001. In March 2026 he became the longest-serving head of an elected government in India, and in June 2026 he overtook Jawaharlal Nehru as longest-serving elected PM in consecutive terms. He also received foreign honours from countries such as Ethiopia, Oman, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

□ Key Highlights

- Completed 25 continuous years as head of a government on 7 October 2026 (CM of Gujarat from 7 October 2001; PM since 2014).
- On 22 March 2026 he became the longest-serving head of an elected government in India, with 8,931 days.
- On 10 June 2026 he overtook Jawaharlal Nehru as longest-serving elected PM in consecutive terms (4,399 days since 26 May 2014).

Foreign honours to PM Modi

Honour	Country	Date
Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Dec 2025
Order of Oman (First Class)	Oman	Dec 2025
Medal of the Knesset	Israel	Feb 2026
Royal Order of the Polar Star, Grand Cross	Sweden	May 2026
Royal Norwegian Order of Merit	Norway	May 2026
Agricola Medal	FAO	May 2026
Order of the White Double Cross, First Class	Slovakia	Jun 2026
Guardian of the Blue Horizon	Seychelles	Jun 2026
Bintang Adipurna	Indonesia	Jul 2026
Order of Highest Friendship (Oliy Darajali Do'stlik)	Uzbekistan	Aug 2026

Upcoming Major Sports Events and Hosts

Context: The hosts of several future global sporting events have been fixed. The ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2027 will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, the Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad, and the FIFA World Cup 2030 in

Morocco, Portugal and Spain. Event-and-host pairs are a staple static-linked question in Prelims.

Future hosts

Event	Host
ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2027	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028	Australia and New Zealand
ICC Champions Trophy 2029	India
ICC ODI World Cup 2031	India and Bangladesh
AFC Asian Cup 2027	Saudi Arabia
FIFA Women's World Cup 2027	Brazil
FIFA World Cup 2030	Morocco, Portugal, Spain
FIFA World Cup 2034	Saudi Arabia
Summer Youth Olympics 2026	Dakar
Commonwealth Games 2030	Ahmedabad
Asian Games 2030 and 2034	Doha; Riyadh
Olympics 2028 and 2032	Los Angeles; Brisbane
Chess Olympiad 2028	Abu Dhabi
National Games 2027	Meghalaya
UCI Road World Championships 2032	Pune

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025

Context: The Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 was conferred on 106 young artists in October 2026 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. There were 51 recipients for 2024 and 55 for 2025, including Namrata Rai (Kathak) and Kuna Samal (Saraikela Chhau). The award is for young performing artists, so the art forms matter.

□ **Key Highlights**

- There were 51 recipients for 2024 and 55 for 2025.
- Notables 2024: Namrata Rai (Kathak), Kuna Samal (Saraikela Chhau), Gajender Singh (Nautanki, UP), Vijesh N.V. (Mudiyettu), Isher Singh Namdhari (Tar Shehnai).
- Notables 2025: Subhashree Swain (Mayurbhanj Chhau), Somnath Mahato (Purulia Chhau), Shilu Singh Rajput (UP folk music), Vipin Viswanatha Pulavar (puppetry, Kerala).

UP Specific

Current Notes

Firozabad Glass Museum and Other Cultural Projects

Context: New museums and heritage-themed projects were announced in Uttar Pradesh for tourism and traditional crafts. India's first dedicated Glass Museum is being developed in Firozabad, the Glass City of India, and a National Cow Culture Museum is planned at Mathura. In April 2026, a 700-kg Vikramaditya Vedic Clock was unveiled at Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi.

□ **Glass Museum**

- India's first dedicated Glass Museum is being developed in Firozabad, the Glass City of India.

□ **National Cow Culture Museum**

- To be set up at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University, Mathura, as India's first such museum.

□ **Vikramaditya Vedic Clock**

- A 700-kg Vedic clock, presented by Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav, was unveiled at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in April 2026.

□ **Vedaranyam**

- Described as India's first eco-spiritual park, being developed at Thakurnagar near Naimisharanya, Sitapur.

India's First Hydrogen Water Taxi at Varanasi

Context: India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel began service on the Ganga at Varanasi after being flagged off by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on 11 December 2025. It operates from Namo Ghat and is part of the green maritime push. Varanasi lies on National Waterway-1 (Ganga), which makes this a common static-linked topic.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Flagged off by Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on 11 December 2025.
- Operates from Namo Ghat, Varanasi.
- It is the country's first fully indigenous hydrogen-fuel-cell passenger vessel, part of the green maritime push.
- Varanasi is on National Waterway-1 (Ganga).

Lucknow: First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City of UP

Context: Lucknow was recognised under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban as the first Zero Fresh Waste Dump City in Uttar Pradesh, in early 2026. The concept means that no fresh municipal solid waste reaches dumpsites, because it is processed or recycled. The award is relevant for questions on urban sanitation schemes and state firsts.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Recognised as the first Zero Fresh Waste Dump City in Uttar Pradesh.
- Awarded under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).
- Concept: no fresh municipal solid waste reaches dumpsites; waste is processed or recycled.

Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

Context: The Centre notified an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh, in early 2026. The ESZ is meant to protect biodiversity and encourage responsible ecotourism around the sanctuary. ESZs are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which is the key static link for this topic.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Located in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ESZ declared to protect biodiversity and encourage responsible ecotourism.
- ESZs are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand Become Ramsar Sites

Context: In January 2026 the Union Environment Minister announced two new Ramsar sites, Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Kachchh, Gujarat, taking India's total to 98. Patna Bird Sanctuary, established in 1991, is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, while Chhari-Dhand lies between the Banni grasslands and the Rann of Kachchh salt marshes.

□ **Patna Bird Sanctuary**

- Located in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh and established in 1991.
- It is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.
- Visitors include lesser whistling duck, greylag goose, comb duck, ruddy shelduck, gadwall, Eurasian wigeon, Indian spot-billed duck, northern shoveler and northern pintail.

□ **Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve**

- Located in Kachchh district of Gujarat between the Banni grasslands and the salt marshes of the Rann of Kachchh.
- In Kachchhi, 'chhari' means saline and 'dhand' means shallow wetland.
- Habitat of Dalmatian pelican, Oriental darter, black-necked stork and Indian skimmer.
- Known for the 'Chir Batti' or ghost lights phenomenon seen on dark nights in the Banni grasslands.

Raj Bhavan Renamed Jan Bhavan in Lucknow

Context: The Governor's official residence in Lucknow, Raj Bhavan, was renamed Jan Bhavan by the state government, with effect from 21 January 2026. The renaming came during the same week that the UP Legislature hosted the 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference at Vidhan Bhawan, Lucknow. Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the conference, which was addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Renaming took effect on 21 January 2026.
- Raj Bhavan, Lucknow became Jan Bhavan.
- Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel.

□ **86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference**

- Hosted by the UP Legislature at Vidhan Bhawan, Lucknow from 19 to 21 January 2026.
- Inaugurated by Governor Anandiben Patel and addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Solar on Track at Namo Bharat Depot, Duhai

Context: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) introduced India's first 'Solar on Track' system on a Regional Rapid Transit System on 13 November 2025 at the Namo Bharat Depot, Duhai, Ghaziabad. In February 2026, PM Modi also inaugurated the Namo Bharat rapid rail and Meerut Metro route in Meerut. The project is a state-level first in sustainable transport.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Launched on 13 November 2025 at the Namo Bharat Depot, Duhai, Ghaziabad.
- First installation of such a system in any Regional Rapid Transit System in India.
- Run by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

□ **Namo Bharat and Meerut Metro**

- PM Modi inaugurated the Namo Bharat rapid rail and Meerut Metro route in Meerut on 22 February 2026.

Sporting Events in UP: Volleyball, Sansad Khel Mahakumbh, World Boxing Cup, Everest Cycling

Context: Uttar Pradesh hosted several national and international sporting events between November 2025 and April 2026. The World Boxing Cup was held at Greater Noida in November 2025, the 72nd National Volleyball Championship at Varanasi in January 2026, and the third Sansad Khel Mahakumbh began in Lucknow in April 2026. Divya Singh of Gorakhpur also became the first Indian woman to cycle to Everest Base Camp.

□ **Events**

- 72nd National Volleyball Championship: Varanasi, 4-11 January 2026, 58 teams.
- Third Sansad Khel Mahakumbh began in April 2026 in Lucknow.
- World Boxing Cup: Greater Noida, 13-24 November 2025.

□ **Divya Singh**

- Gorakhpur teacher Divya Singh became the first Indian woman to cycle to Everest Base Camp, in 14 days.

UP Day 2026: Gaurav Samman and One District One Cuisine

Context: Uttar Pradesh Day, observed on 24 January, was celebrated in Lucknow in 2026 with the Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman and the launch of One District-One Cuisine. Five honourees, including Shubhanshu Shukla for space science, received Rs 11 lakh each, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as chief guest. The cuisine initiative complements One District-One Product (ODOP).

□ **Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman 2025-26**

- Presented at Rashtra Prerna Sthal, Lucknow on 24 January 2026.
- Five honourees, each given Rs 11 lakh, a citation and a shawl.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah was chief guest.

□ **One District-One Cuisine**

- Launched on the occasion to promote local food identities of districts, complementing One District-One Product (ODOP).

□ **Rashtra Prerna Sthal**

- Inaugurated by PM Modi in Lucknow on 25 December 2025, on the 101st birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Gaurav Samman 2025-26 honourees

Honouree	Field
Shubhanshu Shukla	Space science
Alakh Pandey	Education
Dr Hari Om Panwar	Literature
Rashmi Arya	Women empowerment
Dr Sudhanshu Singh	Agriculture

UP Firsts in Education and Skilling, 2026

Context: A cluster of 'first in India' and 'first in the state' education and skilling institutions were announced or opened in Uttar Pradesh around January 2026. India's first AI-enabled state university pilot was launched at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, on 28 January 2026, and the first state-level Braille library opened in Lucknow. A forest university is also planned at Gorakhpur.

□ **Education and institutions**

- India's first AI-enabled state university pilot launched on 28 January 2026 at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, involving MSDE, Google Cloud and Placecom.
- India's first dedicated forest university to be set up at Gorakhpur with an investment of about Rs 500 crore.
- First State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM) of UP to come up at Gorakhpur.
- First state-level Braille library opened on 4 January 2026 at Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow, with over 4,000 Braille books.
- Digital libraries being set up in 104 gram panchayats of Agra.

- First municipal Space Lab established at Padrauna, Kushinagar.

□ **Aeronautics skilling**

- A National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence will be set up at the NSTI, Kanpur (India-France cooperation announced by PM Modi).

Uttar Pradesh in Padma Shri 2026 and Other Honours

Context: Uttar Pradesh personalities featured among the 113 Padma Shri awardees of 2026, and N. Rajam (Art) from Uttar Pradesh was among the five Padma Vibhushan awardees. UP awardees included Anil Kumar Rastogi (Art), Ashok Kumar Singh (Science), Buddha Rashmi Mani (Archaeology) and Mangala Kapoor (Literature). Pooja (UP) and Ajay Raj were also among the PMRBP 2025 awardees, relevant to state-level questions.

□ **Padma Vibhushan**

- N. Rajam (Art) from Uttar Pradesh was among the five Padma Vibhushan awardees.

□ **Awardees**

- Padma Shri awardees from UP included Anil Kumar Rastogi (Art), Ashok Kumar Singh (Science), Buddha Rashmi Mani (Archaeology), Mangala Kapoor (Literature), Praveen Kumar (Sports), Rajendra Prasad and Shyam Sundar (Medicine), and Raghupat Singh (Agriculture, posthumous).
- Among PMRBP 2025 awardees, Pooja (UP) was honoured in Environment and Ajay Raj in Bravery.

Budget 2026-27: Projects Linked to Uttar Pradesh

Context: Union Budget 2026-27, presented in February 2026, carried several announcements that directly benefit Uttar Pradesh, including high-speed rail to Varanasi and the development of heritage sites at Sarnath and Hastinapur. Seven high-speed rail corridors include Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri, and a ship repair ecosystem for inland waterways will be set up at Varanasi and Patna. Sarnath and Hastinapur are among 15 archaeological sites to be developed.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Seven high-speed rail corridors include Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri.
- A ship repair ecosystem for inland waterways will be set up at Varanasi and Patna.
- Sarnath and Hastinapur are among 15 archaeological sites to be developed as cultural destinations.
- Support for the One District One Product initiative through the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative for khadi, handloom and handicrafts.

Dowry Directions in State of UP v. Ajmal Beg

Context: In State of U.P. vs Ajmal Beg (2025), reported in February 2026, the Supreme Court issued directions to enforce the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of dowry cases in 2023, when dowry-related crimes rose 14 per cent. The Court directed appointment of trained Dowry Prohibition Officers and a review of pending cases under Sections 304-B and 498-A IPC, now Sections 80 and 85 of the BNS, 2023.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Rajbir v. State of Haryana (2010) directed adding Section 302 IPC in dowry death cases. Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014) barred automatic arrest in 498-A cases.
- Dowry-related crimes rose 14 per cent in 2023 with over 15,000 cases and more than 6,100 deaths.
- Uttar Pradesh had the most cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, followed by Bihar and Karnataka.
- The Court directed appointment of trained Dowry Prohibition Officers with publicised contact details.
- High Courts must review pending cases under Sections 304-B and 498-A IPC, now Sections 80 and 85 of the BNS, 2023.
- Police and judicial officers are to be trained, and district administrations to run awareness drives.

NGT Orders Restoration of Suav as a River

Context: In February 2026 the National Green Tribunal directed the Uttar Pradesh government to restore the Suav, a major tributary of the Rapti, from 'drain' to 'river' in official records and the gazetteer. The Rapti is a major left-bank tributary of the Ghaghara, known anciently as Iravati, and originates in Nepal near Rukumkot in the Mahabharat range before entering eastern Uttar Pradesh.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Rapti is a major left-bank tributary of the Ghaghara, known anciently as Iravati. It originates in Nepal near Rukumkot in the Mahabharat range and enters eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- Its main tributaries are Burhi Rapti and Rohini.

Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System

Context: In February 2026 the Prime Minister inaugurated India's first Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System, a semi-high-speed commuter service linking Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. It is a rail-based system with speeds up to 180 km per hour that cuts travel time on the corridor to 60 minutes from about 3 hours. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation is the implementing agency.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a rail-based commuter system with speeds up to 180 km per hour.
- The implementing agency is the National Capital Region Transport Corporation, a joint venture of the Centre and Rajasthan, UP, Haryana and Delhi.
- The Delhi-Meerut corridor cuts travel time to 60 minutes from about 3 hours.
- Women form the majority of train operators and station control staff.

Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026-27: Key Numbers

Context: Finance Minister Suresh Khanna presented the Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026-27 on 11 February 2026, a growth-focused budget that kept the fiscal deficit at 3 per cent of GSDP,

the limit recommended by the 16th Finance Commission. Total expenditure is Rs 9,12,696 crore, 27 per cent above the 2025-26 revised estimate. Its key numbers on deficits, receipts and debt are regularly examined.

□ **Overall size**

- Total expenditure is ₹9,12,696 crore, 27 per cent above the 2025-26 revised estimate.
- Debt repayment is about ₹61,795 crore; net expenditure is about ₹8,50,901 crore.
- UP's GSDP grew 9 per cent in 2024-25 at constant prices; per capita GSDP was ₹1,24,366 (national ₹2,34,859).

□ **Deficits**

- Revenue surplus ₹64,458 crore (1.6% of GSDP).
- Fiscal deficit ₹1,18,481 crore (3% of GSDP), the limit recommended by the 16th Finance Commission.
- Primary deficit ₹49,560 crore (1.2% of GSDP).

□ **Receipts**

- About half of revenue receipts come from the state's own sources.
- Own tax revenue ₹3,34,491 crore; State GST projected at about 45 per cent of own tax revenue.
- Stamp and registration ₹43,802 crore; non-tax revenue ₹26,754 crore.

□ **Spending and debt**

- Revenue expenditure ₹6,64,471 crore; capital outlay ₹1,77,744 crore (11% above revised estimate).
- Outstanding liabilities are projected at 23.1 per cent of GSDP at the end of 2026-27, lower than the revised estimate of 27.6 per cent for 2025-26.

Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025-26: Macro Picture

Context: The Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025-26 was tabled on 9 February 2026,, and sets the vision of a one trillion dollar state economy. It shows GSDP rising from Rs 13.30 lakh crore in 2016-17 to Rs 30.25 lakh crore in 2024-25, with UP contributing about 9.1 per cent of India's GDP. Macro indicators from the survey are exam-relevant.

□ **Growth**

- GSDP at current prices rose from ₹13.30 lakh crore (2016-17) to ₹30.25 lakh crore in 2024-25, a CAGR of 10.8 per cent.
- UP contributes about 9.1 per cent of India's GDP.
- State Bank of India's report suggests UP could be a decisive part of India becoming the third-largest economy by 2027.

□ **Per capita and demography**

- Net per capita income rose from ₹54,564 (2016-17) to ₹1,09,844 (2024-25), a CAGR of about 9.1%.
- Population 25.19 crore as of March 2026 (17.8% of India); if a country, UP would rank fifth after India, China, the US and Indonesia.
- Total fertility rate fell from 2.7 (NFHS-4) to 2.4 (NFHS-5).
- Sex ratio at birth was 111 boys per 100 girls in 2011.
- Life expectancy projected: males 73.2 and females 77.1 years by 2051.

□ **Finances**

- Public debt-to-GDP fell from 29.3% (2016-17) to 28.0% (2024-25), far below the national 81.3%.
- State's own tax revenue grew from ₹0.86 lakh crore to ₹2.09 lakh crore.
- Dependence on central transfers fell from 56% to 46.4% in 2025-26.

Sector shares in UP economy 2024-25

Sector	Share
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	24.9%
Real estate and professional services	13.9%
Construction	12.9%
Manufacturing	11.7%
Trade and hotels	8.3%
Transport and communication	7.4%

Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025-26: Sectors and Infrastructure

Context: The sectoral findings of the Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025-26 were released in February 2026 and show agriculture, industry and services all growing. Agricultural GVA reached Rs 6.95 lakh crore in 2024-25, and UP is developing as the capital of expressways with 7 operational. The survey also records airport expansion, forest cover and power generation figures.

□ **Agriculture**

- Agricultural GVA rose from ₹2.96 lakh crore (2016-17) to ₹6.95 lakh crore (2024-25), a CAGR of 11.2%.
- UP leads in milk output (up 33.6%).
- Egg production rose 167%; foodgrain output rose 9.9% in 2024-25 to 737.4 lakh tonnes.

□ **Industry and services**

- Secondary-sector GVA rose from ₹3.34 lakh crore to ₹7.60 lakh crore.
- Services GVA increased from ₹5.95 lakh crore to ₹13.10 lakh crore (CAGR 10.4%).
- Annual Survey of Industries: industrial GVA grew 25% in 2023-24, highest among major states.

□ **Infrastructure**

- Uttar Pradesh is developing as the capital of expressways: 7 operational and 3 under construction.
- 12 domestic and 4 international airports; Noida International Airport at Jewar to make UP the first state with five international airports.
- Varanasi is building India's first urban ropeway project.
- UP ranks first in power generation capacity growth and in internet subscribers.

□ **Forest cover**

- Forest and tree cover grew from 23,437.53 sq km (2021) to 23,996.72 sq km (2023); UP ranks second nationally.

Kalinjar Fort Hills Declared National Geo-Heritage Site

Context: In March 2026 the hills around Kalinjar Fort in Banda, Uttar Pradesh were declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India. The fort dates to the Gupta period, about the 4th to 6th century, and has temples and stepwells, including the Neelkanth Temple.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The fort dates to the Gupta period, about 4th to 6th century.
- It has temples and stepwells, including the Neelkanth Temple.

MPLADS Works Outside Constituencies: 84% Funds to Uttar Pradesh

Context: In March 2026 an analysis found that 21 MPs recommended MPLADS works outside their State or constituency worth over Rs 18 crore, with 84% going to Uttar Pradesh districts. Under MPLADS each MP can recommend works worth Rs 5 crore a year, and up to Rs 50 lakh a year outside the normal area, a limit revised in April 2023. MoSPI is the nodal ministry.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Each MP can recommend works worth Rs 5 crore a year. Up to Rs 50 lakh a year may be recommended outside the normal area (earlier Rs 25 lakh, revised April 2023).
- MoSPI is the nodal ministry; the e-SAKSHI portal has managed the scheme since April 2023.
- Nominated MPs can recommend works anywhere in India.

Nivesh Mitra 3.0 and Industrial Schemes

Context: UP launched a revamped investor portal, Nivesh Mitra 3.0, on 24 March 2026, when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath introduced it as a digital platform to simplify the investor experience. New schemes were also unveiled to build industrial space, such as the UP Private Business Park Development Scheme 2025 and the Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme. A 500-acre Japan City was planned near Jewar in August 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026 (New Delhi, 19 August 2026): plan for a 500-acre Japan City in YEIDA Sector 5A, near Noida International Airport, Jewar.

□ **Launch**

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched Nivesh Mitra 3.0 on 24 March 2026.
- A digital platform to simplify the investor experience.

□ **Schemes unveiled**

- UP Private Business Park Development Scheme 2025.
- Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme.

UP Health and Agriculture Firsts: AI Clinic, Basmati Farm, Bareilly Airport

Context: A set of new institutions and rankings in Uttar Pradesh made news around March 2026. India's first government hospital-based AI clinic opened at GIMS, Greater Noida, and APEDA signed a 70-year lease for India's first integrated Basmati and organic training-cum-demonstration farm in Pilibhit. Bareilly Airport also topped UP in AAI's customer satisfaction survey, ranking 7th nationally.

□ **Health**

- India's first government hospital-based AI clinic opened at GIMS, Greater Noida.

□ **Agriculture**

- APEDA signed a 70-year lease for India's first integrated Basmati and organic training-cum-demonstration farm in Pilibhit.

□ **Infrastructure**

- Bareilly Airport topped UP and ranked 7th nationally in AAI's customer satisfaction survey.
- First state Media Tower approved at Bareilly.
- World Bank agreement to support UP's Clean Air Plan.

Ganga Expressway Inaugurated

Context: PM Modi inaugurated the 594-km Ganga Expressway in Hardoi district on 29 April 2026, linking western and eastern Uttar Pradesh from Meerut to Prayagraj. Its foundation stone was laid in December 2021 at Shahjahanpur, and it was built on a public-private partnership model at an estimated cost of Rs 36,230 crore. It passes through 12 districts, making it an important state infrastructure topic.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Inaugurated on 29 April 2026 in Hardoi district.
- Foundation stone laid on 18 December 2021 at Shahjahanpur; construction began April 2022.
- Public-private partnership model.
- 594 km access-controlled greenfield corridor; six lanes expandable to eight; design speed 120 km/h.
- Estimated cost Rs 36,230 crore.

□ **Route**

- Passes through 12 districts from Meerut to Prayagraj, as listed in the table.

Districts on Ganga Expressway

Region	Districts
West	Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal
Central	Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli
East	Pratapgarh, Prayagraj

Navayug Palika Yojana

Context: Navayug Palika Yojana is a fully state-funded scheme, introduced in 2026 to equip smaller urban bodies with smart-city style facilities. It covers urban bodies in 58 district headquarters and has an outlay of Rs 2,916 crore over five years from 2025-26 to 2029-30, with no central government funding. The scheme promotes digital governance and e-services.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Covers urban bodies in 58 district headquarters: 55 municipal councils, three town councils and Dadri Municipal Council in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

- Rs 583.20 crore annually; Rs 2,916 crore over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30).
- No central government funding.
- Promotes digital governance and e-services.

Noida Factory Workers' Protests and Wage Unrest

Context: Large protests by factory workers in Noida turned violent after several days, part of wider labour unrest in North Indian industrial hubs. The Uttar Pradesh government responded with higher minimum wages and welfare measures.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The main trigger was demand for higher wages, with pay gaps between Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring Haryana.
- Workers also complained of irregular payments, missing overtime pay and poor labour standards.
- Contractual and informal labour limits social security and bargaining power.
- The Uttar Pradesh government raised minimum wages and improved overtime and timely payment provisions.
- Specialised industrial cells were created to handle labour disputes and security was tightened in industrial areas.

Shekha Jheel Declared Ramsar Site; UP Now Has 12

Context: In April 2026 Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary near Aligarh was designated a Ramsar wetland site, taking Uttar Pradesh to 12 Ramsar sites and India's total to 99. The freshwater lake lies about 17 km from Aligarh and is connected to the Upper Ganga Canal system. It forms part of the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It lies about 17 km from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. It is a freshwater lake and bird sanctuary connected to the Upper Ganga Canal system.
- It forms part of the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds.
- The addition takes the national count of Ramsar sites to 99.

UP Minimum Wage Revision, 2026

Context: UP revised minimum wages as an interim step in April 2026. The notification was issued on 17 April 2026 with retrospective effect from 1 April 2026, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The state is divided into three categories, with Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad in Category I, and wages include a basic amount plus Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA).

□ **Notification**

- Issued on 17 April 2026 with retrospective effect from 1 April 2026.
- Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, using powers of the United Provinces Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- Wages have a basic amount plus Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA).

□ **Categories**

- Category I: Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad.
- Category II: districts with municipal corporations.
- Category III: the rest.
- Category I monthly wages: Rs 13,690 unskilled, Rs 15,059 semi-skilled, Rs 16,868 skilled.

Lucknow Coaching Centre Fire and Urban Fire Risk

Context: In June 2026 a fire at a building housing a coaching centre in Aliganj, Lucknow killed at least 15 students and exposed gaps in urban fire safety. Fire services are a municipal function in the Twelfth Schedule under Article 243W. The 15th Finance Commission recommended Rs 5,000 crore for modernising fire services, and BIS replaced the National Building Code 2016 with National Building Construction Standards 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Fire services are a municipal function in the Twelfth Schedule under Article 243W.
- The 15th Finance Commission recommended Rs 5,000 crore for modernising fire services.
- BIS replaced the National Building Code 2016 with National Building Construction Standards 2026.

Lucknow: Creative City of Gastronomy and Eat Right Airport

Context: Lucknow gained UNESCO and FSSAI recognition in 2026. UNESCO named 58 new Creative Cities, with Lucknow joining as a Creative City of Gastronomy for its Awadhi culinary heritage, and Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow became India's first FSSAI-certified Eat Right Campus in June 2026 with a three-star rating. Uttar Pradesh items like these are favoured in the state-level section.

□ **UNESCO**

- UNESCO named 58 new Creative Cities; Lucknow joined as a Creative City of Gastronomy for its Awadhi culinary heritage.

□ **Airport**

- Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow became India's first FSSAI-certified Eat Right Campus (June 2026) with a three-star rating, valid till March 2028.
- North Eastern Railway's Lucknow Division ran its first 'Avadh Mahashakti' freight train from Gonda on 20 August 2026.

Regional Meteorological Centre Lucknow and Prakriti Gyan Dham

Context: New science and weather facilities opened in Lucknow in 2026. The Regional Meteorological Centre was inaugurated on 8 June 2026 by Jitendra Singh and Yogi Adityanath, and provides impact-based forecasts for UP, Uttarakhand and nearby regions. Prakriti Gyan Dham, an eco-educational hub at Banthra, Lucknow (CSIR-NBRI), followed in August 2026.

□ **Regional Meteorological Centre**

- Inaugurated 8 June 2026 by Jitendra Singh and Yogi Adityanath.

- Provides impact-based forecasts for UP, Uttarakhand and nearby regions.
- Doppler Weather Radars grew from 17 in 2014 to 50 in June 2026; 50 more proposed under Mission Mausam.

□ **Prakriti Gyan Dham (August 2026)**

- Eco-educational hub at Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre, Banthra, Lucknow (CSIR-NBRI).
- Features PaVan Path heritage trail, Vibhav Enclave for rare plants, Bhairav Enclave for State Plants and Bamboosteum with 43 bamboo species.

Rooftop Solar in UP: PM Surya Ghar Leadership

Context: Uttar Pradesh leads the country in PM Surya Ghar rooftop solar installations. In June 2026, UP ranked first in the high-consumer-base category for May 2026, with 64,734 installations, and by October 2026 it had crossed 9 lakh installations with capacity above 3,000 MW. Lucknow is the top district, so the scheme is a regular topic for state-level energy questions.

□ **Awards (June 2026)**

- UP ranked first in the high-consumer-base category for May 2026: 1,02,035 consumer applications, 64,734 installations and 779 vendor registrations.
- Lucknow is the top district, crossing 1 lakh installations.
- UP placed second nationally in DISCOM inspection.

□ **October 2026 update**

- UP crossed 9 lakh rooftop installations with capacity above 3,000 MW.
- About 9.14 lakh installations as of 20 October 2026, first nationally.
- Lucknow recorded over 1.56 lakh installations.

Surha Tal: India's 100th Ramsar Site

Context: In June 2026 Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Surha Tal in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, was designated India's 100th Ramsar site, raising Uttar Pradesh's Ramsar tally to 13. It is a natural perennial oxbow lake near the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghara, formed by meandering of the Ghaghara, and a wintering ground for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.

□ **Key Highlights**

- It is a natural perennial oxbow lake in Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh.
- It lies near the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghara and was formed by meandering and course changes of the Ghaghara.
- It was consolidated in 1991 from the land of 45 villages as Surha Tal and renamed in 2002 after Jai Prakash Narayan.
- The area is about 3,432 hectares, expanding to about 25,000 hectares in monsoon.
- It is a wintering ground for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.
- Notable fish include the vulnerable Wallago attu and Bagarius bagarius, and it attracts the vulnerable fishing cat.
- It is a source of irrigation and groundwater recharge.

Cybercrime Policing in UP: Pratibimb and Operation Cy-Vajra

Context: UP police have been using data-driven tools and statewide drives against cyber fraud. UP DGP Rajeev Krishna launched Operation Cy-Vajra on 7 July 2026 at Police Headquarters, Lucknow, to arrest cybercriminals and recover defrauded money. Prayagraj Police use the Pratibimb platform to detect cybercrime, and Noida announced a Rs 217 crore Safe City project in September 2026.

□ **Operation Cy-Vajra**

- Launched on 7 July 2026 by UP DGP Rajeev Krishna at Police Headquarters, Lucknow.
- Aims to arrest cybercriminals, recover defrauded money and promote cyber safety.

□ **Pratibimb platform**

- Used by Prayagraj Police to detect cybercrime.
- Integrates FIRs, mobile tower data, IP addresses, financial transactions and behavioural patterns to identify fraud clusters.

□ **Safe City, Noida**

- Noida Authority announced a Rs 217 crore Safe City project for surveillance, crime prevention and emergency response (September 2026).

Digi Rover Land Survey and Project GANGA

Context: UP launched technology-driven land surveys and a rural broadband project in mid-2026. CM Yogi Adityanath launched the Digi Rover campaign from Saharanpur on 1 July 2026, using GNSS-based devices for accurate land measurement in all tehsils. Project GANGA (Government Assisted Network for Growth & Advancement), launched on 9 June 2026, aims at high-speed internet for over 20 lakh rural and semi-urban households.

□ **Digi Rover campaign**

- Launched on 1 July 2026 from Saharanpur by CM Yogi Adityanath.
- Runs 1 July to 15 August 2026 in all tehsils.
- Uses GNSS-based Digi Rover devices for accurate land measurement.

□ **Project GANGA**

- Government Assisted Network for Growth & Advancement, launched 9 June 2026.
- Aims high-speed internet for over 20 lakh rural and semi-urban households.
- 8,000-10,000 Digital Service Providers at Nyaya Panchayat level, about half women.
- Brand name: Ganga Fiber.

India's First Department of Military Medicine at Lucknow

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's first dedicated Department of Military Medicine at

Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow, under the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ It aims to strengthen combat medical readiness, research and indigenous doctrines.
- ➤ It will begin with academic programmes and later add Centres of Excellence for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and CBRNE defence.
- ➤ It covers trauma care, combat psychiatry and battlefield medicine, using AI, wearables and predictive analytics.

Kaushal Setu, Kaushal Sarathi and Kaushal Sampark

Context: The UP Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) launched digital portals and a feedback tool in 2026. Kaushal Setu and Kaushal Sarathi were launched on 15 July 2026, World Youth Skills Day, at Lucknow by Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal. Kaushal Setu enables paperless registration of training partners, and Kaushal Sampark, a QR code feedback initiative, followed on 15 August 2026.

□ **Portals**

- ➤ Launched on 15 July 2026 (World Youth Skills Day) at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow by Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal.
- ➤ Kaushal Setu: paperless registration and empanelment of training partners.
- ➤ Kaushal Sarathi: district-wise map of training centres and courses.

□ **Kaushal Sampark**

- ➤ QR code initiative launched 15 August 2026 by UPSDM.
- ➤ Trainees give feedback and complaints by scanning QR codes at centres.

□ **MY Bharat convention**

- ➤ National Youth Volunteers Convention held at Lucknow in July 2026, addressed by Mansukh Mandaviya.

Ram Mandir Donation Management and Bar Boycott

Context: Allegations of embezzlement in the Ram Temple donation system at Ayodhya have triggered a debate on transparent temple finances. The Ayodhya (Faizabad) Bar Association also resolved that no member would defend the eight accused, imposing a Rs 5 lakh penalty on any lawyer who did, which raised constitutional questions.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Many older major temples run under dedicated laws, whereas the Ram Temple works under a trust deed and is not subject to mandatory government audit.
- ➤ Examples of statutes: Tirumala-AP Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act; Shri Jagannath Temple Act; J&K Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act; UP Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act.
- ➤ Suggested reforms include annual independent audits, real-time digital accounting, UPI donations, RFID tagging of valuables, CCTV, published audited statements and whistleblower channels.

Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Scheme

Context: The UP Cabinet approved the Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Scheme on 21 July 2026 with a budget of Rs 400 crore, to give free scooters to meritorious women graduates. It covers 50,000 beneficiaries: UP resident women graduating in 2025-26 in the top 5 per cent with family income up to Rs 2 lakh. Scooters are procured through GeM and cannot be resold.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➤ Approved by the Cabinet on 21 July 2026 with a budget of Rs 400 crore.
- ➤ 50,000 beneficiaries: UP resident women graduating in 2025-26 in the top 5% with family income up to Rs 2 lakh.
- ➤ Benefits: free scooter, RTO registration, insurance, ISI helmet, accessories and 4 litres of petrol.
- ➤ Differently abled, destitute or martyr's daughters get up to 10% relaxation in marks.
- ➤ Procured through GeM; scooters cannot be resold.

UP Social Welfare Schemes: PMMVY, Widow Pension, Teachers' Cashless Scheme

Context: Several welfare schemes in Uttar Pradesh saw progress or launch in mid-2026. By 31 July 2026, UP achieved 102.14 per cent of its PMMVY registration target for 2026-27, and the CM Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme was launched at Varanasi on 8 July 2026 with cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family. UP is also first nationally with 4,226 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

□ **PMMVY**

- ➤ By 31 July 2026 UP achieved 102.14% of its FY 2026-27 registration target: 4,06,058 against 3,97,567.
- ➤ Over Rs 286.55 crore paid via DBT in 2,61,369 instalments.
- ➤ Benefit: Rs 5,000 in two instalments for the first child and Rs 6,000 for a second girl child.

□ **Destitute Women (Widow) Pension**

- ➤ Rs 1,000 a month via DBT, usually Rs 3,000 quarterly.
- ➤ Eligibility: UP resident aged 18+, husband deceased, annual family income below Rs 2 lakh.

□ **CM Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme**

- ➤ Launched 8 July 2026 at Varanasi; cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family.
- ➤ MoU with SBI for additional social security insurance.

□ **Jan Aushadhi**

- ➤ UP is first nationally with 4,226 Jan Aushadhi Kendras as of 30 June 2026.
- ➤ National target 25,000 Kendras by March 2027.

UP Startup Policy 2026 and Startup Procurement Scheme

Context: The UP Cabinet approved UP Startup Policy 2026 on 6 July 2026 under CM Yogi Adityanath, supporting the vision of a one trillion dollar state economy. It raised the sustenance

allowance to Rs 20,000 a month for two years and seed funding to Rs 15 lakh. It was followed in October 2026 by the UP Startup Procurement Scheme, with single-tender purchase up to Rs 50 lakh.

□ **Startup Policy 2026**

- Approved on 6 July 2026 under CM Yogi Adityanath.
- Supports the vision of a USD 1 trillion state economy.
- Sustenance allowance raised from Rs 17,500 a month for one year to Rs 20,000 a month for two years.
- Prototype grant raised from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
- Seed funding raised from Rs 7.5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, extendable to Rs 50 lakh in exceptional cases.
- Deep-tech startups (AI, robotics, quantum, space) can get up to Rs 20 lakh for prototypes and Rs 30 lakh seed funding.

□ **UP Startup Procurement Scheme 2026**

- Approved 9 October 2026; government order on 12 October.
- UP Startup Mission is the nodal agency, with a startup module on GeM.
- Open to DPIIT-recognised startups under the UP Startup Policy 2026 with HQ or 50% workforce in UP.
- Single-tender purchase up to Rs 50 lakh, Rs 1 crore for sunrise sectors.
- Payment: 30% on purchase order, 60% after supply, 10% after warranty.

Defence in UP: AK-203 Sher, Drone Hub and Agniveer Reservation

Context: Defence manufacturing and recruitment developments took place in Uttar Pradesh in 2026. The first 100 per cent indigenised AK-203 'Sher' assault rifle was test-fired in August 2026, made by Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd at Korwa Ordnance Factory, Amethi. In September 2026, the UP Cabinet also approved 20 per cent horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in Transport Enforcement Constable posts.

□ **AK-203 Sher**

- First 100% indigenised AK-203 'Sher' assault rifle test-fired in August 2026.
- Made by Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd at Korwa Ordnance Factory, Amethi.

□ **National Military Drone Technology Hub**

- Proposed at IIT Kanpur; on 14 October 2026 Rajnath Singh said approval was nearing completion.

□ **Former Agniveers**

- UP Cabinet approved 20% horizontal reservation in Transport Enforcement Constable posts on 15 September 2026.
- Three years' age relaxation after four years of service.

Lucknow Events: Nausena Shaurya Vatika and BRICS Statistics Meet

Context: Lucknow hosted defence heritage and BRICS events in 2026. The Nausena Shaurya Vatika, centred on the decommissioned warship INS Gomti, was inaugurated on 30 May 2026 by Rajnath Singh and Yogi Adityanath. The BRICS NSO Heads Meeting was held there on 3-4 August 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship, and a fruit conclave, Fruit Horizon 2026, took place in May.

□ **Nausena Shaurya Vatika**

- Inaugurated 30 May 2026 by Rajnath Singh and Yogi Adityanath.
- Centrepiece: decommissioned warship INS Gomti.

□ **BRICS NSO Heads Meeting**

- Held 3-4 August 2026 in Lucknow under India's BRICS Chairship.
- Statistics track theme: Quality Statistics as Driver of Change.

□ **Fruit Horizon 2026**

- Conclave on 6-7 May 2026 in Lucknow on premium fruit production and exports.

PC&PNDT Act Ruling from a Bulandshahr Case

Context: The Supreme Court ruled that police cannot independently investigate offences under the PC&PNDT Act, 1994, even though they are cognizable. The case arose from alleged illegal sex determination at a hospital in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.

□ **Key Highlights**

- The Act prohibits sex determination; the 2003 amendment added pre-conception sex selection.
- The District Magistrate, as Appropriate Authority, authorised a decoy operation, raid and FIR; the accused challenged the chargesheet in the Allahabad High Court.
- The Court held that investigation lies with the Appropriate Authority under Section 17.
- A Magistrate cannot take cognizance on a police chargesheet alone; Section 28 requires a complaint.
- Police may still investigate separate IPC or BNS offences from the same incident.
- The Appropriate Authority includes a Joint Director of Health as Chairperson, an eminent woman from a women's organisation and a Law Department officer.

PC&PNDT ruling

Issue	Ruling
Who investigates	Appropriate Authority (Sec 17)
Court cognizance	Complaint route under Sec 28
Separate IPC/BNS offences	Police may investigate

Parichha Weir Recognised as World Heritage Irrigation Structure

Context: The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) recognised the 140-year-old Parichha Weir in Jhansi as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure. The award was given at the 26th ICID Congress in Marseille on 14 October 2026. The weir is built across the Betwa river, is 1,174 m long, and supports irrigation in Bundelkhand.

□ **Key Highlights**

- Built across the Betwa river; 1,174 m long; supports Bundelkhand irrigation.

- Recognised by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure.
- Award at the 26th ICID Congress in Marseille, 14 October 2026.

Sarnath Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site

Context: The ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea. It is India's 45th World Heritage property and Uttar Pradesh's fourth.

□ Key Highlights

- The Buddha delivered his first sermon, the Dharmachakra Pravartana, here; Lumbini marks birth, Bodh Gaya enlightenment and Kushinagar Mahaparinirvana. The site was known as Rishipatana, Ishipatana and Mrigadava.
- Sarnath was on India's Tentative List from 1998 and the nomination was submitted in January 2025.
- India's 45 properties comprise 37 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site; India ranks 6th globally.
- UP's other sites are the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.
- The inscription covers Chaukhandi Stupa and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath, which include Dhamek Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara and the Ashokan Pillar.
- It was inscribed under criteria (iii) and (vi).
- Lumbini, Bodh Gaya and Sarnath are now listed; Kushinagar is not.
- It developed over about sixteen centuries, from the 4th-3rd century BCE to the 12th century CE.
- The Ashokan Lion Capital found here is India's National Emblem, with four lions, a 24-spoke chakra and elephant, bull, horse and lion on the abacus.
- The Sarnath School of Art flourished in the Gupta period using buff Chunar sandstone.
- Xuanzang and Faxian described the site; Sarnath also has a Jain temple of Shreyanshnath, the 11th Tirthankara.

□ UNESCO List

- As of July 2026 there are 1,273 properties in 173 countries: 991 cultural, 240 natural and 42 mixed.

Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi Statue Unveiled in Lucknow

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a statue of Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi in Lucknow, paying tribute to her sacrifice in the 1857 War of Independence. She lived from 1831 to 1858 and was queen of Ramgarh, in present-day Madhya Pradesh, acting as regent for her minor sons. She refused the British placing Ramgarh under the Court of Wards, which makes her a likely 1857 and Uttar Pradesh question.

□ Key Highlights

- She lived from 1831 to 1858 and was queen of Ramgarh, in present-day Madhya Pradesh. After her husband Raja Vikramaditya Singh Lodhi fell ill and died, she acted as queen-regent for her minor sons.
- The British placed Ramgarh under the Court of Wards, which she refused to accept.
- In 1857 she led an army of about 4,000 soldiers and defeated the British in the Battle of Kheri near Mandla.
- In March 1858, facing defeat, she embraced martyrdom.

UP Leads Domestic Tourism; Visit My State and Neem Karoli Circuit

Context: Uttar Pradesh topped domestic tourist visits in 2025, with 155.74 crore visits including Mahakumbh, as shown in the Tourism Data Compendium 2026. Fresh initiatives followed, such as Visit My State, launched on 13 May 2026 with free museum entry for children and families. In September 2026, the Neem Karoli Baba Circuit was also launched, linking four sites.

□ Tourism Data Compendium 2026

- UP ranked first with 155.74 crore domestic visits in 2025, including Mahakumbh.
- Next: Tamil Nadu 36.30 crore, Andhra Pradesh 35.39 crore, West Bengal 29.43 crore.
- Major centres: Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Mathura, Vindhyachal.

□ Visit My State

- Launched 13 May 2026 by Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh.
- State museums give free entry to children and families for two months.

□ Neem Karoli Baba Circuit

- Launched September 2026 linking four sites: Akbarpur (Firozabad, birthplace), Neem Karoli Ashram (Farrukhabad), Hanuman Setu Temple (Lucknow) and Samadhi Temple (Vrindavan).

□ Tharu museum

- Tharu Janjati Museum, Imlia Koder, Balrampur won Gold at ICRT Indian Subcontinent Responsible Tourism Awards 2026.

Bhadohi: India Carpet Expo and Renaming Plan

Context: The golden jubilee 50th India Carpet Expo was inaugurated on 4 October 2026 at Carpet Expo Mart in Bhadohi, and on the occasion a renaming of the district was announced. Bhadohi is to be renamed Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi. The Chief Minister also inaugurated or laid foundations for 112 projects worth over Rs 1,340 crore, and a yarn processing plant was announced at Mirzapur.

□ India Carpet Expo

- 50th edition inaugurated 4 October 2026 at Carpet Expo Mart, Bhadohi.
- CM inaugurated or laid foundations for 112 projects worth over Rs 1,340 crore.

□ Renaming

- Bhadohi to be renamed Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi.

□ **Mirzapur yarn plant**

➤ Purvanchal's first yarn processing plant to be built in Mirzapur to serve the carpet industry.

IAF Wings Over Ganga Air Show at Varanasi

Context: The Indian Air Force marked its 94th anniversary in October 2026 with an air show at Namo Ghat, Varanasi. Titled Wings Over Ganga, the three-day show was held on 22, 24 and 25 October 2026 over the Ganga. The anniversary theme was Infallible, Impervious and Precise.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ Three-day show on 22, 24 and 25 October 2026 over the Ganga.

➤ Titled Wings Over Ganga.

➤ Anniversary theme: Infallible, Impervious and Precise.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Policy, 2026

Context: The UP Cabinet approved a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Policy on 9 October 2026, aimed at making the state a hub for SAF made from agricultural residue. Feedstock includes rice husk, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse, and UPNEDA is the nodal agency. The policy is valid for five years and offers incentives such as stamp-duty relief and electricity-duty exemption.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ Approved on 9 October 2026.

➤ Feedstock: rice husk, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse.

➤ UPNEDA is the nodal agency; valid five years.

➤ Incentives: stamp-duty relief, interest subsidy, SGST reimbursement and 100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years.

Unit classification by capital investment

Category	Investment
Large	Rs 200-500 crore
Mega	Rs 500-1,500 crore
Ultra-Mega	Above Rs 1,500 crore

UP AI Mission (UP-AIM) and Lucknow AI City

Context: The UP Cabinet cleared a five-year Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) on 9 October 2026, with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31. It aims to train 5 lakh youth, support at least 100 AI startups and set up District AI Centres in all 75 districts. Lucknow is also projected as an AI City, after a Regional AI Impact Conference held there in January 2026.

□ **Key Highlights**

➤ A Regional AI Impact Conference was held in Lucknow on 12-13 January 2026 as a precursor to the national AI Impact Summit. Lucknow is projected as an AI City: about Rs 10,732 crore plan with 10,000 GPUs, multimodal language models, an AI innovation hub and R&D labs.

➤ Train 5 lakh youth and develop 50,000 AI professionals.

➤ Support at least 100 AI startups and build over 100 AI-based solutions.

□ **Approval and outlay**

➤ Approved on 9 October 2026 with a proposed outlay of Rs 2,000 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31.

➤ Rs 225 crore is earmarked for the first year, 2026-27.

➤ Runs under the IT and Electronics Department.

□ **Components**

➤ District AI Centres planned in all 75 districts.

➤ One AI Fellow per district, paid Rs 40,000 a month for one year.

➤ Over 200 AI skill labs, aiming to certify 1 lakh technical learners.

UP Cabinet Decisions of 9 October 2026: Procurement and Waivers

Context: The UP Cabinet took several decisions on 9 October 2026, clearing procurement policies for paddy and coarse cereals and a tax interest waiver scheme. Paddy MSP was set at Rs 2,441 per quintal for common grade, with a target of 65 lakh MT. The Cabinet also approved the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone Development Scheme at Rs 1,725 crore over three years.

□ **Paddy Procurement 2026-27**

➤ MSP Rs 2,441 per quintal common and Rs 2,461 Grade-A.

➤ Target 65 lakh MT via about 4,500 centres and eight agencies.

➤ Western UP 12 October 2026 to 15 February 2027; Eastern UP 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027.

➤ Payment to farmers within 48 hours.

□ **Coarse Cereals 2026-27**

➤ Procurement 1 October to 31 December 2026.

➤ MSP: maize Rs 2,410, bajra Rs 2,900, hybrid jowar Rs 4,023, Maldandi jowar Rs 4,073 per quintal.

➤ Targets: bajra 2.20 lakh MT (33 districts), jowar 50,000 MT (13 districts), maize 15,000 MT (25 districts).

➤ Biometric verification and direct bank payment.

□ **Interest Waiver Scheme 2026**

➤ Approved 9 October, notified 16 October 2026; covers tax dues up to 31 December 2025.

➤ Waiver: 100% for principal up to Rs 10 lakh; 90% for Rs 10 lakh-1 crore; 75% for Rs 1-5 crore; 50% above Rs 5 crore.

➤ Valid in 75 districts for three months.

□ **Skill zone scheme**

➤ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone Development Scheme: Rs 1,725 crore over three years.

255 Current Affairs MCQs

Practice Questions with Answer Key

Chapter 1: Polity, Governance and Judiciary

1. Who headed the 16th Finance Commission?
(A) Y V Reddy
(B) N K Singh
(C) Arvind Panagariya
(D) Vijay Kelkar

2. What share of the divisible pool did the 16th Finance Commission fix for States (vertical devolution)?
(A) 40 per cent
(B) 41 per cent
(C) 42 per cent
(D) 45 per cent

3. Under the 2022 Delimitation Commission, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has 90 assembly seats. How many of these are in Kashmir?
(A) 43
(B) 45
(C) 50
(D) 47

4. What is the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the CJI, under the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026?
(A) 34
(B) 38
(C) 35
(D) 40

5. Under which Article of the Constitution can Parliament change the name of a State, as done for Kerala to Keralam?
(A) Article 3
(B) Article 2
(C) Article 4
(D) Article 368

6. India's first synchronous Census in 1881 was conducted under whom?
(A) Lord Mayo
(B) H H Risley
(C) J H Hutton
(D) W C Plowden

7. India formally adopted gender budgeting in which year?
(A) 2000-01
(B) 2004-05
(C) 2010-11
(D) 1996-97

8. The PRAGATI platform for review of projects by the Prime Minister was launched in which year?
(A) 2015
(B) 2014
(C) 2016
(D) 2017

9. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce anaemia by how much per year?
(A) 1 per cent
(B) 2 per cent
(C) 3 per cent
(D) 5 per cent

10. The ULLAS scheme is meant for non-literate persons of which age group?
(A) 15 years and above
(B) 6 years and above
(C) 18 years and above
(D) 14 years and above

11. Which State or UT was the top performer in PGI 2.0, 2025-26, being the only one in the Uttam-3 grade?
(A) Kerala
(B) Delhi
(C) Chandigarh
(D) Punjab

12. The Amaravati capital law has retrospective effect from which date?
(A) 1 April 2024
(B) 2 June 2024
(C) 15 August 2024
(D) 26 January 2025

13. What percentage of India's population was covered by social protection in 2026, according to the article?
(A) 19.0 per cent
(B) 50.2 per cent
(C) 68.4 per cent
(D) 90.0 per cent

14. The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 sought a maximum of how many Lok Sabha members from States?
(A) 815
(B) 530
(C) 850
(D) 550

15. Consider the following statements about the Finance Commission:
1. Its recommendations are advisory and not legally binding on the government.
2. Article 275 provides for grants-in-aid to States from the Consolidated Fund of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements about Delimitation Commission orders:
1. They can be freely questioned in any court without restriction.
2. They take effect from a date specified by the President.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

17. Consider the following statements about Census in India:
1. Census is a Union List subject governed by the Census Act, 1948.
2. The population enumeration is the first stage and house-listing is the second stage.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

18. Consider the following statements about the Transgender Persons Amendment Bill 2026:
1. It retains the provision of self-perceived gender identity.
2. The Medical Board is headed by the District Magistrate.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

19. Consider the following statements about seat freezes in the Lok Sabha:
1. The 42nd Amendment (1976) froze seat allocation on the basis of the 1971 census.
2. The 84th Amendment (2001) extended the freeze until the first census after 2026.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following statements about Article 3 bills:
1. A bill under Article 3 needs the prior recommendation of the President.
2. The President is bound by the views of the State Legislature on the bill.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

21. Consider the following statements about Supreme Court strength:
1. The strength was 11 judges in 1950.
2. The strength was 34 judges in 2019.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Consider the following statements about the ULLAS scheme:
1. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It is meant for non-literate persons aged 15 years and above.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

23. Which of the following is NOT a criterion used for horizontal devolution by the 16th Finance Commission?
(A) Income distance
(B) Demographic performance
(C) Contribution to GDP
(D) Tax or fiscal effort

24. Which of the following is NOT one of the seven pillars of the PRAHAAR counter-terrorism strategy?
(A) Intelligence-led prevention
(B) De-radicalisation and community engagement
(C) Recovery and resilience
(D) Economic sanctions on neighbouring states

25. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Article 270 - Divisible pool of taxes
(B) Article 275 - Discretionary grants
(C) Article 282 - Divisible pool of taxes
(D) Article 81 - Readjustment after each Census

26. Delimitation commissions have been set up in all of the following years EXCEPT:
(A) 1952
(B) 1963
(C) 2002
(D) 1991

27. Which of the following Census digital tools is NOT correctly matched?
(A) HLBC - uses satellite imagery to create houselisting blocks
(B) HLO app - offline app for enumerators
(C) SE portal - generates an SE ID
(D) CMMS - offline mobile app for enumerators

28. Which of the following is NOT correct about the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 as amended in 2025?

(A) The National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports is advisory and supervisory

(B) NADA is a statutory body with search and seizure powers

(C) The Appeal Panel is constituted by the National Board after the 2025 amendment

(D) References to CrPC are replaced by BNSS, 2023

29. Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission, whose award period runs from 2026-27 to 2030-31?

(A) Dr Arvind Panagariya

(B) T Rabi Sankar

(C) Manoj Panda

(D) Soumya Kanti Ghosh

30. With reference to the 16th Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The States' share in the divisible pool is kept at 41 per cent.

2. Population is counted on the basis of the 2011 Census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) Both 1 and 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

31. Which of the following became the first country in the Americas to be verified by WHO for eliminating leprosy in March 2026?

(A) Brazil

(B) Chile

(C) Mexico

(D) Peru

32. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) now has how many member countries, after Ghana joined on 7 October 2026?

(A) 25

(B) 27

(C) 29

(D) 31

33. Under the India Semiconductor Mission, two more projects approved on 5 May 2026 are located in which state, taking total approved projects to 12?

(A) Gujarat

(B) Assam

(C) Tamil Nadu

(D) Uttar Pradesh

34. Which Indian state or UT got its first Ramsar site with the inclusion of Sukhna Wetland?

(A) Haryana

(B) Punjab

(C) Chandigarh

(D) Himachal Pradesh

35. With reference to Ramsar sites in India, consider the following statements:

1. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

2. Sauj Lake in Mainpuri is Uttar Pradesh's 14th Ramsar site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) Both 1 and 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

36. Which is the largest Ramsar site in India by area?

(A) Chilika Lake

(B) Sundarban Wetland

(C) Keoladeo National Park

(D) Vembannur Wetland Complex

37. The Uttar Pradesh budget 2026-27 was presented on 11 February 2026 with the fiscal deficit kept at what percentage of GSDP?

(A) 2 per cent

(B) 3 per cent

(C) 3.5 per cent

(D) 4 per cent

38. India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel (water taxi) operates from which location?

(A) Dashashwamedh Ghat, Varanasi

(B) Namo Ghat, Varanasi

(C) Sangam, Prayagraj

(D) Guptar Ghat, Ayodhya

39. The 594-km Ganga Expressway, inaugurated on 29 April 2026, was inaugurated in which district?

(A) Meerut

(B) Shahjahanpur

(C) Hardoi

(D) Prayagraj

40. With reference to Uttar Pradesh's Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Policy, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Feedstock includes rice husk, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse.

2. UPNEDA is the nodal agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) Both 1 and 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

41. Parichha Weir, recognised as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure by ICID, is built across which river in Jhansi?

(A) Ken

(B) Betwa

(C) Dhasan

(D) Yamuna

42. Under the Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Scheme approved by the UP Cabinet in July 2026, how many women graduates are to be given free scooters?
(A) 10,000
(B) 25,000
(C) 50,000
(D) 1,00,000

Chapter 2: International News

43. Which organisation launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) in New Delhi?
(A) World Intellectual Foundation
(B) NITI Aayog
(C) World Economic Forum
(D) Observer Research Foundation

44. What was India's global rank in the Responsible Nations Index?
(A) 6th
(B) 16th
(C) 36th
(D) 66th

45. The Board of Peace for Gaza is backed by which UN Security Council resolution?
(A) Resolution 2231 (2015)
(B) Resolution 1973 (2011)
(C) Resolution 2803 (2025)
(D) Resolution 2758 (2024)

46. India announced a package of how much for Seychelles during its President's visit?
(A) 75 million dollars
(B) 275 million dollars
(C) 500 million dollars
(D) 175 million dollars

47. In which year was the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) established?
(A) 2008
(B) 1998
(C) 2001
(D) 2015

48. What is the warhead cap under the New START treaty?
(A) 800
(B) 1,700
(C) 1,550
(D) 6,000

49. Where will the 2027 AI Summit be hosted, after the 2026 AI Impact Summit in New Delhi?
(A) Paris, France
(B) Seoul, South Korea
(C) Bletchley Park, UK
(D) Geneva, Switzerland

50. In which year did the United Arab Emirates join OPEC?
(A) 1960
(B) 1967
(C) 1973
(D) 1975

51. Under the partial relaxation of Press Note 3, within how many days are FDI proposals to be processed?
(A) 30 days
(B) 45 days
(C) 60 days
(D) 90 days

52. The 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) ended without consensus in which city?
(A) Yaounde, Cameroon
(B) Geneva, Switzerland
(C) Abu Dhabi, UAE
(D) Nairobi, Kenya

53. Consider the following statements regarding the New START treaty:
1. It was signed in 2010 by Obama and Medvedev.
2. It capped warheads at 1,550.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

54. Consider the following statements regarding the WTO MC14 Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement:
1. It was backed by 129 of 166 members.
2. China alone blocked its incorporation into the WTO.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

55. Consider the following statements regarding India's free trade agreements:
1. Dairy was included in the deals with the EU and New Zealand.
2. FTA utilisation by Indian exporters is low, between 5 and 25 percent.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

56. Consider the following statements regarding the partial relaxation of Press Note 3 (2020):
1. Up to 10% beneficial ownership from land-border countries is allowed via the automatic route.
2. Sensitive sectors like semiconductors remain restricted.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

57. Consider the following statements regarding Seychelles' President's visit to India:
1. Seychelles will become the seventh member of the Colombo Security Conclave.
2. Seychelles declined to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

58. Consider the following statements regarding the Responsible Nations Index (RNI):
1. It was developed by the World Economic Forum alone.
2. India ranked first in the index.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

59. Which of the following sectors is NOT covered by the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?
(A) Cement
(B) Aluminium
(C) Fertilisers
(D) Textiles

60. FORGE, launched at the Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC, succeeds which earlier grouping?
(A) India-UK CETA - signed December 2025
(B) India-EFTA TEPA - signed July 2025
(C) India-Oman CEPA - signed December 2025
(D) India-EU FTA - concluded March 2024

61. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) India-UK CETA - signed December 2025
(B) India-Oman CEPA - signed December 2025
(C) India-EFTA TEPA - signed July 2025
(D) India-EU FTA - concluded March 2024

62. Which of the following is NOT an outcome of PM Modi's visit to Israel?
(A) A quota of up to 50,000 Indian workers over five years
(B) An India-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed
(C) Agreement to enable UPI in Israel
(D) An India-Israel Centre of Excellence in Cybersecurity in India

63. Which of the following began two-year non-permanent terms on the UN Security Council on 1 January 2026?
(A) Algeria
(B) Bahrain
(C) Slovenia
(D) Guyana

64. Consider the following statements about India and the IMO:
1. India was re-elected to the IMO Council for 2026-27 in Category B.
2. Category B comprises states with the largest interest in providing international shipping services.
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

65. Which country became the first in the world to ban social media for under-16s, effective 10 December 2025?
(A) United Kingdom
(B) Australia
(C) Canada
(D) New Zealand

66. Consider the following statements:
1. Bangladesh began loading uranium fuel at its first nuclear plant in April 2026.
2. NIPL partnered with ACLEDA Bank to launch UPI in Cambodia.
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

67. Which port became the second Major Port after Visakhapatnam to offer an 18 m draft in July 2026?
(A) Kamarajar Port
(B) Deendayal Port
(C) Paradip Port
(D) Mormugao Port

68. Where was the foundation of India's first port-based e-methanol plant laid in September 2026?
(A) Kandla (Deendayal Port)
(B) Kochi
(C) Tuticorin
(D) Haldia

69. Which state became the first in India to create an independent AI portfolio in May 2026?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Telangana
(C) Kerala
(D) Andhra Pradesh

70. Consider the following statements:
1. Maharashtra became the first state to open dedicated Menopause Clinics in January 2026.
2. India's first LPG ATM was set up by BPCL at Gurugram in March 2026.
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

71. Omkareshwar Sanctuary, announced in November 2025, is the which numbered sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) 25th
(B) 26th
(C) 27th
(D) 28th

72. Which state became the first to commercially produce Matcha tea, at Chota Tingrai Estate, Tinsukia, in July 2026?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Assam
(C) Sikkim
(D) Tamil Nadu

73. Which became Ladakh's eighth district in October 2026?
(A) Drass
(B) Nubra
(C) Sankoo
(D) Zanskar

74. Consider the following statements:
1. Lebanon became the first Arab country to abolish the death penalty in August 2026.
2. Putin made the first official visit to the Kuril Islands in August 2026, which are administered by Russia but claimed by Japan.
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

75. Which of the following is the theme-linked 'International Year' for 2026 announced by the UN?
(A) International Year of the Woman Farmer
(B) International Year of Asteroid Awareness
(C) International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism
(D) International Year of Pulses

Chapter 3: Economy

76. Which state has been notified as headquarters of India's 18th railway zone, the South Coast Railway?
(A) Telangana
(B) Odisha
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Andhra Pradesh

77. Under the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, which Act was invoked by the Centre?
(A) Electricity Act, 2003
(B) Disaster Management Act, 2005
(C) Petroleum Act, 1934
(D) Essential Commodities Act, 1955

78. In the new GDP series released by MoSPI, the base year has been shifted from 2011-12 to:
(A) 2021-22
(B) 2023-24
(C) 2020-21
(D) 2022-23

79. Coking coal has been added to which part of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act as a critical and strategic mineral?
(A) Part B
(B) Part A
(C) Part D
(D) Part C

80. Startup India was launched on 16 January 2016, and the date was declared National Startup Day in:
(A) 2020
(B) 2022
(C) 2018
(D) 2024

81. The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0) is managed by which institution?
(A) NABARD
(B) SIDBI
(C) EXIM Bank
(D) IDBI

82. Under the India-New Zealand FTA, a Working Holiday Visa is provided annually for how many young Indians?
(A) 1,000
(B) 5,000
(C) 500
(D) 2,000

83. Dedicated rare earth permanent magnet corridors announced in the Budget are to be developed in which set of States?
(A) Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam
(B) Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
(C) Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
(D) Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala and Karnataka

84. Which authority was designated in December 2025 to register and regulate coal exchanges under the Coal Exchanges Rules 2026?
(A) Coal Controller Organisation
(B) SEBI
(C) Ministry of Power
(D) Coal India Limited

85. What is the fiscal outlay of Semicon 2.0, the Scheme for Development of Semiconductor Design and Manufacturing Ecosystem?
(A) Rs 76,000 crore
(B) Rs 50,000 crore
(C) Rs 10,000 crore
(D) Rs 1,27,500 crore

86. The Lakhpati Didi initiative was launched in 2023 under which scheme?
(A) PMEGP
(B) DAY-NRLM
(C) Stand-Up India
(D) PM Mudra Yojana

87. India's first port-based e-methanol plant has been started at which port?
(A) Mundra Port
(B) Deendayal Port, Kandla
(C) Paradip Port
(D) Kochi Port

88. Under the BHAVYA-Rasayan scheme, the Centre gives up to how much per chemical park, subject to a minimum State contribution of Rs 500 crore?
(A) Rs 500 crore
(B) Rs 1,500 crore
(C) Rs 1,000 crore
(D) Rs 2,000 crore

89. India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone, for which DoT signed an MoU, is to be set up at:
(A) Noida
(B) Gwalior
(C) Sriperumbudur
(D) Hyderabad

90. The 2025-26 gold repatriation by the RBI was how many tonnes, as a result of which 77 per cent of its gold is held domestically?
(A) 103.68
(B) 107.21
(C) 168.06
(D) 880.52

91. Consider the following statements about the Fund of Funds and startup recognition:
1. An entity is recognised as a startup for up to 10 years if turnover has not crossed Rs 200 crore in any financial year.
2. Deep-tech startups are recognised for 20 years with a turnover limit of Rs 300 crore.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

92. Consider the following statements about the Export Preparedness Index (EPI):
1. The first edition was published in 2020.
2. It is released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and has 5 grades.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

93. Consider the following statements about the NITI Aayog Investment Friendliness Index:
1. It evaluates 28 States and 8 UTs on 84 indicators.
2. The indicators are grouped under 10 pillars.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

94. Consider the following statements about the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies:
1. It was adopted at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2022.
2. It prohibits subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

95. Consider the following statements about the new IIP and WPI series:
1. The base year of IIP has been revised from 2011-12 to 2018-19.
2. The IIP basket has been reduced from 1,042 to 839 products.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

96. Consider the following statements about the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):
1. It was established in 2004 as the central agency for receiving and analysing financial intelligence.
2. It reports directly to the Economic Intelligence Council headed by the Finance Minister.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

97. Consider the following statements about Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions:
1. Banks park surplus funds with the RBI at a fixed rate under VRRR.
2. They are used to inject liquidity into the banking system.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

98. Consider the following statements about the CAG State Finances 2023-24 report:
1. Share of states in central taxes fell to 21.34 percent in 2023-24.
2. In 2023-24, all 28 states had a revenue surplus.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

99. Consider the following statements about polymer banknotes:
1. They are proposed for Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations.
2. They cost less to make than paper notes.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

100. Which of the following is NOT a priority category receiving 100% of the past six-month average supply under the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order?
(A) CNG
(B) Domestic PNG
(C) Fertiliser plants
(D) Domestic LPG production and pipeline needs

101. Match the following tourism schemes with their features:
A. Swadesh Darshan 1. Upgrades pilgrimage sites
B. PRASHAD 2. Thematic, sustainable destinations
C. SASCI 3. 40 iconic tourist centres
(A) A-2, B-1, C-3
(B) A-1, B-2, C-3
(C) A-2, B-3, C-1
(D) A-3, B-1, C-2

102. Which of the following is NOT among the sectors for which a Service PPI is introduced in the new WPI series?
(A) Telecom
(B) Agriculture
(C) Insurance
(D) Banking

103. Match the following under the RELIEF export scheme:
A. Component 1 1. Rs 159 crore
B. Component 2 2. Rs 56 crore
C. Total scheme outlay 3. Rs 497 crore
(A) A-2, B-1, C-3
(B) A-1, B-2, C-3
(C) A-3, B-1, C-2
(D) A-2, B-3, C-1

104. Which of the following is NOT a sector listed as benefiting from the India-New Zealand FTA?
(A) Garments
(B) Gems and jewellery
(C) Footwear
(D) Dairy products

105. Which of the following is NOT correct about the PM E-DRIVE revised guidelines?
(A) E-three-wheeler subsidy available up to 31 July 2026
(B) Total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore
(C) Price cap of Rs 2.5 lakh for e-three-wheelers
(D) Price cap of Rs 1.5 lakh for e-two-wheelers

106. Which Indian centre is the highest-ranked in the 40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 2026?
(A) Mumbai
(B) GIFT City
(C) New Delhi
(D) Bengaluru

107. Statements:
1. The GFCI is published by Z/Yen Partners with the China Development Institute.
2. In GFCI 2026, Singapore ranked 3rd and Hong Kong 4th.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

108. According to the IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2026, what is India's projected real GDP growth for FY 2026-27?
(A) 6.5%
(B) 6.8%
(C) 7.0%
(D) 7.4%

109. Statements:
1. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is released by UNDP and OPHI.
2. In the 2026 update, multidimensional poverty rose globally for the first time since 2010.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

110. In the Global MPI, the standard of living dimension is measured by how many indicators?
(A) 2
(B) 4
(C) 6
(D) 10

111. In the Index of Economic Freedom 2026 of the Heritage Foundation, India is placed in which category?
(A) Moderately free
(B) Mostly free
(C) Mostly unfree
(D) Repressed

112. Statements:
1. In FY 2024-25, India's FDI inflow rose to USD 81.04 billion.
2. Karnataka received the highest share of equity inflows among the States.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

113. Under the revised framework (Press Note 2 of 2026), an investor from a land-bordering country with non-controlling beneficial ownership up to what limit can use the automatic route?
(A) 5 percent
(B) 10 percent
(C) 26 percent
(D) 49 percent

114. Which crop has the highest MSP among all Kharif crops for 2026-27?
(A) Cotton
(B) Nigerseed
(C) Sesamum
(D) Tur

115. Statements:
1. The MSP is fixed at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production (A2+FL).
2. Among Kharif crops for 2026-27, bajra shows the highest estimated margin over cost.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

116. What is India's foodgrain production in 2025-26 according to the Third Advance Estimates?
(A) 357.732 million tonnes
(B) 366.120 million tonnes
(C) 376.563 million tonnes
(D) 386.500 million tonnes

117. According to the SRS Bulletin 2024, what is India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)?
(A) 18
(B) 24
(C) 29
(D) 39

118. Statements:
1. The Income-tax Act, 2025 replaces the concepts of Assessment Year and Previous Year with a single 'Tax Year'.
2. Form 130 replaces Form 16 as the TDS certificate.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

119. The Monetary Policy Committee in October 2026 raised the repo rate from 5.25% to what level?
(A) 5.40%
(B) 5.50%
(C) 5.75%
(D) 6.00%

Chapter 4: Environment

120. From which date do the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 apply fully?
(A) 1 January 2026
(B) 1 April 2026
(C) 1 October 2026
(D) 2 October 2026

121. Glaw Lake, declared India's 101st Ramsar Site, lies inside Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary in which State?
(A) Assam
(B) Nagaland
(C) Arunachal Pradesh
(D) Meghalaya

122. Which country topped the Environmental Performance Index 2026?
(A) Estonia
(B) Denmark
(C) Finland
(D) Luxembourg

123. India's first two geothermal wells were commissioned at Puga Valley, located in
(A) Himachal Pradesh
(B) Uttarakhand
(C) Sikkim
(D) Ladakh

124. The National Chambal Sanctuary, India's only tri-state riverine protected area, spans which set of States?
(A) Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh
(B) Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
(C) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
(D) Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan

125. PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme are operated by which institution?
(A) Forest Survey of India
(B) Wildlife Institute of India
(C) Indian Institute of Forest Management
(D) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

126. Under India's updated NDCs for 2031-2035, the target for reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 2035 from 2005 levels is
(A) 47%
(B) 35%
(C) 52%
(D) 60%

127. India's first green methanol plant, being built at Deendayal Port, Kandla, will use which feedstock?
(A) Lantana camara
(B) Water hyacinth
(C) Parthenium
(D) Prosopis juliflora

128. According to MNRE's Floating Solar Potential Assessment Report 2026, which State leads with 16.28 GW of potential?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Karnataka
(D) Gujarat

129. Consider the following statements about the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):
1. It is administered by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
2. The power sector is included in its emission intensity targets.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

130. Consider the following statements about the amended framework for flood plains of the Ganga:
1. The new framework retains the blanket construction-free zone of the 2016 Order.
2. Construction is strictly prohibited in the Active Flood Plain, with limited exemptions for temporary structures.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

131. Consider the following statements about the amendment to the EIA Notification, 2006:
1. A Standing Authority on Environment Impact Assessment takes over the functions of the SEIAA.
2. The tenure of SEIAA and SEAC is raised from three to four years.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

132. Consider the following statements about the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau:
1. It is a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Environment.
2. It was set up under Section 38Y of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and has its headquarters in Kolkata.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

133. Consider the following statements about the proposed stubble-burning rules for the NCR:
1. A red entry in land revenue records for 15 months is proposed against farmers who burn stubble.
2. The fine is Rs 30,000 for burning on 2 to under 5 acres.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

134. Match List-I with List-II:
List-I (Convention/Protocol) List-II (Year of coming into force)
A. Stockholm Convention 1. 2017
B. Minamata Convention 2. 2004
C. Nagoya Protocol 3. 2014
Select the correct answer:
(A) A-1, B-2, C-3
(B) A-2, B-3, C-1
(C) A-2, B-1, C-3
(D) A-3, B-1, C-2

135. Which of the following was NOT one of the four new sectors added under the Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025?
(A) Petroleum refineries
(B) Petrochemicals
(C) Textiles
(D) Cement

136. Under the proposed Ecologically Sensitive Area notification for the Western Ghats, which of the following is NOT prohibited?
(A) Agriculture
(B) New mining and quarrying
(C) Thermal power plants
(D) New red-category industries

137. Which of the following is NOT one of the three policy objectives of the Environmental Performance Index framework?
(A) Environmental Health
(B) Ecosystem Vitality
(C) Resource Efficiency
(D) Climate Change

Chapter 5: Geography

138. Sawalkote hydroelectric project (1,856 MW), the first new project approved after the abrogation of the Indus Waters Treaty, is located on which river?
(A) Jhelum
(B) Chenab
(C) Ravi
(D) Beas

139. The Tulbul Navigation Project in Jammu and Kashmir is also known as:
(A) Kishanganga barrage
(B) Baglihar barrage
(C) Wular barrage
(D) Salal barrage

140. In which year was INCOIS established under the Ministry of Earth Sciences?
(A) 1995
(B) 2004
(C) 2007
(D) 1999

141. Which of the following is India's deepest freshwater lake, at about 13 m?
(A) Manasbal Lake
(B) Wular Lake
(C) Dal Lake
(D) Nigeen Lake

142. The proposed Kishau Multipurpose Dam is located on which river?
(A) Giri
(B) Yamuna
(C) Tons
(D) Aglar

143. Which is Japan's southernmost territory and the only Japanese territory south of the Tropic of Cancer?
(A) Iturup
(B) Okinotori Island
(C) Minamitorishima
(D) Yonaguni

144. Shipki La, where border trade with China resumed in August 2026, lies in which district of Himachal Pradesh?
(A) Lahaul-Spiti
(B) Chamba
(C) Kullu
(D) Kinnaur

145. Consider the following statements about the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project:
1. The National Green Tribunal upheld its environmental clearance.
2. The project is located on Little Andaman Island.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

146. Consider the following statements about the Kishau Dam:
1. It is a 236 m high roller compacted concrete gravity dam.
2. The Centre will give 90% of the water component cost as Central Assistance.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

147. Consider the following statements about the monsoon break:
1. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole usually offsets El Nino.
2. El Nino strengthens the Walker Circulation.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

148. Consider the following statements:
1. Thwaites Glacier is located in East Antarctica.
2. World Day for Glaciers is observed on 22 March.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

149. Which of the following is NOT a Chenab hydroelectric project approved after the Indus Waters Treaty was suspended?
(A) Sawalkote
(B) Kirthai-II
(C) Dulhasti-II
(D) Tulbul

150. Which of the following pairs is INCORRECTLY matched?
(A) Palamau Tiger Reserve - Jharkhand
(B) Papikonda National Park - Karnataka
(C) Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary - Telangana
(D) Bhadra Tiger Reserve - Karnataka

151. Which of the following straits is correctly matched with the water bodies it connects?
(A) Hormuz - Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
(B) Dardanelles - Black Sea and Sea of Azov
(C) Bab al-Mandab - Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
(D) Kerch - Aegean Sea and Sea of Marmara

Chapter 6: Science and Technology

152. Chandrayaan-4's proposed landing zone, Mons Mouton, is named after which person?
(A) Katherine Johnson, a NASA physicist
(B) Vikram Sarabhai, an Indian physicist
(C) Kalpana Chawla, an astronaut
(D) Melba Roy Mouton, a NASA mathematician

153. Pralay, tested by DRDO off the Odisha coast, is which type of missile?
(A) Short-range surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile with 150-500 km range
(B) Long-range surface-to-air missile with 400 km range
(C) Hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile with 1,500 km range
(D) Air-to-air missile with 80-110 km range

154. After which set of countries did India become the fourth to demonstrate scramjet engine flight testing?
(A) USA, Russia and France
(B) USA, Russia and China
(C) USA, China and Japan
(D) Russia, China and Israel

155. LIGO-India, for which L&T won the construction contract, is located in which district?
(A) Hanle, Ladakh
(B) Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu
(C) Hingoli, Maharashtra
(D) Udaipur, Rajasthan

156. Which State became the first to declare Bacillus subtilis as its State microbe?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Gujarat
(D) Kerala

157. India's defence exports in FY 2025-26 reached a record of:
(A) Rs 38,424 crore
(B) Rs 23,622 crore
(C) Rs 21,071 crore
(D) Rs 1.51 lakh crore

158. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, which attained first criticality, is located at:
(A) Tarapur, Maharashtra
(B) Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
(C) Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu
(D) Narora, Uttar Pradesh

159. Mission SEHAT, linking agriculture, nutrition and public health, was jointly launched by:
(A) ICMR and DBT
(B) ICAR and NITI Aayog
(C) ICMR and ICAR
(D) AIIMS and ICMR

160. JANANI, the digital platform for maternal and child care, stands for:
(A) Joint Action for Neonatal and Natal Infant Care
(B) Journey of Adolescent, Natal and Neonatal Immunisation Care
(C) Janani Antenatal and Neonatal Information
(D) Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care

161. India's first dengue vaccine approved, Qdenga, is developed by which company?
(A) Takeda GmbH of Germany
(B) Serum Institute of India
(C) Bharat Biotech
(D) Sanofi Pasteur

162. Under the Artemis Accords, India became which numbered signatory in 2023?
(A) 20th
(B) 27th
(C) 35th
(D) 70th

163. DRDO's maiden flight test of the Kusha long-range SAM was conducted from:
(A) Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh
(B) Pokhran in Rajasthan
(C) APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha
(D) Car Nicobar island

164. Which of the following is NOT one of the four pillars prioritised by the National Quantum Mission?
(A) Quantum communication
(B) Quantum sensing and metrology
(C) Quantum materials and devices
(D) Quantum cryptography and hashing

165. As per the SIPRI Yearbook 2026, which of the following estimates is NOT correct?
(A) Pakistan has about 220 warheads
(B) India has about 190 warheads
(C) China has about 620 warheads
(D) The world had about 12,187 warheads in January 2026

166. Which of the following vessels was NOT built by GRSE, Kolkata?
(A) INS Dunagiri
(B) INS Mahendragiri
(C) INS Sanshodhak
(D) INS Agray

167. Match the exercise with the partner country:
A. KHANJAR
B. Dharma Guardian
C. Vajra Prahar
1. United States
2. Japan
3. Kyrgyzstan
(A) A-2, B-3, C-1
(B) A-1, B-2, C-3
(C) A-3, B-2, C-1
(D) A-3, B-1, C-2

168. Match the DRDO system with its description:
A. TARA
B. SFDR
C. Pralay
D. Netra
1. Quasi-ballistic missile
2. AEW&C system
3. Air-breathing solid fuel ducted ramjet propulsion
4. Glide kit making unguided bombs precision-guided
(A) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
(B) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2
(C) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2
(D) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2

169. Consider the following statements about India's defence sector:
1. iDEX was launched in April 2018.
2. FDI up to 100 percent in defence is allowed under the automatic route.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

170. Consider the following statements about the National Quantum Mission:
1. It was approved in 2023 with an outlay of Rs 6003.65 crore.
2. The thematic hub for quantum communication is at IIT Delhi.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

171. Consider the following statements about Anemia Mukt Bharat:
1. It was launched in 2018.
2. The revised strategy expands from 6x6x6 to 7x7x7, adding low birth weight babies as the seventh group.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

172. Consider the following statements about the Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda:
1. It is caused by the Bundibugyo strain, for which an approved vaccine exists.
2. A PHEIC is declared under the International Health Regulations, 2005.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

173. Consider the following statements about GAGAN:
1. It was developed jointly by ISRO and DRDO.
2. India's first satellite-based landing approach using it was conducted at Delhi airport.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

174. Consider the following statements about AI-generated works in India:
1. The Copyright Office has said an AI system can be recognised as a legal author.
2. In Eastern Book Company v. D.B. Modak, the Supreme Court held that a work need not be novel but must show minimum creativity.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

175. Consider the following statements about INS Aridhaman:
1. It is India's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.
2. INS Arihant was launched in 2009 and completed its first deterrence patrol in 2018.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Chapter 7: Culture and Tourism

176. Mahmud of Ghazni first attacked the Somnath temple in which year?
(A) 1026 CE
(B) 1297 CE
(C) 1394 CE
(D) 1706 CE

177. The Ol Chiki script for the Santhali language, which completed 100 years in 2025, was developed by whom?
(A) Jugal Kishore Shukla
(B) Pingali Venkayya
(C) Pandit Raghunath Murmu
(D) Daya Ram Sahni

178. Which Indus Valley Civilization site is the westernmost?
(A) Surkotada
(B) Lothal
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Sutkagen Dor

179. What is the outlay of the Gyan Bharatam Mission announced in Union Budget 2025-26 for 2025 to 2031?
(A) Rs 291.66 crore
(B) Rs 491.66 crore
(C) Rs 691.66 crore
(D) Rs 891.66 crore

180. Hindi Journalism Day, marking the first Hindi newspaper Udant Martand, is observed on which date?
(A) 30 April
(B) 30 May
(C) 30 June
(D) 30 July

181. The Kudavolai secret ballot system is mentioned in which inscriptions?
(A) Aihole inscription
(B) Junagadh inscription
(C) Uttaramerur inscriptions
(D) Maski inscription

182. Namey Dogra Akhar, the script being revived for Dogri, is a modified form of which script?
(A) Takri
(B) Brahmi
(C) Kharoshthi
(D) Persian

183. Consider the following statements about the Piprahwa relics:
1. They were discovered in 1898 by William Claxton Peppe while excavating a stupa.
2. Piprahwa is located in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

184. Consider the following statements about Geographical Indications in India:
1. GI is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
2. GI registration is valid for 10 years and is renewable.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

185. Consider the following statements about ancient inscriptions:
1. The Prayag Prashasti, recording Samudragupta's conquests, was composed by Ravikirti.
2. The Aihole inscription records Pulakeshin II's victory over Harshavardhana on the Narmada banks.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

186. Consider the following statements about Indus Valley Civilization sites:
1. Harappa was excavated by R.D. Banerji in 1921.
2. Kalibangan is located in Fatehabad, Haryana.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

187. Which one of the following IVC sites is NOT correctly matched with its excavator/discoverer?
(A) Harappa - Daya Ram Sahni
(B) Mohenjo-daro - R.D. Banerji
(C) Lothal - S.R. Rao
(D) Dholavira - J.P. Joshi

188. Which one of the following GI products is NOT correctly matched with its state?
(A) Ponduru Khadi - Kerala
(B) Pilibhit Bansuri - Uttar Pradesh
(C) Muga Silk - Assam
(D) Salem Sago - Tamil Nadu

189. Which one of the following rock-cut caves is NOT correctly matched with its location?
(A) Bagh - Dhar, Madhya Pradesh
(B) Undavalli - Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
(C) Jogimara - Khurda, Odisha
(D) Pandavleni - Nashik, Maharashtra

Chapter 8: Sports, Awards, Personalities, Books and Reports

190. Which country topped the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 for the eighth consecutive time with a score of 89?
(A) Denmark
(B) Finland
(C) Singapore
(D) New Zealand

191. What was India's rank on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025?
(A) 85th
(B) 96th
(C) 88th
(D) 91st

192. How many Padma Bhushan awards were included in the Padma Awards 2026 list?
(A) 13
(B) 5
(C) 19
(D) 113

193. In which case did the Supreme Court hold that Padma awards are not titles under Article 18(1)?
(A) Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala
(B) Balaji Raghavan vs Union of India (1996)
(C) Minerva Mills vs Union of India
(D) S.R. Bommai vs Union of India

194. Who won the Jnanpith Award 2025?
(A) Navtej Sarna
(B) Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay
(C) R. Vairamuthu
(D) Mamta Kalia

195. Free specialist antenatal care under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan is provided on which day of every month?
(A) 1st
(B) 5th
(C) 15th
(D) 9th

196. Which institute acted as the nodal agency for NFHS-6?
(A) International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai
(B) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi
(C) National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi
(D) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

197. What is the rank of IIT Delhi, India's best-ever, in QS World University Rankings 2027?
(A) 134th
(B) 118th
(C) 170th
(D) 101st

198. Who became the first Indian Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?
(A) Neeru Chadha
(B) Bimal Patel
(C) Vivek Aggarwal
(D) Rajiv Ghai

199. Which vessel was used by the crew of the Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation expedition Samudra Pradakshina?
(A) INS Tarini
(B) INSV Mhadei
(C) IASV Sagar
(D) IASV Triveni

200. Which of the following is NOT a peacetime gallantry award?
(A) Param Vir Chakra
(B) Ashoka Chakra
(C) Kirti Chakra
(D) Shaurya Chakra

201. Match the report with its publishing body:
A. Global Economic Prospects
B. Employment and Social Trends 2026
C. World Investment Trends Monitor
D. World Intangible Investment Report 2026
1. World Bank
2. ILO
3. UNCTAD
4. WIPO and Luiss Business School
(A) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
(B) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
(C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
(D) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

202. Which of the following was NOT among the sports dropped from the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games?
(A) Badminton
(B) Hockey
(C) Boxing
(D) Wrestling

203. Which of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026 winners?
(A) Tommy Koh - Singapore
(B) Bo Kyi - Myanmar
(C) Runa Khan - Friendship Bangladesh founder
(D) Runa Khan - Myanmar

204. Consider the following statements:
1. PARAKH is the national assessment regulator under NCERT, set up under NEP 2020.
2. AISHE collects mandatory, officially verified data from all institutions.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

205. Consider the following statements:
1. The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith.
2. The Jnanpith Award carries Rs 11 lakh and a statue of Vagdevi.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

206. Consider the following statements:
1. The V-Dem report is published by the Varieties of Democracy Institute at the University of Gothenburg.
2. India ranks 106th of 179 countries on the Electoral Democracy Index.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

207. Consider the following statements:
1. Jharkhand had the highest prison occupancy rate in India in 2024.
2. Undertrials made up about one-fourth of prisoners in 2024.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

208. Consider the following statements:
1. Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is implemented by the National Health Authority.
2. It provides cashless cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

209. Consider the following statements:
1. The Global Gender Gap Index began in 2010.
2. Political Empowerment is one of the four subindices it measures.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

210. The International Cricket Council, which admitted Mauritius as its 111th member in July 2026, is headquartered in:
(A) London
(B) Dubai
(C) Mumbai
(D) Singapore

211. Which airport won Airport of the Year at the 2026 World Airport Awards, its 13th time?
(A) Doha Hamad
(B) Tokyo Haneda
(C) Singapore Changi
(D) Incheon

212. Consider the following statements about the 98th Academy Awards (2026):
1. One Battle After Another won Best Picture.
2. Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for Hamnet.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

213. Which was India's official entry to the 98th Academy Awards, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan?
(A) Homebound
(B) Sinners
(C) Hamnet
(D) Sentimental Value

214. Consider the following about Etihad Airways in 2026:
1. It was named the world's safest full-service airline by AirlineRatings.com.
2. It was the first Gulf carrier to top the ranking.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

215. On 22 March 2026 Narendra Modi became the longest-serving head of an elected government in India with how many days?
(A) 4,399
(B) 6,250
(C) 8,931
(D) 9,500

216. Which of the following foreign honours was conferred on PM Modi by Oman in December 2025?
(A) Order of Oman (First Class)
(B) Great Honour Nishan
(C) Medal of the Knesset
(D) Bintang Adipurna

217. Consider the following about the FIFA World Cup 2026:
1. It was the first World Cup co-hosted by three nations.
2. It featured 48 teams and 104 matches.
3. Argentina won the final against Spain.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

218. Who won the Golden Ball at the FIFA World Cup 2026?
(A) Kylian Mbappe
(B) Rodri
(C) Pau Cubarsi
(D) Unai Simon

219. Kylian Mbappe became the first player to win the Golden Boot at two consecutive World Cups. Which years?
(A) 2018 and 2022
(B) 2018 and 2026
(C) 2022 and 2026
(D) 2014 and 2018

220. The 20th Asian Games (2026) were held in Aichi-Nagoya. Consider:
1. Nagoya is the third Japanese city to host the Games after Tokyo and Hiroshima.
2. India finished third in the medal table.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

221. Who won the men's singles at both the French Open and US Open in 2026?
(A) Carlos Alcaraz
(B) Jannik Sinner
(C) Alexander Zverev
(D) Novak Djokovic

222. Which Kenyan athlete won the 2026 London Marathon in 1:59:30, recorded as a new world record?
(A) Sabastian Sawe
(B) John Korir
(C) Amos Kipruto
(D) Jacob Kiplimo

223. Consider the following about the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025:
1. It was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
2. India won its second title, with Chinese Taipei as runner-up.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Chapter 9: UP Specific

224. Consider the following statements about the Lucknow coaching centre fire and urban fire safety:
1. BIS replaced the National Building Code 2016 with National Building Construction Standards 2026.
2. Fire services are a municipal function in the Twelfth Schedule.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

225. Under which Section of the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 does investigation lie with the Appropriate Authority?
(A) Section 17
(B) Section 28
(C) Section 4
(D) Section 23

226. Consider the following statements about Sarnath:
1. The Ashokan Lion Capital found here is India's National Emblem.
2. The Sarnath School of Art flourished in the Gupta period using buff Chunar sandstone.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

227. Fire services are a municipal function in the Twelfth Schedule under which Article?
(A) Article 243G
(B) Article 243W
(C) Article 243P
(D) Article 243ZD

228. Which of the following is NOT a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Uttar Pradesh?
(A) Kushinagar
(B) Fatehpur Sikri
(C) Agra Fort
(D) Taj Mahal

229. Where was the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, which inscribed Sarnath, held?
(A) Paris, France
(B) New Delhi, India
(C) Busan, South Korea
(D) Bonn, Germany

230. Match the Buddha's life events with the places:
A. Birth
B. Enlightenment
C. First sermon

List II:
1. Sarnath
2. Lumbini
3. Bodh Gaya
4. Kushinagar
(A) A-3, B-2, C-1
(B) A-2, B-1, C-3
(C) A-2, B-3, C-1
(D) A-4, B-3, C-1

231. India's first Department of Military Medicine, inaugurated in Lucknow, is functioning under which authority?
(A) Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (Air)
(B) Indian Council of Medical Research
(C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(D) Directorate General of Medical Services (Army)

232. How many Ramsar sites did India have after Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand were added?
(A) 96
(B) 97
(C) 98
(D) 99

233. Consider the following statements about the PC&PNDT Act ruling from the Bulandshahr case:
1. Police can independently investigate offences under the Act.
2. A Magistrate can take cognizance on a police chargesheet alone.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

234. Consider the following statements about the Rapti river:
1. It is a right-bank tributary of the Ghaghara.
2. Its ancient name was Iravati.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

235. Consider the following statements about dowry-related crimes and the Supreme Court directions:
1. Uttar Pradesh had the most cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, followed by Bihar and Karnataka.
2. Dowry-related crimes fell by 14 per cent in 2023.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

236. Match the Ramsar sites with their districts:
A. Patna Bird Sanctuary
B. Shekha Jheel
C. Surha Tal

List II:
1. Aligarh
2. Etah
3. Ballia
4. Banda
(A) A-1, B-2, C-3
(B) A-2, B-3, C-1
(C) A-3, B-1, C-2
(D) A-2, B-1, C-3

237. Consider the following statements about Surha Tal:
1. It is an oxbow lake formed by meandering of the Ganga.
2. It is a wintering ground for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

238. Match the cases with their holdings:
A. Rajbir v. State of Haryana (2010)
B. Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)
C. State of U.P. v. Ajmal Beg (2025)

List II:
1. Barred automatic arrest in 498-A cases
2. Directed adding Section 302 IPC in dowry death cases
3. Directed appointment of trained Dowry Prohibition Officers
4. Directed free legal aid for accused
(A) A-1, B-2, C-3
(B) A-2, B-3, C-1
(C) A-2, B-1, C-3
(D) A-3, B-1, C-2

239. Consider the following statements about MPLADS:
1. Each MP can recommend works worth Rs 5 crore a year.
2. Nominated MPs can recommend works only within their home State.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

240. Which body declared the hills around Kalinjar Fort in Banda a National Geo-Heritage Site?
(A) Archaeological Survey of India
(B) National Green Tribunal
(C) Wildlife Institute of India
(D) Geological Survey of India

241. Consider the following statements about the constitutional position on defence of accused:
1. Article 14 includes the right to a fair trial.
2. An individual lawyer may decline a brief, though a Bar Association cannot collectively bar members from appearing for an accused.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

242. How many World Heritage properties does India have after the inscription of Sarnath?
(A) 43
(B) 44
(C) 46
(D) 45

243. Which Article of the Constitution gives an arrested person the right to consult and be defended by a lawyer of choice?
(A) Article 21
(B) Article 14
(C) Article 39A
(D) Article 22(1)

244. Consider the following statements about Sarnath's inscription:
1. It was inscribed under criteria (i) and (ii).
2. The nomination was submitted in 1998.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

245. Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi, whose statue was unveiled in Lucknow, was the queen of which state?
(A) Jhansi
(B) Ramgarh
(C) Garha
(D) Mandla

246. Consider the following statements about the Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System:
1. It is a rail-based commuter system with speeds up to 180 km per hour.
2. It is implemented by NCRTC, a joint venture of the Centre and Rajasthan, UP, Haryana and Delhi.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

247. Which site was designated India's 100th Ramsar site?
(A) Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Surha Tal
(B) Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary
(C) Patna Bird Sanctuary
(D) Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve

248. Which of the following is NOT part of the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath in the inscription?
(A) Dhamek Stupa
(B) Neelkanth Temple
(C) Dharmarajika Stupa
(D) Mulagandhakuti Vihara

249. Which of the following is NOT a bird listed as a habitat species of Chhari-Dhand?
(A) Comb duck
(B) Dalmatian pelican
(C) Oriental darter
(D) Black-necked stork

250. Which agency implements the Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System?
(A) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
(B) National Capital Region Transport Corporation
(C) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
(D) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation

251. After the designation of Surha Tal, how many Ramsar sites does Uttar Pradesh have?
(A) 11
(B) 13
(C) 12
(D) 14

252. Which is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, located in Etah district?

(A) Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary
(B) Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary
(C) Kalinjar Bird Sanctuary
(D) Patna Bird Sanctuary

253. Sarnath was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under which criteria?

(A) Criteria (i) and (iv)
(B) Criteria (ii) and (v)
(C) Criteria (iii) and (vi)
(D) Criteria (iv) and (vi)

254. The Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor reduces travel time to about how many minutes?

(A) 60 minutes
(B) 30 minutes
(C) 90 minutes
(D) 120 minutes

255. Which ministry is the nodal ministry for the MPLADS scheme?

(A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
(B) Ministry of Finance
(C) Ministry of Rural Development
(D) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Answer Key

1–C 2–B 3–D 4–B 5–A 6–D 7–B 8–A 9–C 10–A 11–C
12–B 13–C 14–A 15–C 16–B 17–A 18–D 19–C 20–A
21–B 22–B 23–D 24–D 25–A 26–D 27–D 28–C 29–A
30–C 31–B 32–C 33–A 34–C 35–C 36–B 37–B 38–B
39–C 40–C 41–B 42–C 43–A 44–B 45–C 46–D 47–A
48–C 49–D 50–B 51–C 52–A 53–C 54–A 55–B 56–C
57–D 58–D 59–D 60–C 61–B 62–B 63–B 64–A 65–B
66–C 67–A 68–A 69–C 70–C 71–C 72–B 73–C 74–C
75–A 76–D 77–D 78–D 79–C 80–B 81–B 82–A 83–C
84–A 85–D 86–B 87–B 88–C 89–B 90–C 91–C 92–A
93–A 94–B 95–D 96–C 97–D 98–D 99–A 100–C 101–A
102–B 103–A 104–D 105–A 106–B 107–A 108–C 109–C
110–C 111–C 112–A 113–B 114–C 115–A 116–C 117–B
118–C 119–B 120–B 121–C 122–A 123–D 124–B 125–C
126–A 127–D 128–B 129–A 130–B 131–C 132–D 133–A
134–C 135–D 136–A 137–C 138–B 139–C 140–D 141–A
142–C 143–B 144–D 145–A 146–C 147–A 148–D 149–D
150–B 151–C 152–D 153–A 154–B 155–C 156–D 157–A
158–B 159–C 160–D 161–A 162–B 163–C 164–D 165–A
166–B 167–C 168–D 169–A 170–A 171–C 172–B 173–D
174–B 175–C 176–A 177–C 178–D 179–B 180–B 181–C
182–A 183–A 184–C 185–B 186–D 187–D 188–A 189–C
190–A 191–D 192–A 193–B 194–C 195–D 196–A 197–B
198–C 199–D 200–A 201–B 202–C 203–D 204–A 205–B
206–C 207–D 208–C 209–B 210–B 211–C 212–C 213–A
214–C 215–C 216–A 217–B 218–B 219–C 220–A 221–C
222–A 223–C 224–C 225–A 226–C 227–B 228–A 229–C
230–C 231–D 232–C 233–D 234–B 235–A 236–D 237–B
238–C 239–A 240–D 241–B 242–D 243–D 244–D 245–B
246–C 247–A 248–B 249–A 250–B 251–B 252–D 253–C
254–A 255–A