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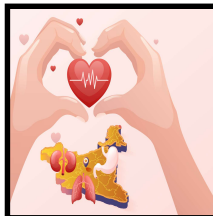




# NATIONAL

## INDIA CROSSES 20,000 ORGAN TRANSPLANTS IN 2025 -

- India recorded 20,138 organ transplants in 2025, which was the first time the annual total crossed 20,000 in India. The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) compiled the annual figures, and the 2025 total was higher than 18,911 transplants in 2024 and 4,990 transplants in 2013.



### Organ Transplantation in India

- Organ transplantation is a surgical procedure in which an organ is removed from one body and placed into another body. In India, major transplantable organs include the kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, and intestine.
- Living donor transplantation uses an organ or part of an organ from a living person, and kidney and partial liver transplants are the most common examples in India.
- Deceased donor transplantation uses organs retrieved after brain stem death or circulatory death, subject to legal and medical certification.
- India ranked as the world's third-largest country in total organ transplants in 2025, after the United States and China.
- India remained first globally in living donor organ transplants as of 2026.

### State-wise Distribution and Deceased Donation

- Delhi-NCR recorded 4,564 transplants in 2025, which was the highest among Indian regions. Tamil Nadu recorded 2,796 transplants, Maharashtra 2,136, Telangana 1,523, and Kerala 1,489.
- Tamil Nadu led deceased organ donation with 266 donors in 2025.
  - Maharashtra recorded 205 deceased donors in 2025.
  - Telangana recorded 198 deceased donors in 2025.
  - Karnataka recorded 154 deceased donors in 2025, and Kerala recorded 152.

## PM CARES FUND BALANCE RISES TO ₹8,452 CRORE -

- The PM CARES Fund is a public charitable trust created in 2020 for emergency relief and disaster-related assistance in India. Its audited financial statements for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 were made public, and the closing balance stood at ₹8,452.07 crore as of 31-March 2025.

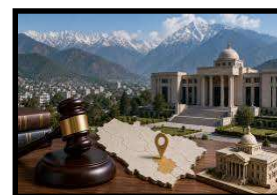


### PM CARES Fund: Basic Structure

- PM CARES stands for Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund. It functions as a public charitable trust and receives voluntary contributions from individuals, institutions, and companies.
- The fund is distinct from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, which has a separate legal and administrative framework. The PM CARES Fund was set up in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## UTTARAKHAND APPROVES HIGH COURT RELOCATION TO HALDWANI -

- The Uttarakhand government approved the relocation of the Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to Haldwani in August 2026. The final executive order identified a 30-hectare site at Lamachaur on the Haldwani-Rudrapur highway (NH-05) for the new High Court campus.



### High Court Relocation and Administrative Powers

- The Supreme Court of India set aside a 2024 Uttarakhand High Court order that had blocked the relocation. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice V Mohana



held that establishing or shifting a High Court is an administrative decision.

- The Supreme Court directed Uttarakhand authorities to obtain the required clearances and hand over the identified land to the High Court within six weeks. The order was issued on 16 July 2026.

### SC/ST CREAMY LAYER EXCLUSION CASE-

- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court of India on 6 August 2026 opposing petitions that seek to extend the “creamy layer” exclusion to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Centre stated that the constitutional reservation framework is based on historical and social backwardness and not on economic status alone.



### Reservation and Constitutional Basis

- Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is linked to Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India, which permit special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes and for reservation in public employment. The government stated that income-based exclusion within SC and ST quotas would require a wider empirical study and a policy decision by Parliament.

### Creamy Layer Principle in Indian Law

- The “creamy layer” doctrine is a judicial principle used to exclude the relatively advanced sections of Other Backward Classes from reservation benefits. The Centre cited the 1992 Indra Sawhney v. Union of India judgment and the 10 April 2008 Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India judgment to state that the doctrine applies to OBCs and not to SCs or STs.

### GOVT ALLOWS DUTY-FREE IMPORTS OF 10 LAKH TONNES RAW SUGAR -

- The government has allowed up to 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar to be imported duty-free till October 31, 2026. This

is a decision taken in an effort to make sugar available and control the rise in prices. The increase in sugar prices had been seen in the previous months and further increase is anticipated in the coming festival season. DGFT amended the import policy to allow the quantity of sugar under TRQ (Tariff Rate Quota) arrangement.



### Reason for Allowing Duty-Free Sugar Imports by the Government

- This decision has been taken due to a sharp increase in the domestic price of sugar. The average price of all-India sugar price was ₹5,400-₹5,500 per quintal against ₹3,900 per quintal in the same period of last year.
- Prices at the retail level have also been increased. According to the consumer affairs data reported in the news article, the average retail price of sugar increased to ₹52.3 per kg from ₹46.34 per kg last year.
- Import without customs duties will help increase supply and reduce price pressure.

### What Is the Sugar Import Quota?

- DGFT has allowed imports of 10 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of raw sugar under Tariff Rate Quota without any duty.
- The permission is valid till October 31, 2026. This policy is thus temporary in nature.

### DELHI MASTER PLAN 2047 UNVEILED -

- The Master Plan of Delhi-2047 (MPD-2 047) has been announced to be the future roadmap which will make Delhi inclusive, sustainable, resilient and globally competitive. The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs of India, Manohar Lal, announced the MPD-2047 on August 20, 2026 in the presence of Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, Taranjit Singh Sandhu and the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta.



The MPD-2047 is focused on housing, transport, redevelopment, land pooling, economic development and environmental conservation.

#### **40 Lakh Homes to be at the Core of MPD-2047**

- One of the main priorities of the new master plan of Delhi is related to housing. The master plan seeks to meet the demands of increasing population of Delhi and housing through various initiatives.

#### **Main highlights of the housing policy include,**

- A. Around 18 lakh affordable homes in Transit-Oriented Development Zones of metro routes.
- B. Around 7 lakh additional dwelling units by redeveloping group, DDA and government housing.
- C. Solution for the housing needs of more than 17 lakh residents of jhuggi-jhopri clusters.
- D. Incentives for FAR to provide affordable housing for workers.
- E. Rental housing schemes for students, professionals, migrant labourers and poor communities.
- F. Improvements in the planning and living standards in unauthorized colonies.

#### **CENSUS 2027 -**

- The Census of India 2027 marks an important milestone in the country's demographic history. It will be India's 16th Census overall and the 8th Census since Independence.



- The upcoming census is particularly significant because the 2021 Census could not be conducted as scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2027 exercise also introduces major technological changes, including digital data collection and self-enumeration, while incorporating caste enumeration.

#### **Which Census Is the 2027 Census of India?**

- The Census 2027 is the 16th Census of India and the 8th Census after Independence.
- India's first census exercise was conducted in 1872, although it was not carried out simultaneously across the

entire country. The first synchronous census took place in 1881. Since then, census operations have generally been conducted every ten years.

- The 2027 Census will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948, by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### **The exercise will be conducted in two broad phases:**

- **Phase 1 – Houselisting and Housing Census:** This phase focuses on collecting information about houses, housing conditions and household facilities.
- **Phase 2 – Population Enumeration:** This phase records demographic, social and economic information about the population.

#### **INDIA, CHINA AGREE ON EIGHT-POINT BOUNDARY CONSENSUS -**

- India and China reached an eight-point consensus during the 25th Round of Talks between the Special Representatives on the Boundary Question in Beijing on 25 August 2026. The talks were co-chaired by India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi.



#### **Special Representatives' Talks on the Boundary Question**

- The Special Representatives' mechanism is a bilateral diplomatic format used by India and China for boundary-related discussions. The 25th round was held in Beijing, which is the capital of China and a major venue for high-level diplomatic meetings.

#### **Boundary Management and the Line of Actual Control**

- The eight-point consensus covered peace and tranquillity along border areas and sought to reduce friction along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The LAC is the de facto boundary between India and China and is not a formally demarcated international border.
- **The two sides agreed to use existing diplomatic and military channels to address ground situations promptly. These channels include local commander-**





level meetings, which are used for communication between field formations on both sides.

### **PRESIDENT MURMU CLEARS WAY FOR LADAKH HIGH COURT BENCH -**

- President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026, on 27 August 2026. The regulation was issued under Article 240 of the Constitution and Section 58(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, to create a legal framework for High Court sittings in Ladakh.



### **Constitutional Basis**

- Article 240 of the Constitution empowers the President to make regulations for certain Union territories, including Ladakh. Section 58(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, provides the statutory basis for arrangements relating to the common High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

### **High Court Structure in Ladakh**

- The regulation permits Judges and Division Courts of the common High Court to sit in Ladakh at a venue chosen by the Chief Justice, subject to approval by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. The principal seat of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh remains unchanged under the regulation.



# INTERNATIONAL

## INDIAN RAILWAYS SUPPLIES COACHES TO BANGLADESH RAILWAY -

- The Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala, Punjab, rolled out the first rake of Linke Hofmann Busch broad gauge passenger coaches for Bangladesh Railway on 12 August 2026. The 19-coach rake is part of a 2024 export contract for 200 broad gauge passenger coaches across seven variants, with financing linked to the European Investment Bank.



### India-Bangladesh Rail Coach Cooperation

- Rail Coach Factory supplied 120 passenger coaches to Bangladesh during 2015–2016. The 2026 delivery resumed Indian passenger coach exports to Bangladesh after a gap of about ten years.

## INDIA-CHINA HOLD 25TH ROUND OF BORDER TALKS IN BEIJING -

- The 25th round of Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question is scheduled in Beijing on 25 August 2026. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is in Beijing for a two-day visit, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to co-chair the boundary meeting as China's Special Representative.



### Special Representatives Mechanism

- The Special Representatives mechanism is a high-level diplomatic format between India and China for discussions on the boundary question. India's Special Representative is the National Security Advisor, while China's Special Representative is the Foreign Minister.

### India-China Boundary Question

- The India-China boundary question concerns the unresolved land boundary between the two countries. The boundary dispute covers the western, middle, and eastern sectors, including areas linked to Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

## INDIA-THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE MAITREE-XV 2026 -

- India and Thailand will strengthen their military cooperation through Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026, it will be the 15th joint military exercise between the two nations. The Indian Army team flew out to Thailand on August 17, 2026, for Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026, which will take place from August 18 to 31 at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp in Surat Thani, Thailand. With 85 participants from both countries, the exercise will entail joint counter-insurgency and counter-terror operations in the jungle and semi-urban environment.



### When and Where Will MAITREE-XV 2026 Take Place?

- Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 is scheduled for August 18th to 31st, 2026, at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp in Surat Thani, Thailand.
- The Indian Army and Royal Thai Army will each have 85 participants. The Indian team will mainly consist of members of the 9 Gorkha Rifles, whereas the Thai team will have members of 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division.
- The previous edition of this exercise took place at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2025.

## INDIA TO HOST 18TH BRICS SUMMIT IN DELHI -

- India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12 and 13 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam. The Ministry of External Affairs announced that India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".



**BRICS and its membership**

- BRICS is an intergovernmental grouping of major emerging economies. The acronym originally referred to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the grouping has expanded in recent years to include new members such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

**India's chairship and summit cycle**

- India assumed the BRICS chairship on 1 January 2026. India had earlier held the BRICS chairship in 2012, 2016 and 2021, and the 2026 summit marks the 20th anniversary of BRICS, which was formed in 2006 as BRIC and later renamed BRICS after South Africa joined in 2010.

**NEPAL FLASH FLOODS HIT BHOTE KOSHI AND TRISHULI RIVERS-**

- A sudden flash flood swept through Nepal's Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems on 26 August 2026. The flood affected the Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts, and it caused deaths, missing-person cases, damage to roads and bridges, and disruption to cross-border movement.

**Geographical Setting of the Flood-Prone Region**

- The Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers are part of the Himalayan river network in central Nepal. The affected districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading lie in a mountainous zone where steep slopes, narrow valleys and glacial or snow-fed streams can increase flood velocity.
- Flash floods in Himalayan terrain often carry water, mud, rocks and debris. Such flows can damage settlements,

bridges, hydropower projects and road links within a short time.

**26TH SCO SUMMIT HELD IN BISHKEK -**

- The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held at the Yrys Ordo Congress Hall in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on August 31 and September 1, 2026. The summit marked the 25th anniversary of the SCO, which was founded in 2001, and it brought together leaders of the 10 member states, observer representatives, and dialogue partner representatives.

**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian intergovernmental grouping that began in 2001 as the Shanghai Five process. Its current members are India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus.

**Summit Chairmanship and Declaration**

- Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov chaired the Council of Heads of State meeting and handed over the rotating chairmanship to Pakistan. The member states signed the Bishkek Declaration and adopted more than 20 strategic decisions and statements during the summit.





# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ISRO CHIEF V NARAYANAN ANNOUNCES INDIA'S SPACE STATION GOAL -

- India is planning to establish its space station by 2035. The target has been revealed at the third National Space Day celebrations in Ahmedabad on August 23, 2026 by ISRO Chairman V Narayanan. The chairman added that the first module of the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) has already been approved. The move will mark an important milestone in India's space programme which focuses not only on satellite applications and exploring the moon but also includes Gaganyaan as well as human activities in space.



### **Bharatiya Antariksha Station: What Did ISRO Say?**

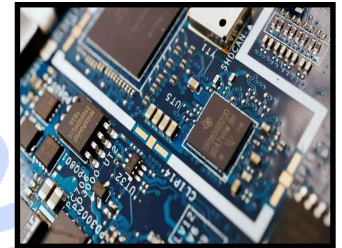
- ISRO Chairman V Narayanan stated that India is planning to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035. According to him, the first module of the station has been approved.
- The establishment of the station will be a great step forward for India's human spaceflight programme, as the station will use the facilities developed under the programme named Gaganyaan.
- Narayanan recalled the history of the Indian space programme, noting that over 64 years, its space-based applications have expanded to serve citizens in more than 50 fields.
- These fields range from earth observation and remote sensing to telecommunications, TV broadcasting and education, disaster warning and mitigation, navigation, monitoring and tracking.

### **Gaganyaan and India's Upcoming Space Programs**

- As it stands now, Gaganyaan is still considered to be one of the significant space projects that are yet to take place in India. The project aims at gaining the ability to launch humans into space and will offer essential experience for future human projects.

## SEMICON INDIA 2026 TO SHOWCASE INDIA'S GROWING CHIP ECOSYSTEM -

- India is getting ready to host Semicon India 2026, which will be the fifth installment of the largest event held in the country related to its semiconductor industry from September 17th to 19th at Yashoobhoomi (IICC), Dwarka, New Delhi. The said event takes place during an important period for India, as the initiatives taken in the first phase of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM 1.0) come near to becoming operational. India will present more than 500 exhibitors, over 290 international companies and delegations from more than 40 countries in Semicon India 2026.



### **Key Highlights of Semicon India 2026**

- The theme of Semicon India 2026 will be "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem". This event will be jointly organized by SEMI and India Semiconductor Mission.

### **As per the officials, the three-day event will have following highlights,**

- More than 500 exhibitors
- Over 290 international companies
- More than 150 speakers
- Delegation from 40+ countries
- Six country-oriented pavilions
- Leading global semiconductor companies
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the event on September 17th.

## INDIA'S NON-FOSSIL FUEL POWER CAPACITY CROSSES 300 GW -

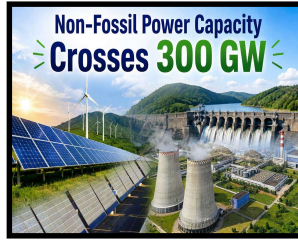
- India's installed non-fossil fuel-based power capacity reached 300.50 GW as of 31 July 2026, crossing the 300 GW mark. This capacity formed more than 54% of India's



total installed electricity generation capacity of about 552 GW on the same date.

### **Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity in India**

- Non-fossil fuel power capacity includes electricity generated from solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, bio-power, and nuclear power. India's 300.50 GW non-fossil capacity as of 31 July 2026 covered more than 60% of the national target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.
- **Solar energy was the largest component of the non-fossil basket at 164.59 GW. Wind energy stood at 58.14 GW, while large and small hydropower together accounted for 57.24 GW.**



### **Major Components of the Capacity Mix**

- Bio-power contributed 11.75 GW to the non-fossil total. Nuclear power accounted for 8.78 GW of installed capacity.
- Solar capacity rose from 2.8 GW in 2014 to 164.59 GW in 2026. Wind capacity increased from 21 GW in 2014 to 58.14 GW in 2026.

### **RELIANCE, ROLLS-ROYCE TO PARTNER ON INDIA'S FIGHTER JET ENGINE -**

- India's push to develop an indigenous aero-engine ecosystem for its next generation fighter jets has been given a significant push as Reliance Industries has decided to form a partnership with Rolls-Royce from the UK to manufacture engines for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. The initiative will be helpful in India's bid to reduce its reliance on foreign-made defence equipment and build up its own aerospace manufacturing industry. The AMCA is designed as a twin-engine stealth fighter that is expected to form an



important part of India's air-combat capability in the future.

### **What Is the Reliance-Rolls-Royce Collaboration?**

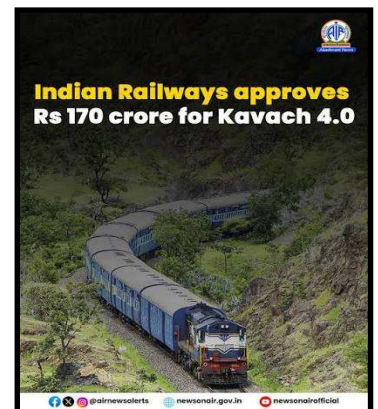
- As per Reliance Industries, the company will collaborate with Rolls-Royce to explore the establishment of a dedicated aerospace gas turbine complex in India.
- The facility will help in the joint development and manufacturing of aero-engines, which will merge Rolls-Royce's experience in advanced propulsion with the manufacturing, technology and execution skills of Reliance.
- Anant Ambani, the Executive Director at Reliance Industries, has said that the aim of the initiative will be to help in creating an indigenous aero-engine ecosystem in India.

### **AMCA Programme Definition**

- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is the name of the twin-engine stealth fighter aircraft programme of India.

### **INDIAN RAILWAYS APPROVES ₹170 CRORE FOR KAVACH 4.0 -**

- Indian Railways approved ₹170 crore for the deployment of Kavach Version 4.0 across the remaining 712 route kilometres of Northern Railway's Moradabad Division. Kavach is an indigenous Automatic Train Protection system used on Indian Railways for train safety functions such as automatic braking and speed regulation.



### **Kavach 4.0 as an Automatic Train Protection System**

- **Kavach is an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system developed for Indian Railways to reduce the risk of Signal Passing at Danger, commonly called SPAD. The system can apply brakes automatically**





when a train approaches a danger signal or exceeds permitted speed limits.

- Kavach Version 4.0 includes direct interface with existing Electronic Interlocking Systems, station-to-station communication through optical fibre cable, and improved location accuracy. Electronic Interlocking is a railway signalling system that controls points and signals through computer-based logic.

#### **Coverage and Deployment of Kavach**

- As of 31 July 2026, Kavach Version 4.0 had been commissioned across 2,633 route kilometres in India. This commissioned network included 1,423 route km on the Delhi-Mumbai corridor and 1,210 route km on the Delhi-Howrah corridor

#### **AIRBUS AWARDS MAHINDRA CONTRACT FOR A320NEO FUSELAGE SKINS-**

- Airbus awarded Mahindra Aerostructures Pvt. Ltd. (MASPL), a Mahindra Group company, a multi-year contract to manufacture and supply fuselage skins for the A320neo and A321XLR passenger aircraft. The work will be carried out at Mahindra's Bengaluru facility, and the

finished components will be shipped to Airbus Aerostructures' assembly plant in Augsburg, Germany.

#### **Fuselage Skins in Aircraft Manufacturing**

- Fuselage skins are the outer structural panels that form the body of an aircraft. In commercial aircraft, these panels are produced with high dimensional accuracy and are fitted to fuselage sections that include the rear fuselage and tail section.

#### **Scope of the Contract**

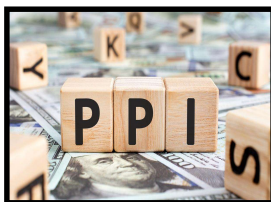
- The agreement covers 11 fuselage skins in total. It includes eight skins for Section 18, which is the rear fuselage, and three skins for Section 19, which is the tail section. The first deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2028.



## ECONOMY & FINANCE

### **MOSPI TO REPLACE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX WITH PRODUCER PRICE INDEX FOR GDP DEFLATION -**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has announced a major reform in India's national accounting system by replacing the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with the Output Producer Price Index (PPI) as the GDP deflator for quarterly and annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates, wherever applicable.
- The move aims to improve the accuracy of real GDP estimation, align India's statistical practices with international standards, and better reflect changes in production costs and economic activity.
- The Producer Price Index (PPI) series was released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in June 2026 and will now play a central role in the revised GDP estimation framework.



#### **What is the Producer Price Index (PPI)?**

- The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures the average change in prices received by producers for goods and services before they reach consumers.
- Unlike the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which mainly tracks wholesale market prices, the PPI reflects actual prices received by producers and is considered a more accurate indicator for measuring production costs and economic output.
- The adoption of PPI aligns India with international statistical best practices followed by many advanced economies.

#### **Why is MoSPI Replacing WPI with PPI?**

- The replacement of WPI with PPI is intended to:
- Improve the accuracy of GDP estimates.
- Better measure real economic growth.
- Reflect actual producer prices.

- Align India's National Accounts with international statistical standards.
- Reduce distortions in GDP calculations caused by the earlier methodology.

### **FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2026 -**

#### **What is FCRA Amendment Bill of 2026?**

- The FCRA amendment bill of 2026 attempts to modify the act related to foreign contributions by providing it with better compliance facilities and a legal framework which can be effectively used to control foreign contributions.
- Main objectives of the Bill are,
  - Efficient monitoring of foreign contributions.
  - Safeguarding the assets created by foreign contributions.
  - Ensuring greater transparency and responsibility in the use of foreign contributions.
  - Keeping away from misuse of foreign funds from abroad.
  - Establishing a greater security system in the country.



#### **Purposes of FCRA amendment Bill of 2026**

- The bill is aimed at achieving a number of crucial aims which have been outlined below.
- Better regulation of foreign contributions.
- Ensuring the transparency in use of foreign funds.
- Preventing the misuse of foreign resources.
- Improving the management of NGOs getting foreign funds.
- Creating defense from foreign money against any crimes.

### **RBI MONETARY POLICY AUGUST 2026-**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its August 2026 Monetary Policy on August 5, 2026, following the 62nd meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee



(MPC) held from August 3 to 5, 2026 under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra. In line with market expectations, the MPC unanimously decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25% while retaining the 'Neutral' monetary policy stance.



- The central bank highlighted that although inflation has risen above the target due to food and fuel prices, the underlying inflation remains moderate. At the same time, India's economy continues to display resilience despite global uncertainties.

#### **RBI Monetary Policy August 2026: Key Highlights**

- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.25%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF): 5.50%
- Bank Rate: 5.50%
- Policy Stance: Neutral
- MPC Decision: Unanimous
- Real GDP Growth Forecast (FY 2026-27): 6.7%
- CPI Inflation Forecast (FY 2026-27): 5.0%
- Next MPC Meeting: October 5-7, 2026

#### **CENTRE NOTIFIES ₹62,500 CRORE MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME -**

- Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) of INR 62,500 Crore has been announced by the Centre to further enhance India's standing in becoming a leading electronics manufacturing destination. The five-year scheme, announced on August 21, 2026, will offer production-linked incentive (PLI) to support the manufacturing of mobile phones and promote the growth of Indian mobile phone brands. The plan will focus on increasing the scale of manufacturing operations, increase domestic value addition and develop a robust



domestic supply chain. An additional incentive up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing of key components and sub-assemblies will be provided under the scheme.

#### **What is the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme?**

- A government-sponsored program called the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) aims to increase mobile phone manufacturing capacity in India and create a vibrant electronics manufacturing ecosystem within the country.
- This scheme will run for a period of five years from April 1, 2026 to FY 2030-31.

#### **GOVT DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO HITS 58.2% IN FY26-**

- The debt-to-GDP ratio of the Government of India was 58.2%, which was 210 basis points more than the government's target of 56.1%, revealed Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary. This reflects the ongoing problem of lowering the debt of the government without compromising on fiscal strength amid uncertainties in the global economy. For FY27, the Centre has set a debt-to-GDP target of 55.6%, implying that it has to bring down the ratio by 260 basis points further. The government also intends to utilize the fiscal buffers, such as the ₹1 trillion Economic Stabilisation Fund.



#### **Debt-to-GDP Ratio of India in FY26**

- As per the data released in Parliament, the outstanding liability of the Union government has decreased from 61.5% of GDP in FY21 to 58.2% in FY26.
- Nevertheless, the figure of FY26 was higher than the government's target of 56.1%.
- The difference of 210 basis points suggests that the Centre could not meet its targeted level of lowering debt in FY26.
- For FY27, the Centre has set a lower target of 55.6%.





**UPI CHARGES: NO FEES FOR USERS, GOVT OF INDIA CLARIFIES -**

- The Government of India has clarified that the UPI users will not be charged transaction fees, while addressing the concerns regarding the recent amendment-related debate around the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act). As per the government, all Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions will remain free, while any future Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) would apply only to a limited category of those merchant transactions whose limit specified above threshold.

**Will UPI Users Have to Pay Charges?**

- No. The government has categorically stated that consumers who are making UPI payments will not face transaction charges.
- This means that everyday users can continue using UPI to send money, make payments and conduct routine digital transactions without paying any separate UPI transaction fee.
- The government has also specifically reaffirmed that the all P2P transactions will remain free of charge. This is important because person-to-person transfers are among the most common uses of UPI.
- NPCI also describes that UPI as an instant payment system that enables money transfers between participating bank accounts, while also supporting the merchant payments.

**UPI COMPLETES TEN YEARS OF OPERATIONS -**

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed ten years of operations on August 25, 2026. It was launched in 2016 under the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)



with regulatory oversight from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**UPI: Basic Features**

- UPI is an instant payment system that enables inter-bank transfers through mobile devices. It uses a virtual payment address, mobile number, or bank account details for transactions. The system operates on a real-time basis and supports person-to-person and person-to-merchant payments.

**Transaction Growth Over a Decade**

- Official government data placed UPI's annual transaction volume at 1.78 crore in FY 2016–17. The figure rose to more than 24,162 crore transactions in FY 2025–26. The annual value of transactions increased from ₹0.07 lakh crore in FY 2016–17 to about ₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.

**UPI CHARGES BILL 2026 PASSED BY LOK SABHA: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR UPI USERS ? -****What Is the New UPI Charges Bill?**

- The proposed legislation amends the current legislation regarding charges on digital payments.
- Under the amendment, the Central Government has the power to prescribe which payment systems and transactions can remain free while which transactions would be liable to charges.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will continue to regulate the payment systems and ensure the enforcement of rules.
- The important thing about the bill is that it only makes it possible to impose UPI charges and does not impose the charges on all UPI transactions.

**Who Will Be Affected by UPI Charges?**

- Small Shopkeepers and Street Vendors: May remain immune to charges subject to the final guidelines
- Big Retailers and Online Platforms: May face MDR charges or others subject to being notified



- Students and Salaried Individuals: Transfer from one individual to another is likely to remain free
- Banks and Payment Service Providers: May get an additional revenue stream from transactions
- Fintech Platforms: The firms running UPI may stand to gain from permissible charges

### INDIA'S FISCAL DEFICIT RISES 12-FOLD IN APRIL-MAY FY27 DESPITE RBI DIVIDEND -

- In April-May FY2026-27, India's fiscal deficit widened sharply to the ₹1.62 lakh crore and it showcases the weaker revenue collections despite receiving the record surplus transfer from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts



(CGA), the fiscal deficit has already reached to 9.6% of the full year Budget Estimate (BE) of ₹16.96 lakh crore.

### Fiscal Deficit Surge in April-May FY27

- The centre's fiscal deficit stood at around ₹1.62 lakh crore during the April-May and it compared with the just 0.8% of the annual target in the same period of the last year. The sharp increase was mainly driven by the softer revenue collections and the government expenditure continued at a robust pace.
- Despite the higher deficit in the first two months, fiscal performance is generally influenced by the seasonal revenue and expenditure patterns in the financial year.



# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

## INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026 THEME -

- India's Independence Day in 2026 will be observed on 15th August, which will mark the 80th Independence Day of the country after gaining independence from the rule of the British in the year 1947, thus completing 79 years of its independence. This year's Independence Day theme is "Yuva Shakti" (Youth Power), which highlights the contributions made by the youth of the country towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



## Theme of India's 80th Independence Day 2026

- The theme of Independence Day 2026 is "Yuva Shakti" (Youth Power) and recognizes the contribution made by the Indian youth towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Viksit Bharat 2047 represents India's aspirations to become a developed country in 100 years from the date it gained its independence.

## WORLD LION DAY 2026 -

- The World Lion Day 2026 observed on August 10th and the day highlights the conservation efforts of lions and the threats that are faced by these creatures in their natural habitats. Lions are one of the most famous felines in the world and they have an important role to play as the apex predators in the ecosystem. However, habitat loss, lack of prey, human wildlife conflict, diseases, poaching, and climate change pressures continue to threaten survival of these lions.



## World Lion Day 2026: Date and Significance

- World Lion Day is celebrated annually on August 10.

- The event draws attention to the conservation efforts of lions and highlights the importance of these apex predators in the ecosystem.
- This day is significant for India as India hosts the remaining wild Asiatic lions in the world, which are mainly found in the Gir landscape in Gujarat.
- The celebration of Lion conservation day also highlights the efforts made towards Africa.

## SADBHAVANA DIWAS 2026: HOW RAJIV GANDHI BECAME PM AND SHAPED MODERN INDIA -

- Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated every year on August 20 in honor of the birthday of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. The day is linked with the themes of peace, national unity, harmonious relations between members of various religions and communities. At the time of Rajiv Gandhi's rise to the position of Prime Minister, the country was going through a tough phase in its history. Following the death of his mother and former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, assassinated on October 31, 1984, Rajiv Gandhi came to power as Prime Minister when he was only 40 years old, making him the youngest Prime Minister of India.



## Why Is Sadbhavana Diwas Celebrated on August 20?

- August 20 is chosen to celebrate the birthday of Rajiv Gandhi, who was born on August 20, 1944.
- The meaning of the word "Sadbhavana" is translated as goodwill, harmony, and mutual understanding.

## How Did Rajiv Gandhi Become Prime Minister of India?

- Initially, Rajiv Gandhi was not a politician. He began his professional career as a pilot. Although his brother was more engaged in politics than him, after the death of his younger brother in 1980, Rajiv became more politically active.

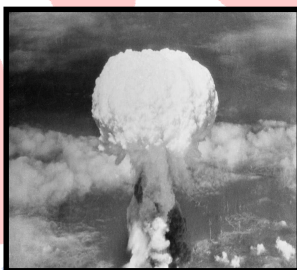




- Rajiv Gandhi became involved in politics and joined the Lok Sabha. In October 1984, his political career underwent drastic changes.
- **On October 31, 1984, the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards. This led to a serious political and social crisis.**
- After his assassination, Rajiv Gandhi was appointed Prime Minister on the same day. Becoming India's Prime Minister at the age of 40, he was its youngest Prime Minister.

### **NAGASAKI DAY 2026: HISTORY, IMPACT, SIGNIFICANCE AND GLOBAL EFFORTS -**

- This Nagasaki Day 2026 will be observed on 9th August to honour the victims of the atomic bomb dropped on the city of Nagasaki towards the end of World War II and to draw attention to the terrible humanitarian impact of nuclear weaponry. On 9th August, 1945, an atomic bomb code named Fat Man was dropped by the United States on Nagasaki which had been bombed at Hiroshima three days before. It resulted in a huge loss of life and destruction and constituted the second and last nuclear attack ever used in war.



#### **What is Nagasaki Day?**

- Nagasaki Day is celebrated every year on 9th August in memory of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945.
- It is largely a day of remembrance. It is a tribute to the victims who lost their lives and recognition of the suffering endured by the survivors to raise awareness about the catastrophic impact of nuclear warfare.
- Memorial activities in Nagasaki consist of gatherings of survivors along with representatives from all walks of life and from all over the world.

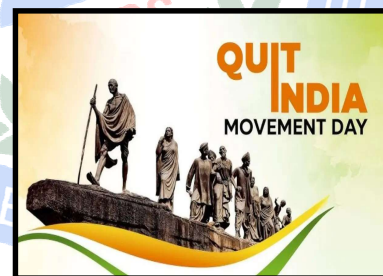
#### **What Happened in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945?**

- On August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped by the US forces on Nagasaki in the World War II.

- The atomic bomb was named as Fat Man and it consisted of an implosion-type nuclear weapon with a plutonium core and an explosive power of 21 kilotons of TNT.
- The bomb was delivered to its target on a B-29 Superfortress bomber named Bockscar which was piloted by Major Charles W. Sweeney.

### **QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT DAY 2026: THEME, HISTORY, SIGNIFICANCE AND WHY AUGUST 8 IS IMPORTANT-**

- Quit India Movement Day in 2026 is observed on August 8th as a tribute to one of the most impactful movements in the India's independence journey. The Quit India Movement is also referred to as August Kranti Diwas or August Movement, which was started in the year 1942 led by Mahatma Gandhi and issued a historical Do or Die slogan.
- This movement called for an immediate end to the rule of Britain in India. Despite the fact that the movement was met with severe repression from the British Government through arresting many people, the movement was able to prove the Indian people's determination to gain their independence. This was achieved with the help of participation of students, workers, peasants, women and common people in the movement.



#### **Quit India Movement Day 2026 Date**

- **The Quit India Movement Day is observed on 8th August, 2026. It marks the beginning of the Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942, at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).**
- There is no official theme is yet announced by the Government of India for Quit India Movement Day in 2026. The event will be dedicated to the commemoration of the sacrifice of freedom fighters and the celebration of the ideals of freedom, unity, democracy and patriotism.



# AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

## OVER 200 INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS RECEIVE UN MEDAL IN SOUTH SUDAN -

- A total of 210 Indian peacekeepers received the United Nations Medal in Juba, South Sudan, on 17 August 2026. The award included six women and seven staff officers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).



### United Nations Peacekeeping

- United Nations peacekeeping began in 1948 with the first UN military observers in the Middle East. UN peacekeeping missions operate under the authority of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly.

### India's Role in UN Missions

- India is the second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations. More than 4,200 Indian military and police personnel, including 155 women, were deployed globally in 2026.

### UNMISS and South Sudan

- UNMISS was established in 2011 after the independence of South Sudan. Its mandate includes civilian protection, support for humanitarian assistance, and assistance to the peace process in South Sudan.

## AMIT SHAH PRESENTS PRESIDENT'S COLOURS TO PUDUCHERRY POLICE -

- Home Minister of Union Government and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presented the honor of President's Colours to the Puducherry Police on August 9th, 2026, due to their courage, dedication, and service. This ceremony was attended by the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry K. Kailashnathan and Honorable Chief Minister N. Rangasamy along with the other notable personalities. The President's Colours are one of the most

prestigious honors for a disciplined force, and Amit Shah expressed his gratitude to the Puducherry government, police force, and citizens of the UT. Furthermore, this award acknowledges the role of the police in maintaining law and order in geographically dispersed regions of Puducherry.



### What Are President's Colours?

- President's Colours is an honor that is bestowed on a disciplined force in appreciation of its distinguished service, courage, and dedication.
- For a police force, getting the honor is a reflection of the institution's contribution to the maintenance of law and order and citizens' services.
- Puducherry Police now stands amongst the police forces in India who have been honored with this prestigious title.

## PRESIDENT APPROVES 78 GALLANTRY AWARDS AND 89 MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY -

- Honorable President Droupadi Murmu has awarded 78 Gallantry Awards, including 13 Posthumous Awards, to personnel of the Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces ahead of India's 80th Independence Day. President Droupadi Murmu has further awarded 89 Mention-in-Despatches to personnel of Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force in appreciation of their distinguished services in different operations.

| Gallantry Award               | Number of Awards | Posthumous |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Kirti Chakra                  | 9                | 7          |
| Bar to Shaurya Chakra         | 1                | —          |
| Shaurya Chakra                | 19               | 1          |
| Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) | 5                | 5          |
| Sena Medal (Gallantry)        | 36               | —          |



|                             |           |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)  | 3         | —         |
| Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) | 5         | —         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>78</b> | <b>13</b> |

## WILLIE WALSH ASSUMES CHARGE AS INDIGO CEO -

- Willie Walsh assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo on 3 August 2026. IndiGo had announced his appointment in March 2026, and he succeeded Pieter Elbers, who resigned as CEO on 10 March 2026.



### IndiGo and Its Corporate Profile

- IndiGo is India's largest airline by fleet size and daily operations. The airline operates more than 430 aircraft and nearly 2,200 daily flights across over 95 domestic destinations and 40 international destinations.

### Willie Walsh's Aviation Career

- Willie Walsh served as the Director General of the International Air Transport Association until 31 July 2026. His aviation career spans more than four decades and includes leadership roles at Aer Lingus, British Airways, and International Airlines Group.

## DHIRAJ SETH GETS NEPAL'S HONORARY GENERAL RANK IN KATHMANDU-

- The Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth was awarded with the honorary General rank of the Nepali Army on August 17, 2026, when he visited the Capital of Nepal, Kathmandu as part of an official visit. The honour was bestowed upon him by Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel. This particular tradition of the military



ties between India and Nepal goes back to the year 1950. General Seth was also accorded a Guard of Honour at the Headquarters of the Nepali Army and paid homage to the Army Pavilion at Tundikhel.

### Seth Awarded Nepal's Honorary General Rank

- The honouring of the rank is a time-honoured tradition between the Indian Army and the Nepali Army.
- The practice of awarding the honorary rank of General to the Army chiefs of each other goes back to 1950 and is taken as a manifestation of the cordial relations maintained by the two armies for quite a long time.

## AIR INDIA APPOINTS TEWOLDE GEBREMARIAM AS NEW CEO - Air India Names New CEO

- Air India has officially named Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO, he will replace Campbell Wilson, who had to step down from the position in the year 2026 after guiding Air India in its stabilization and integration phase.
- The Tata Group has described Gebremariam as an individual with experience in the management of large airline operations and organizational transformations and setting up globally competitive aviation infrastructure.
- According to Air India, he brings the following skills,
  - Airline operations management
  - Transformation of culture and organization
  - Setting up of global aviation hubs
  - Expansion of MRO capability
  - Development of aviation training infrastructure
  - Operational efficiencies and safety standard improvements.





# PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

## CENTRE PROPOSES RULES FOR TWO-WHEELED AMBULANCES -

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed draft rules to introduce two-wheeled ambulances in India. The draft framework seeks to create a separate legal and technical basis for registration, design, safety, and operation under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.



### Legal Status Under Motor Vehicle Rules

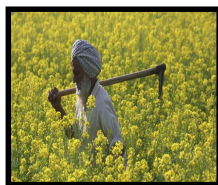
- Two-wheeled ambulances are not currently recognised as a separate vehicle category under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The proposed amendments aim to place them within a defined regulatory structure for emergency medical transport.

### Technical Standard and Compliance

- The draft rules propose adoption of Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-209 (Part 1):2026 for life support two-wheeled road ambulances. All L2-category two-wheeled road ambulances manufactured on or after 1 October 2027 must comply with this standard, including requirements for emergency top lights.

## PM-AASHA SCHEME 2026 -

- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is an initiative of the central government that aims to generate profits for farmers and improve the agricultural pricing mechanism. It is expected that ₹7,200 crores would be spent under PM-AASHA in 2026-27.
- Price Support Scheme (PSS) allows the government to procure notified pulses, oilseeds, and copra at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) if the market price falls below the MSP announced by the government.

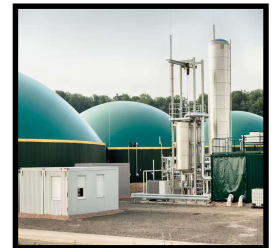


## What is the PM-AASHA Scheme?

- PM-AASHA means Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan. Launched in September 2018, this scheme is the umbrella scheme for ensuring price support to farmers on their agriculture produce.
- It seeks to cover the gap between the announcement of MSP and its actual implementation in the market. In case the market prices fall below the level of MSP, there are various measures that can be undertaken under the PM-AASHA depending on the commodity and market conditions.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is the nodal ministry for this initiative.

## CABINET CLEARS RS 23,731-CRORE GOBARDHAN SCHEME, RS 8,970-CRORE ASSAM CORRIDOR -

- On 6 August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved two projects with a combined outlay of ₹32,701 crore. The package included the GOBARDhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme and a four-lane access-controlled highway project in Assam.



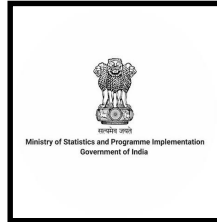
### GOBARDhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme

- The GOBARDhan scheme has an allocation of ₹23,731 crore and a ten-year implementation period from 2026–27 to 2035–36. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and focuses on domestic compressed biogas production.
- The scheme name expands to Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan. It is linked to the use of cattle dung, agricultural residue, and other organic waste for bioenergy production.



## GOVERNMENT RELEASES NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS 2026 -

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the National Accounts Statistics 2026 on 31 August 2026. The publication contains 60 statements based on updated Final Estimates for FY 2022–23 and FY 2023–24, First Revised Estimates for FY 2024–25, and revised macroeconomic indicators for FY 2025–26.



### National Accounts Statistics

- National Accounts Statistics is an official statistical publication of India that compiles macroeconomic aggregates such as Gross Domestic Product, Gross Value Added, and sector-wise estimates. The series is used for national income accounting and for presenting annual and quarterly estimates of the Indian economy.

### GDP Revisions in FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26

- The revised estimates in the 2026 publication changed several growth figures. India's real GDP growth rate for FY 2023–24 was revised from 7.2% to 7.3%, and nominal GDP growth was revised from 11.0% to 11.1%.
- For FY 2024–25, the real GDP growth rate was revised from 7.1% to 7.2%, while the nominal GDP growth rate was revised from 9.7% to 9.4%. For FY 2025–26, the real GDP growth rate was revised from 7.7% to 7.8%, while the nominal GDP growth rate was revised from 8.9% to 8.6%.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX (EPI) 2026: ESTONIA TOPS GLOBAL RANKINGS, INDIA RANKED 176TH -

- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 has provided an extensive analysis of the environmental performance of countries in their environment-causing activity and sustainability initiatives. It has again covered 177 and devised 47 indicators across 12 issue categories that apply to climate change, health in the environment, biodiversity, quality of air, quality of water, and quality of ecosystem.

- According to the findings of the 2026 EPI ranking, Estonia has been ranked the highest while India stands at the 176th position only above Laos as a testimony to the significant environmental crisis faced by the nation.

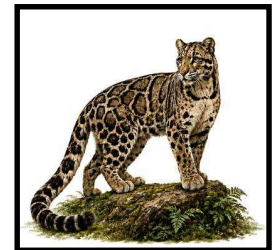
### What is the Environmental Performance Index (EPI)?

- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a data-focused method that rates countries based on how well they perform in terms of their environmental performance.
- The index is created by the,
  - Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy (YCELP)
  - Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)
  - Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions



## INDIA LAUNCHES CLOUDED LEOPARD CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN -

- India launched a new Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan on International Clouded Leopard Day, observed on 4 August 2026. The plan was prepared under the Government of India-GEF-UNDP initiative and was released during the 91st meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife in Coimbatore.



### Clouded Leopard: Species Profile

- The clouded leopard is a wild cat species found mainly in forested habitats of Northeast India and parts of South and South-East Asia. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



**NEW HIMALAYAN PLANT NAMED AFTER NIRMAL PURJA -**

- A newly identified Himalayan flowering plant has been named *Impatiens nimsipurjai* in honour of Nepali mountaineer Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja. The species was formally described in a 57-page study published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE and was first encountered in western Myagdi district of Nepal in 2011.

**Taxonomy and nomenclature**

- *Impatiens nimsipurjai* belongs to the genus *Impatiens*, a large flowering plant group in the family Balsaminaceae. The genus is known locally in Nepal as tiuri, and many species in this group are associated with moist habitats in the Himalayan region.

**Discovery and scientific description**

- Botanist Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti first observed the plant in 2011, after which morphological and molecular studies continued for more than a decade. The formal description of the species was credited to botanists Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti and Rita Ale, who documented the plant as new to science.

**GUJARAT TO GET ASIA'S FIRST DESERT-THEMED NIGHT SAFARI -**

- Gujarat has received approval for the Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district. The project will be developed on about 103 hectares of contiguous government land and is planned as Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari.

**Project Location and Approval**

- The Central Zoo Authority approved the proposal on 12 August 2026. Juna Deesa is located in Banaskantha district in north Gujarat, and the site has been identified

for a desert-themed zoological facility under the Gujarat Forest Department.

**Layout, Budget and Animal Collection**

- The estimated budget for the project is ₹542.14 crore. The park is planned to house around 2,700 animals and birds from nearly 83 species, including native, exotic, and avian species.
- The design includes a separate day zoo and five dedicated night safari enclosures. The night safari format is intended for viewing nocturnal species after sunset in controlled enclosures.

**NEPAL FLASH FLOODS TRIGGERED BY ICE AND ROCK AVALANCHE -**

- Nepal flash floods caused in Rasuwa on 26th August, 2026, Wednesday have been attributed to an ice and rock avalanche that brought a sudden surge in the river system of the area. In the incident, at least eight persons lost their lives, while several hundred travelers are missing due to the impact of the floods that inundated villages, destroyed roads and hydropower projects.

**What Caused the Nepal Flash Floods?**

- The Bhotekoshi River experienced flooding at about 9 a.m., which sent massive volumes of water flowing downstream to destroy villages, roads and hydropower facilities.
- According to experts, the immediate cause of the flooding was most probably an ice and rock avalanche that occurred in the glacier in Nepal. The avalanche resulted in a massive surge downstream through the Lhende Khola, which is a tributary of the Bhotekoshi River.
- The disaster risk specialist, Saswata Sanyal, stated that the Lhende Khola River had flooded twice within 14 months due to ice-rock avalanche that blocked the river.

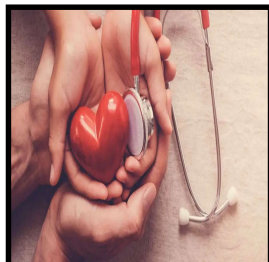




## REPORTS & INDICES

### TAMIL NADU LEADS IN DECEASED ORGAN DONATION, RANKS SECOND IN TRANSPLANTS -

- In the year 2025, India has achieved a milestone in the organ transplantation, as it saw total 20,138 organs transplanted through the year, as per the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Annual Report 2025–26. Released during the commemoration of the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day, Tamil Nadu is noted in the report to be leading the nation in deceased organ donations made with the help of 266 deceased donors in the year. However, even as Tamil Nadu is recognized as the state with the highest number of deceased donors, it ranks second in total organ transplants after Delhi.

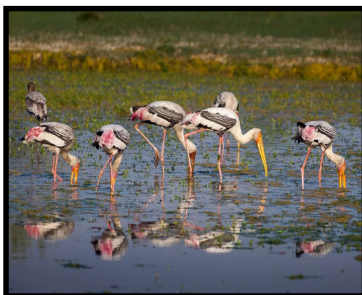


#### **Tamil Nadu Leads in Deceased Organ Donation**

- Tamil Nadu emerged as the India's best-performing state in deceased organ donation during 2025.
- Top States by Deceased Organ Donors (2025)
- Tamil Nadu: 266 (Deceased Donors)/ Telangana: 205 (Deceased Donors)/ Karnataka: 198 (Deceased Donors)/ Maharashtra: 154 (Deceased Donors)/ Gujarat: 152 (Deceased Donors)

### RAMSAR SITES IN INDIA 2026: STATE-WISE LIST OF ALL 101 RAMSAR SITES -

- On August 3rd, 2026, India declared Glaw Lake in the state of Arunachal Pradesh as the 101st Ramsar site in the country. The declaration was made by the Union minister for Environment, Forest,



and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, thus making Glaw Lake the first Ramsar site of Arunachal Pradesh. This achievement shows how important the Eastern Himalayan wetlands are for the ecology of the world and also indicates the commitment of India in conserving biodiversity, being climate-friendly, ensuring water security, and developing sustainably.

#### **What is Ramsar Sites?**

- Ramsar Sites are wetlands listed on the Ramsar List under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that was signed back in 1971 in the city of Ramsar in Iran. The idea of the Convention is to enhance the preservation of wetland areas of global significance.
- Wetlands are important for the following reasons,
- They provide habitats for migratory birds and endangered animals.
- They support ecological balance.
- They recharge water resources.
- They prevent flooding.
- They improve water quality.
- They act as carbon sinks to fight climate change.
- They sustain fishing, agriculture, tourism, and local population incomes.

### GLAW LAKE BECOMES ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S FIRST RAMSAR SITE, INDIA'S 101ST -

- Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh was designated as India's 101st Ramsar site on 3 August 2026. It became Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar wetland and is located in the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Himalayas, in Lohit district.



#### **Glaw Lake as a Ramsar Wetland**

- Ramsar sites are wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty adopted in 1971 in



Ramsar, Iran. The convention covers wetlands of international importance, including lakes, marshes, peatlands, mangroves, and artificial wetlands. India joined the Ramsar Convention in 1982. With Glaw Lake, India's Ramsar site count reached 101, up from 26 in 2014.

#### **PUNJAB TOPS NITI AAYOG SCHOOL EDUCATION INDEX -**

- Punjab secured the first rank in the NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026, ahead of states such as Kerala. The state government placed the ranking alongside school



infrastructure upgrades, learning outcomes, teacher training, and examination support programmes in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh on 6 August 2026.

#### **School Education Quality Index**

- The School Education Quality Index, or SEQI, is a performance framework used by NITI Aayog to assess school education across Indian states and Union Territories. It covers indicators such as access, infrastructure, equity, governance, learning outcomes, and teacher-related parameters.
- Punjab moved from 27th place in 2020 to 1st place in 2026 in the published ranking metrics. The state recorded 82% proficiency in Class III language skills and 78% proficiency in mathematics in the cited indicators.



## DEFENCE

### DEFENCE MINISTRY NOTIFIES 6TH INDIGENISATION LIST OF 405 ITEMS -

- The Department of Defence Production (DDP) under the Ministry of Defence notified the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) on 18 August 2026. The list contains 405 defence items and carries an estimated domestic business potential of Rs 3,070 crore.



#### Positive Indigenisation List

- The Positive Indigenisation List is a policy instrument used by the Ministry of Defence to identify items that must be sourced from domestic manufacturers. It is linked to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and aims to reduce dependence on imports in defence procurement.
- The sixth list includes 389 items connected with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and 16 items linked to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The items cover components, spares, and raw materials used in defence production.

#### Platforms and Systems Covered

- The notified items include parts for major air and land platforms such as the Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Utility Helicopter, Su-30MKI aircraft, Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, T-72 tanks, T-90 tanks, and BMP-II infantry combat vehicles. The list also covers parts for missile systems such as Konkurs-M, Invar, and MRSAM.
- Defence electronics in the list include radars, sonars, and satellite communication systems. High Explosive Anti-Tank ammunition is also among the items reserved for domestic sourcing.

### INDIA SIGNS MQ-9B SEA GUARDIAN DRONE LEASE DEAL -

- India's Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth about Rs 1,943 crore with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. on 17 August 2026. The agreement covers

the lease of two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for the Indian Navy for 30 months.



#### MQ-9B Sea Guardian

- The MQ-9B Sea Guardian is a High-Altitude Long-Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. It is designed for long-duration maritime and surveillance missions and carries sensors and payloads for monitoring large sea areas.

#### Lease Arrangement and Naval Use

- The Indian Navy will use the two leased drones for persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance coverage. The aircraft are intended for Maritime Domain Awareness in the Indian Ocean Region, which is a key operational area for naval monitoring and sea-lane observation.

### INDIA AND MALAYSIA COMMENCE EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI 2026 -

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced the bilateral air exercise Udara Shakti 2026 on 10 August 2026. The five-day exercise is scheduled to continue until 14 August 2026 at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.



#### Exercise Overview

- Udara Shakti is a bilateral air exercise between India and Malaysia. The exercise was inaugurated at the Air Warfare Centre in Subang Air Base by RMAF Exercise Director Colonel Shamsul Shahreen bin Isa and IAF Exercise Director Group Captain Parijat Jha.

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- Indian Defence Adviser Colonel Praveen Sukumaran attended the opening ceremony. The exercise involves 83 personnel from both air forces.

#### Aircraft and Squadron Participation

- The IAF deployed four Rafale fighter jets from No. 101 Squadron and two C-17 Globemaster III strategic transport aircraft from No. 81 Squadron. The Rafale is a twin-engine, multirole combat aircraft developed by Dassault Aviation of France.
- The RMAF deployed two Su-30MKM fighter jets from No. 12 Squadron, two F/A-18D fighter jets from No. 18 Squadron, and one A400M transport aircraft from No. 8 Squadron. The Su-30MKM is a variant of the Sukhoi Su-30 family used by Malaysia.

#### **INDIA PLANS ₹1 LAKH CRORE TENDER FOR 60 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT -**

- India's Ministry of Defence issued a Request for Proposal on 12 August 2026 for 60 multirole transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force, with an estimated value of about ₹1 lakh crore. The procurement plan places Indian companies in the lead role with foreign original equipment manufacturers for domestic production and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities.



#### **Multirole Transport Aircraft Programme**

- Multirole transport aircraft are military aircraft designed for troop movement, cargo carriage, airdrop missions, and logistics support. The Indian Air Force is seeking aircraft in the 18-tonne to 30-tonne cargo-carrying category for replacement of the Antonov An-32 fleet, which is of Soviet origin.

#### **Procurement Structure and Industrial Participation**

- Under the proposed terms, about 20% of the aircraft are expected in fly-away condition, while the remaining 80% are to be manufactured in India through joint ventures. The indigenisation requirement begins at a minimum of

40% and rises to more than 60% indigenous content in a phased manner.

- Indian firms named in the bidding process include Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Mahindra Group, Adani Defence & Aerospace, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, and Reliance Defence. The programme also includes domestic production lines and MRO centres, which are standard components of long-term military aviation contracts.

#### **INDIA PRODUCES FIRST 100% INDIGENOUS AK-203 'SHER' RIFLE -**

- India has reached a landmark in indigenous production of defence equipment with the successful manufacture and testing of the first fully indigenously developed AK-203 assault rifle christened 'Sher'. This rifle was manufactured by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at their Korwa factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. According to CEO and MD of IRRPL Maj Gen S K Sharma, every single component and raw material that has been used in making the prototype is made in India, thus marking a big leap towards complete indigenisation under the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat programs.



#### **Major Leap Towards Full Indigenisation**

- The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) was set up as a joint venture between India and Russia in 2019 for manufacturing AK-203 assault rifles in India.
- In addition to the localisation of some select components, the latest feat is about the manufacture of the very first 'Sher' using 100% Indian components and inputs which have been referred to by Maj Gen Sharma as "genuine indigenisation" of the platform.
- The prototype has also undergone successful tests in firing including burst fire, according to reports.



**BHAWANA KANTH BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN FIGHTER COMBAT LEADER -**

- Indian Air Force Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot in India to clear the Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course on 6 August 2026. She completed the course at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) in Gwalior, which trains selected IAF pilots in air combat tactics and leadership.

**Fighter Combat Leader Course**

- The Fighter Combat Leader course is a 20-week advanced training programme for Indian Air Force fighter pilots. It is among the most selective professional courses in the IAF, with only about 1 per cent of selected pilots completing it successfully. Graduates are trained to lead complex frontline air combat missions.

**Bhawana Kanth's Career in the Indian Air Force**

- Bhawana Kanth was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in June 2016 as part of India's first batch of women fighter pilots. The batch also included Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh. In May 2019, she became the first Indian woman fighter pilot to qualify for daytime combat missions.

**INDIA TEST-FIRES NUCLEAR-CAPABLE AGNI-4 MISSILE -**

- India test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile on 6 August 2026 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. The launch was conducted under the Strategic Forces Command, and the Ministry of Defence stated that all mission objectives and operational parameters were validated.

**Agni Missile Series**

- Agni-4 belongs to India's Agni series of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. The Agni family includes

missiles with different ranges and configurations, and the series forms part of India's land-based strategic missile capability.

**Technical Features of Agni-4**

- Agni-4 is a two-stage, solid-fuel missile with a length of about 20 metres. It has an operational strike range of around 4,000 kilometres and a payload capacity of about 1,000 kilograms. The missile can be launched from a road-mobile launcher, which is designed for mobility and survivability.
- The missile also uses an advanced re-entry heat shield. The shield is designed to withstand external temperatures above 3,000°C while keeping internal electronics below 50°C.

**RAJNATH SINGH APPROVES DRDO MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO INDIAN INDUSTRIES -**

- On 25 August 2026, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the transfer of technology for all conventional missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to the Indian defence industry. The Ministry of Defence stated that the move covers the shift from development to large-scale industrial production of missile systems.

**Transfer of Technology in Defence Production**

- Transfer of technology, or ToT, is a process in which a developer shares design, manufacturing, testing, and integration know-how with another entity for production. In India's defence sector, ToT is used to move systems from research establishments to licensed industrial production units.
- Conventional missile systems are non-nuclear missile platforms used for strike, air defence, and tactical roles. The Defence Research and Development Organisation develops such systems through its laboratories and test facilities under the Ministry of Defence.



**INDIA NAVY TO LEASE TWO MQ-9B SEA GUARDIAN DRONES -**

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with a General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for leasing the two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). This contract was signed on August 17th, 2026, it's value is estimated at around ₹1,943 crore and which includes the leasing of the Sea Guardians for a period of the 30 months. It features state-of-the-art sensors and payload systems, the Sea Guardian systems would play a significant role in enhancing India's Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).

**MoD Signs ₹1,943 Crore MQ-9B Contract**

- The contract was signed between the Ministry of Defence and GA-ASI on August 17, 2026, at New Delhi.

- The contract is for leasing of two MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS to the Indian Navy for a period of 30 months.

**The contract is valued at around ₹1,943 crore.**

- The contract was signed at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi, in the presence of Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence, A. Anbarasu.

**What Is the MQ-9B Sea Guardian?**

- The MQ-9B Sea Guardian is a High-Altitude Long-Endurance remotely piloted aircraft system meant for long-term surveillance and intelligence missions.
- The following are some of the systems that will be featured in the systems India has leased out,
  - Advanced systems
  - Latest sensor technology
  - Mission payloads
  - Extended surveillance capabilities





# SPORTS

## AJINKYA RAHANE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET -

- Former India captain Ajinkya Rahane has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing the curtains down on an illustrious career. Popularly known as “Jinx”, the veteran batter made the announcement through a heartfelt video message on his Instagram account, stating that the time had come to move forward after serving Indian cricket with dedication and honesty.
- Rahane, who hails from Dombivli in Maharashtra’s Thane district, thanked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), his family, teammates, and his wife Radhika for supporting him throughout his journey. While announcing his retirement, he hinted that he may continue contributing to cricket in a coaching or mentoring role.



- The tournament will be held at two historic football venues at the same time, making it one of the most ambitious editions in the history of the FIH World Cup.

### 2026 Hockey World Cup Key Points

- Tournament: FIH Hockey World Cup 2026
- Dates: From August 15 to August 30, 2026
- Hosts: Belgium and the Netherlands
- Men’s teams: 16
- Women’s teams: 16
- Total number of teams: 32
- Locations: Amstelveen and Wavre

### ASIAN GAMES 2026 -

- The 2026 Asian Games are going to see thousands of participants from all across Asia compete in various disciplines over more than two weeks. Taking place from September 19 to October 4, 2026, this 20th edition of a continental multi-sport tournament will be held in Aichi-Nagoya.
- Famous for being Asia’s equivalent of the Olympics, the tournament includes international Olympic sports as well as those popular on the continent. Whether you like track & field, swimming, gymnastics, kabaddi, wushu, or sepak takraw – there is something to your liking at Asian Games.
- The Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 are estimated to attract over 10,000 competitors making this tournament one of the largest of its kind in Japan in 2026.



## HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2026 - 2026 Hockey World Cup: Tournament Overview

- The 2026 version of the FIH Hockey World Cup will be co-held in Belgium and Netherlands, making it one of the largest international hockey tournaments of the year.
- What is more, unlike in the previous editions, the competition format this time allows for more matches per team. Overall, there will be 32 teams (16 men’s and 16 women’s) playing in 15 days to win the trophy.



### When Are the 2026 Asian Games?

- The 20th Asian Games will take place in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4, 2026.
- The Opening Ceremony of the 20th Asian Games is scheduled to start the tournament on September 19. All sporting competitions will last two weeks until October 4 when the Closing Ceremony takes place.



- Besides enjoying world-class sports competitions, this schedule will give you an opportunity to enjoy sightseeing around Nagoya and Aichi Prefecture. You can visit other nearby regions such as Gifu and Mie starting from Nagoya city.

### **PRAGGNANANDHAA WINS SAINT LOUIS RAPID & BLITZ 2026 -**

- The young Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa gave a dominating display to take the crown at the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026 Grand Chess Tour event.
- The 20-year-old Indian scored 23.5 points out of 36 and won the championship 1.5 points clear of Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan. Praggnanandhaa had already sealed the title a round early by drawing with Sindarov in the penultimate round of the event.
- The triumph fetched him \$50,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points that will make him stronger in the battle for the 2026 GCT Finals.



### **INDIA WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM GETS ₹50 LAKH REWARD -**

- Hockey India announced a cash reward of ₹50 lakh for the Indian women's hockey team on 28 August 2026 after its campaign at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup. The team finished fifth in Amstelveen, Netherlands, on 27 August 2026, which was India's best World Cup finish in 52 years since the fourth-place result in 1974.



### **World Cup Format and Classification Matches**

- The FIH Hockey Women's World Cup is the premier international tournament for women's field hockey under the International Hockey Federation. Teams that do not reach the medal rounds play classification matches to determine final positions such as fifth place, sixth place, and lower rankings.

### **India's Fifth-Place Play-off Result**

- India defeated Germany 3-1 in the fifth-place classification match on 27 August 2026. Ishika Chaudhary scored once, Navneet Kaur scored twice, and Germany's only goal came from Lynn Krings in the 59th minute.

### **LIONEL MESSI RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL -**

- Lionel Messi, the Argentina captain and one of football's most capped players, announced his retirement from international football on 31 August 2026. He ended his senior international career with 125 goals in 207 appearances for Argentina.



### **Lionel Messi's International Career**

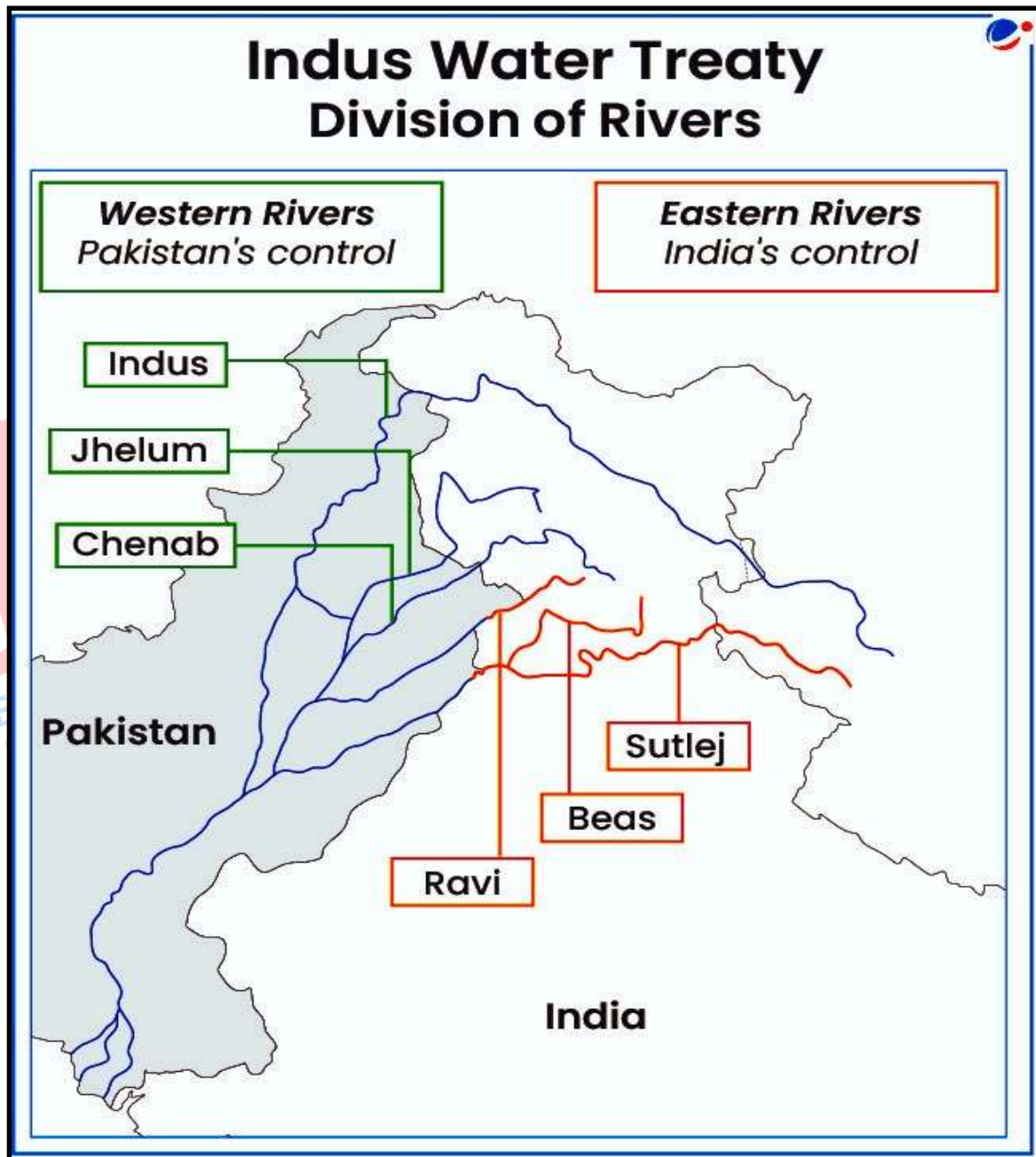
- Lionel Messi made his senior international debut for Argentina in August 2005. He played his final international match on 19 July 2026 in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final at East Rutherford, New Jersey, where Argentina lost 1-0 to Spain after extra time.

### **Records and Major Trophies**

- Messi retired as Argentina's all-time top goalscorer and most-capped player. His international honours include the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, two Copa América titles, and an Olympic gold medal in 2008.



## MAPS









## IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Which scheme was recently approved by the Union Cabinet to promote floating solar power projects ?  
a) PM Kusum Yojana  
b) PM Surya Ghar Yojana  
c) PM Surya Sarovar Yojana  
d) National Solar Mission
- Q2. What is India's rank in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 ?  
a) 170th  
b) 174th  
c) 176th  
d) 177th
- Q3. What is the primary objective of recently launched 'e-Upahaar' portal ?  
a) Online public auction of Presidential gifts  
b) Digital registration of traditional artisans  
c) Distribution of scholarships to single girl children  
d) Online sale of GI-tagged handicrafts
- Q4. Consider the following pairs regarding the national symbols of India and historical facts:  
1. Vande Mataram : First sung publicly by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress (INC).  
2. Jana Gana Mana : Receives statutory protection under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.  
3. Anandamath : The original source of Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882.  
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026:  
1. It mandates investigating agencies to complete their investigations within 60 days.  
2. Special Fast-Track Courts are required to conclude trials within three months from the date of filing the charge sheet.
3. The Central Government is empowered to constitute Special Task Forces (STFs) for inter-state coordination in organised exam fraud cases.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q6. Recently, the PM-PRANAM scheme was in the news. The scheme primarily aims to:  
a) Increase the consumption of chemical fertilizers  
b) Encourage States to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers through financial incentives  
c) Provide free fertilizers to all farmers  
d) Promote only organic exports from India
- Q7. Recently, Smt. Varsha Ashok Aglawe was in the news for becoming the first woman to head which of the following organizations ?  
a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)  
b) Geological Survey of India (GSI)  
c) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)  
d) National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Q8. Recently, cloudbursts were in the news following heavy rainfall in the Himalayan States. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cloudburst occurs when an area receives at least:  
a) 50 mm of rainfall in one hour  
b) 75 mm of rainfall in one hour  
c) 100 mm of rainfall in one hour  
d) 150 mm of rainfall in one hour
- Q9. With reference to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, consider the following statements:  
1. The Bill amends Section 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.  
2. Registration of a birth or death delayed by more than two years will require an order from a First-Class Judicial Magistrate.  
3. Registration delayed between one and two years will continue to be approved by the District Magistrate





- (DM), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), or Executive Magistrate.
4. The Bill abolishes the Civil Registration System (CRS) and replaces it with a judicial registration mechanism.
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1,3 and 4 only
  - 1, 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Q10. With reference to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026, consider the following statements about India:
- India secured the 176th rank out of 177 countries evaluated.
  - India's overall score was higher than the South Asian regional average.
  - The report noted critical concerns regarding tree cover loss in key biodiversity areas [0.3].
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, and 3
- Q11. Aadi Perukku is a traditional festival celebrated in which state ?
- Karnataka
  - Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Andhra Pradesh
- Q12. Dhimsa, which recently entered the Guinness World Records, is a traditional tribal folk dance of which state?
- Andhra Pradesh
  - Karnataka
  - Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu
- Q13. Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
- Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim
  - Arunachal Pradesh
- Q14. Consider the following statements regarding the Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan:
- It is structured as a 100-week nationwide campaign aimed at building an addiction-free youth population for the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
  - The campaign originated from a pilot initiative in Kashi and functions under the Kashi Declaration with support from spiritual bodies and NGOs.
  - The operational implementation of the campaign relies entirely on private corporate funding rather than government platforms like MY Bharat.
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, and 3
- Q15. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, consider the following statements:
- PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.
  - Eligible farmer families receive ₹6,000 annually in three equal installments through the Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism.
  - The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
  - The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the scheme from 2026–27 to 2030–31 with a financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1,3 and 4 only
  - 1, 2 and 4 only
  - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Q16. Mushk Budji, a GI-tagged aromatic rice variety, is native to which region ?
- Kashmir
  - Sikkim
  - Bhopal
  - Bhubaneswar
- Q17. India's first virtual zoo has been inaugurated in which state ?
- Madhya Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - Uttarakhand
  - Uttar Pradesh



- Q18. Which state government approved the phased statewide rollout of SAMASTA, a mobile-based community digital health platform ?  
a) Karnataka                      b) Maharashtra  
c) Odisha                          d) Telangana
- Q19. Consider the following statements regarding the Kuril Islands:  
1.They form a volcanic island chain that separates the Sea of Japan from the North Pacific Ocean.  
2.The archipelago contains the Kuril-Kamchatka Trench, which is a major active subduction zone.  
3.The four disputed islands, collectively called the "Northern Territories" by Japan, are located at the northernmost end of the chain near the Kamchatka Peninsula.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q20. With reference to the National Song (Vande Mataram) and the related Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, consider the following statements:  
1.On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly adopted the entire text of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's poem Vande Mataram as the National Song of India.  
2.The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 initially protected only the National Flag and the National Anthem, but subsequent structural updates extended statutory legal protections to the National Song.  
3.Unlike the National Anthem, there is no explicit fundamental duty under Article 51A of the Indian Constitution that mentions the National Song.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q21. When is World Lion Day celebrated annually ?  
a) 5 June                              b) 10 August  
c) 15 August                        d) 2 October
- Q22. Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs included which two disasters in the list of notified natural calamities under the SDRF/NDRF operational guidelines for 2026–2031 ?  
a) Heatwaves and lightning  
b) Droughts and floods  
c) Avalanches and landslides  
d) Cyclones and tsunamis
- Q23. Recently, who became the first Indian woman Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) in the Indian Air Force ?  
a) Avani Chaturvedi  
b) Mohana Singh  
c) Bhawana Kanth  
d) Shivangi Singh
- Q24. Consider the following statements regarding India's BRICS Chairship 2026:  
1.India assumed the BRICS Presidency for the fourth time in 2026.  
2.The theme for India's chairship is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".  
3.Indonesia joined BRICS as a full member in 2025, expanding the total membership.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q25. Consider the following statements regarding the National Tribunals Commission (NTC) proposed under the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026:  
1.It is designed as a five-member body consisting of a Chairperson, two judicial members, and two technical members.  
2.The Chairperson of the NTC must be a serving or former Chief Justice of India.  
3.The Bill mandates a uniform tenure of five years or up to 70 years of age, whichever is earlier, for tribunal members.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only                      d) 1, 2, and 3



Q26. Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 was conducted by which country ?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Australia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

Q27. Which scheme has been recently approved by the government to strengthen India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem ?

- a) Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme
- b) Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme
- c) India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)
- d) None of the above

Q28. What is the primary objective of PM-AASHA scheme?

- a) To provide free seeds to farmers
- b) To ensure remunerative prices for farmers
- c) To provide irrigation facilities
- d) To promote agricultural exports

Q29. Consider the following statements regarding the method of execution of death sentence in India:

1. The Supreme Court of India recently ruled that hanging by rope is unconstitutional and must be replaced immediately with lethal injection.
2. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) / Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), a person sentenced to death is hanged by the neck till they are dead.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q30. With reference to the defense cooperation and joint military exercises between India and Japan, match the following pairs:

| Exercise Name        | Military Branch Involved                        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Dharma Guardian   | Indian Army & Japan Ground Self-Defense Force   |
| 2. JIMEX (or JAIMEX) | Indian Navy & Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force |

|                        |                                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 3. Veer Guardian       | Indian Air Force & Japan Air Self-Defense Force |
| 4. PASSEX (Trilateral) | India, Japan, and Australia                     |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Q31. The Thoti community, recently in the news, is primarily found in which state ?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) Telangana

Q32. Which airport in India operationalised the country's first satellite-guided helicopter approach procedure (RNP CAT H) ?

- a) Juhu Aerodrome, Mumbai
- b) HAL Airport, Bengaluru
- c) Safdarjung Airport, Delhi
- d) Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

Q33. Which space company has developed 'EVEREST', an 80-tonne-class full-flow staged combustion rocket engine ?

- a) Agnikul Cosmos
- b) Bellatrix Aerospace
- c) Skyroot Aerospace
- d) Astrobase Space Technologies

Q34. Consider the following statements regarding India's non-fossil fuel energy status as of 2026:

1. Non-fossil fuel sources account for more than 50% of India's total installed electricity generation capacity.
2. Solar energy constitutes the largest share, contributing to more than half of the total non-fossil capacity.
3. Nuclear energy is excluded from the calculation of non-fossil fuel capacity by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only





- c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q35. With reference to the India-China boundary dispute and cartographic assertions, consider the following statements:  
1. The India-China eastern sector boundary is broadly based on the McMahon Line drawn during the 1914 Simla Convention, which China formally recognizes and abides by.  
2. Arunachal Pradesh falls in the eastern sector of the boundary dispute, which China lays claim to under the designation of "Zangnan" or "South Tibet".  
3. India's formal identification and standard mapping of 27 specific local places in Arunachal Pradesh serve as a legal and cartographic pushback against fictitious renaming policies.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q36. Which scheme was recently approved by the Union Cabinet to promote Compressed Biogas (CBG) production from organic waste ?  
a) National Bioenergy Programme  
b) GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme  
c) SATAT Scheme  
d) PM-KUSUM Scheme
- Q37. Which country is the host of Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Junior Asia Cup 2026 ?  
a) Japan  
b) India  
c) Indonesia  
d) China
- Q38. Which organisation released the report titled "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047" ?  
a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
b) NITI Aayog  
c) National Health Authority  
d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Q39. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India, consider the following statements:  
1. It is a statutory body established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.  
2. The committee consists of eight members, with the Union Finance Minister acting as the Chairperson.  
3. In the event of a tie during voting, the RBI Governor holds a casting vote.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q40. Consider the following statements regarding the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI):  
1. It was established during the post-independence period to centralize biodiversity mapping under an indigenous administration.  
2. It operates as a subordinate organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.  
3. It has been designated as the statutory repository for the National Zoological Collection under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.  
How many of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- Q41. The Madras High Court recently declared the Thamirabarani (Porunai) River a "legal person" to protect it from pollution and waste dumping. On what basis was the river granted legal personhood ?  
a) Its status as a Hindu deity  
b) Its recognition under international environmental law  
c) Its declaration as a Ramsar wetland  
d) Its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Q42. Several States in India are witnessing a rise in H1N1 cases and other respiratory infections. H1N1 is a subtype of which of the following ?  
a) Influenza A virus  
b) Influenza B virus  
c) Coronavirus  
d) Adenovirus



- Q43. A powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off the coast of Flores Island, Indonesia, bringing attention to its location and seismic significance. Which of the following statements about Flores Island is correct ?
- It is part of the Lesser Sunda Islands and lies within the Pacific Ring of Fire.
  - It is located between Java Island and Sumatra Island.
  - It is bordered by the Java Sea to the north and Indian Ocean to the south.
  - It is part of Indonesia's Maluku Islands and has no active volcanoes.
- Q44. The Department of Atomic Energy recently released the draft SHANTI Rules and Regulations, 2026. In this context, consider the following statements:
- The proposed framework allows private entities to apply for nuclear licences, subject to prescribed conditions.
  - It proposes a single composite licence covering construction, ownership, operation and decommissioning of nuclear installations.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Q45. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and recent institutional reform measures:
- The NTA is a statutory body established by a specific Act of Parliament to conduct high-stakes national entrance examinations.
  - The K. Radhakrishnan Committee was constituted to examine structural vulnerabilities, data security, and systemic improvements within the NTA.
  - The high-powered task force led by Nandan Nilekani was formed to integrate advanced technology, secure digital infrastructure, and tamper-proof logistics into public examinations.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, and 3
- Q46. The Suru Festival was celebrated in which state/UT ?
- Ladakh
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Sikkim
  - Meghalaya
- Q47. Sahyog-HOP TAC is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which country ?
- Japan
  - Vietnam
  - Indonesia
  - Egypt
- Q48. The e-Shram Portal, which recently completed five years, was developed by which institution ?
- Unique Identification Authority of India
  - National Informatics Centre
  - NITI Aayog
  - Reserve Bank of India
- Q49. Consider the following statements regarding the boundary delimitation and management between India and China:
- Delimitation refers to the physical demarcation and marking of agreed boundaries on the ground using pillars and cartographic mapping.
  - The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a mutually agreed, legally demarcated international boundary recognized by both countries in formal treaties.
  - The 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles envisions a mutually acceptable, package-based solution for the final boundary settlement.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, and 3
- Q50. Consider the following statements regarding the PM CARES Fund (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund):
- It is a statutory body established directly under an Act of Parliament to handle national health emergencies.
  - The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the fund, and the Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance act as ex-officio trustees.



3. Contributions made to the PM CARES Fund qualify as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013.

4. The money collected and disbursed through the PM CARES Fund forms part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q51. Maharashtra recently witnessed several small earthquakes, with seismologists describing the pattern as an “earthquake swarm.” What is an earthquake swarm?

- a) A group of earthquakes caused only by volcanic activity
- b) A single earthquake followed by strong aftershocks
- c) A series of earthquakes without a clear mainshock
- d) A series of earthquakes occurring only at great depths

Q52. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently amended the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, relating to construction restrictions on the Ganga flood plain. Under which law was the 2016 Order issued?

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- b) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Q53. India’s LPG import strategy recently made headlines after the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister highlighted a major shift in the country’s LPG import sources. Which country currently accounts for the largest share of India’s LPG imports?

- a) Russia
- b) United States
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Qatar

Q54. The Himachal Pradesh government recently imposed a widow and orphan cess of 60 paise per litre on petrol and high-speed diesel. With reference to cess in India, consider the following statements:

1. A cess is imposed for a specific, predetermined purpose.

2. Cess revenues form part of the divisible pool of taxes shared between the Centre and 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

Q55. The controversy over the Bar Council of India’s (BCI) directive concerning the enrolment of NALSAR’s 2026 batch has raised questions about the powers of the BCI. In this context, consider the following statements:

- 1. State Bar Councils have the power to admit persons as advocates on their rolls.
- 2. The Bar Council of India is established under Section 4 of the Advocates Act, 1961.
- 3. The BCI can exercise disciplinary jurisdiction only over persons already enrolled as advocates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q56. The 12 rat miners involved in the Silkyara Tunnel rescue operation were recently honoured with which civilian life-saving award?

- a) Shaurya Chakra
- b) Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak
- c) Vishisht Seva Medal
- d) Ashoka Chakra

Q57. What is the primary objective of the PM-PRANAM scheme?

- a) Promote balanced fertilizer use
- b) To provide free irrigation facilities to farmers
- c) To promote the export of agricultural products
- d) None of the above

Q58. Consider the following statements regarding the revamped GOBARdhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme):

1. It is administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).





2. It introduces a mandatory Compressed Biogas Obligation (CBGO) for City Gas Distribution entities starting at 3% for FY 2026-27.

3. Greenfield projects under the scheme receive capital assistance of up to ₹2 crore per Ton Per Day (TPD) of installed capacity.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Q59. With reference to the Agni-IV missile, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a two-stage, solid-fuel-powered surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- 2. It has a strike range capability between 3,500 km and 4,000 km.
- 3. It is exclusively dependent on liquid propellants for its terminal stage propulsion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Q60. World Sanskrit Day is observed every year on which day?

- a) August 26
- b) August 27
- c) August 28
- d) August 29

Q61. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which recently completed 12 years, was launched as part of which mission?

- a) National Mission on Financial Inclusion
- b) National Mission on Digital India
- c) National Mission on Rural Development
- d) National Mission on Social Security

Q62. Kamlang Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Tripura

Q63. Who became the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour title?

- a) R Praggnanandhaa
- b) Gukesh D
- c) Arjun Erigaisi
- d) Fabiano Caruana

Q64. Consider the following statements regarding the baseline geography and institutional framework of Indian Standard Time (IST):

- 1. IST is calculated based on the 82.5° E Standard Meridian, which passes through exactly four Indian states.
- 2. The custodial authority responsible for maintaining the official realization of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) for India is the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL).
- 3. The new rules allow a transitional phase of 180 days for official, commercial, and financial institutions to upgrade and align their internal clocks.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Q65. Which statement best describes the purpose of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) introduced by the Reserve Bank of India?

- a) It allows banks to borrow funds from the RBI by giving government securities as collateral.
- b) It allows the RBI to absorb excess money from banks without providing any collateral to them.
- c) It is a statutory reserve where banks must store cash and gold inside their own vaults.
- d) It is an emergency fund used to bail out cooperative banks in financial distress.

Q66. In the RBI's monetary aggregates, which of the following measures is known as "Broad Money"?

- a) M1
- b) M2
- c) M3
- d) M4

Q67. What does a vertical (perfectly steep) demand curve indicate about the Price Elasticity of Demand for a good?

- a) It is perfectly elastic (Elasticity = Infinity)
- b) It is unitary elastic (Elasticity = 1)
- c) It is perfectly inelastic (Elasticity = 0)
- d) It is relatively inelastic (Elasticity < 1)



- Q68. What does the "Laffer Curve" illustrate in public economics?
- The relationship between income inequality and economic growth.
  - The relationship between tax rates and total tax revenue collected by the government.
  - The trade-off between inflation rates and structural unemployment.
  - The distribution of wealth across different social classes.
- Q69. What economic term describes a scenario where inflation remains high while economic growth slows down and unemployment rises?
- Deflation
  - Hyperinflation
  - Stagflation
  - Disinflation
- Q70. Which of the following instruments of monetary policy is considered a qualitative tool used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to control money supply?
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
  - Open Market Operations (OMO)
  - Moral Suasion
  - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)
- Q71. The Phillips Curve represents the inverse relationship between which of the following two economic variables in the short run?
- Interest Rates and Inflation
  - Inflation and Economic Growth
  - Inflation and Unemployment
  - Unemployment and Economic Growth
- Q72. Under the revised Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor of the RBI, which rate acts as the floor of the corridor, allowing banks to park their excess funds with the central bank?
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate
  - Repo Rate
  - Bank Rate
- Q73. Which of the following deficits is calculated by subtracting interest payments of the government from the fiscal deficit?
- Primary Deficit
  - Revenue Deficit
  - Fiscal Deficit
  - Effective Revenue Deficit
- Q74. Which of the following frameworks is used by the RBI to monitor and take corrective action against financially weak commercial banks that breach certain risk thresholds like asset quality and profitability?
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)
  - Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)
  - Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR)
  - SARFAESI Act
- Q75. In the Indian context, which committee recommended the introduction of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)?
- Urjit Patel Committee
  - Narasimham Committee II
  - Bimal Jalan Committee
  - Nachiket Mor Committee
- Q76. Which of the following defines a 'Giffen good'?
- A good for which demand increases as its price increases, because of its status symbol.
  - An inferior good for which the negative income effect outweighs the substitution effect, causing demand to rise as price rises.
  - A good whose demand decreases when consumer income rises.
  - A good that satisfies the law of demand perfectly at all price levels.
- Q77. Which sector receives the highest weightage in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India?
- Mining
  - Electricity
  - Manufacturing
  - Construction
- Q78. The 'Core Inflation' metric differs from 'Headline Inflation' because it explicitly excludes which of the following components?
- Housing and Transport
  - Food and Fuel
  - Services and Manufacturing
  - Capital goods and Consumer durables
- Q79. Which type of unemployment occurs when there is a mismatch between the skills that workers in the economy can offer and the skills demanded of workers by employers?
- Cyclical Unemployment
  - Frictional Unemployment
  - Structural Unemployment
  - Seasonal Unemployment



- Q80. Under the revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines by the RBI, what is the prescribed sub-target for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) as a percentage of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)?  
a) 8%                                      b) 10%  
c) 12%                                      d) 15%
- Q81. Which apex regulatory infrastructure body is responsible for monitoring systemic stability risks and fostering inter-regulatory coordination among the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA?  
a) Financial Stability Board (FSB)  
b) Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)  
c) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)  
d) Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)
- Q82. Which of the following financial parameters are tracked as the core indicators under the revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework issued by the Reserve Bank of India for Scheduled Commercial Banks?  
a) Capital, Asset Quality, and Profitability  
b) Capital, Asset Quality, and Leverage  
c) Profitability, Liquidity, and Risk Management  
d) Credit-to-Deposit Ratio, Net NPA, and Capital Adequacy
- Q83. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a new monthly trial economic indicator to track performance across key segments like trade, transport, IT, and banking. What is the name of this macro indicator?  
a) Index of Industrial Production (IIP)  
b) Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)  
c) Index of Services Production (ISP)  
d) Gross Value Added in Services (GVAS)
- Q84. Which of the following statements regarding the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) introduced by the Reserve Bank of India is incorrect?  
a) It is a liquidity absorption tool under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) framework.  
b) It requires banks to park eligible government securities as collateral with the RBI.  
c) The interest rate for the SDF is determined by the RBI and generally remains lower than the repo rate.  
d) It allows the RBI to absorb liquidity without the limitation of collateral availability.
- Q85. Which specific provision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 empowers the Central Government to determine the inflation target in consultation with the RBI?  
a) Section 7  
b) Section 17  
c) Section 45ZA  
d) Section 45ZB
- Q86. Which of the following is not a recognized component of India's official Foreign Exchange Reserves managed by the Reserve Bank of India?  
a) Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)  
b) Gold holdings of the RBI  
c) Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocated by the IMF  
d) Foreign treasury bonds held directly by domestic private banks
- Q87. Under the IMF's framework, if a country faces a severe, structural Balance of Payments crisis that requires medium-term economic reform and a longer repayment period, which specific lending window is typically utilized?  
a) Stand-By Arrangement (SBA)  
b) Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)  
c) Extended Fund Facility (EFF)  
d) Flexible Credit Line (FCL)
- Q88. A continuous and persistent rise in the general price level of goods and services over time is known as:  
a) Deflation                                      b) Stagflation  
c) Inflation                                      d) Recession
- Q89. Which of the following is a quantitative tool used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to control money supply?  
a) Moral Suasion  
b) Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)  
c) Rationing of Credit  
d) Margin Requirements
- Q90. When a sudden surge in consumer demand outpaces the production capacity of an economy, causing overall prices to rise, it triggers which type of inflation?  
a) Cost-Push Inflation  
b) Structural Inflation  
c) Core Inflation  
d) Demand-Pull Inflation





- Q91. What is the current Repo Rate fixed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest monetary policy updates?  
a) 6.50%  
b) 6.00%  
c) 5.25%  
d) 4.00%
- Q92. Which of the following functions is entirely handled by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)?  
a) Acting as the sole issuer of banknotes in India  
b) Providing direct retail housing loans to urban consumers  
c) Supervising Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks  
d) Formulating the country's national foreign exchange policy
- Q93. In financial markets, what distinguishes a "Primary Market" from a "Secondary Market"?  
a) Only institutional investors can participate in the primary market.  
b) Primary markets trade short-term funds, while secondary markets trade long-term funds.  
c) Fresh securities are issued to the public for the first time in the primary market.  
d) Secondary market transactions directly add capital to a company's balance sheet.
- Q94. Which of the following bodies is responsible for determining the benchmark policy repo rate in India?  
a) Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)  
b) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)  
c) Indian Banks' Association (IBA)  
d) Ministry of Finance
- Q95. When the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decides to increase the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), what is the immediate, direct impact on the domestic banking system?  
a) Banks earn higher interest income on the cash reserves they park with the RBI.  
b) The loanable funds available with commercial banks decrease, contracting credit supply.  
c) The cost of borrowing for commercial banks from the RBI decreases significantly.  
d) Banks are forced to liquidate their holdings of Government Securities to meet the target.

## ANSWERS

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1- c  | 2- c  | 3- a  | 4- b  | 5- d  | 6- b  | 7- b  | 8- c  | 9- c  | 10- c |
| 11- c | 12- a | 13- a | 14- a | 15- c | 16- a | 17- a | 18- a | 19- b | 20- c |
| 21- b | 22- a | 23- c | 24- d | 25- b | 26- a | 27- a | 28- b | 29- b | 30- c |
| 31- d | 32- b | 33- d | 34- a | 35- c | 36- b | 37- d | 38- b | 39- b | 40- b |
| 41- a | 42- a | 43- a | 44- c | 45- c | 46- a | 47- b | 48- b | 49- b | 50- c |
| 51- c | 52- c | 53- b | 54- a | 55- d | 56- b | 57- a | 58- c | 59- a | 60- c |
| 61- a | 62- c | 63- a | 64- c | 65- b | 66- c | 67- c | 68- b | 69- c | 70- c |
| 71- c | 72- a | 73- a | 74- b | 75- b | 76- b | 77- c | 78- b | 79- c | 80- b |
| 81- b | 82- b | 83- c | 84- b | 85- c | 86- d | 87- c | 88- c | 89- b | 90- d |
| 91- c | 92- c | 93- c | 94- b | 95- b |       |       |       |       |       |

