

FEBRUARY 2026 NBCC CA-200 IMP – For Revision

◆ BANKING & FINANCE

001. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 Approved

- ▶ The Union Cabinet approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 on Feb 14, 2026, with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ▶ FoF 1.0 (launched 2016) supported 145 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and injected ₹25,000 crore into 1,370+ startups.

📌 **Static: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is headed by Piyush Goyal. AIFs are regulated by SEBI under the AIF Regulations, 2012.**

002. RBI Updates Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limits

- ▶ RBI updated WMA limits for State Governments and Union Territories, setting the new ceiling at ₹61,008 crore.
- ▶ WMA is a temporary overdraft/loan facility provided by RBI to governments to manage short-term cash-flow mismatches.

📌 **Static: RBI was established on April 1, 1935. Current RBI Governor is Sanjay Malhotra. RBI HQ is in Mumbai.**

003. RBI Increases Integrated Ombudsman Compensation Limits

- ▶ Effective July 1, 2026, RBI raised the ombudsman compensation limit from ₹20 lakh to ₹30 lakh under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021.
- ▶ Additional compensation for distress/loss of time was raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh.

📌 **Static: The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme was launched in Nov 2021. It merges Banking, NBFC & Digital Payments Ombudsman into one.**

004. RBI Authorizes \$1 Billion External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)

- ▶ RBI relaxed ECB rules: eligible Indian firms can borrow up to \$1 billion (raised from \$750 million) or 300% of their net worth from foreign entities.
- ▶ Domestic manufacturers can raise up to \$150 million with a shorter 1–3-year maturity period.

📌 **Static: ECBs are governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. RBI regulates ECBs under the Master Direction on ECB.**

005. RBI Levies ₹1.35 Crore Penalties on Five Institutions

- ▶ RBI penalised CSB Bank (₹63.6L), Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.5L), DCB Bank (₹29.6L), IIFL (₹5.3L), and Navi Finserv (₹3.8L) — totalling ₹1.35 crore.
- ▶ Separately, UCO Bank was fined ₹38.60 lakh for non-compliance.

📌 **Static: CSB Bank HQ — Thrissur, Kerala. Bank of Maharashtra HQ — Pune. UCO Bank HQ — Kolkata. DCB Bank HQ — Mumbai.**

006. Bain Capital Acquires 41.7% Stake in Manappuram Finance

- ▶ RBI authorized US-based private equity firm Bain Capital to acquire a 41.7% stake in NBFC Manappuram Finance at ₹236 per share.
- ▶ Manappuram Finance is a major gold-loan NBFC headquartered in Valapad, Kerala.

📌 **Static: NBFCs are regulated by RBI under Chapter III B of the RBI Act, 1934. Manappuram Finance was founded in 1949.**

007. RBI Revised Lead Bank Scheme — 60% CD Ratio Mandatory

- ▶ Under the revised Lead Bank Scheme, all banks must maintain a minimum 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio in rural and semi-urban branches.
- ▶ MUDRA Yojana (overseen by SIDBI) raised collateral-free loans for MSMEs to ₹20 lakh under Tarun Plus category.

📌 **Static: SIDBI was established in 1990. Lead Bank Scheme was introduced in 1969 by RBI based on the Gadgil-Nair Committee report.**

008. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) — Automatic 15% Annual Increase

- ▶ The revised KCC scheme permits an automatic 15% annual increase in credit limit (previously only 10%).
- ▶ The KCC scheme was introduced in 1998–99 to provide adequate and timely credit to farmers for their agricultural operations.

📌 **Static: KCC was designed by NABARD. NABARD was established on July 12, 1982 based on the B. Sivaraman Committee recommendations.**

009. CBDC-Based Public Distribution System Launched

- ▶ A CBDC-based PDS using programmable 'e-RUPI' tokens was launched for pilot in Gujarat and Puducherry for leak-proof food subsidies under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- ▶ 'Annapurta Grain ATMs' in Gujarat can dispense 25 kg of grain in just 35 seconds via QR codes.

📌 **Static: PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was launched in March 2020 during COVID-19. CBDC (Digital Rupee) was launched by RBI in Nov 2022.**

010. Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) — Early Redemption & Tax Update

- ▶ RBI initiated early redemption for five SGB tranches issued in October 2018 and October 2019.
- ▶ Individual maximum subscription is 4 kg per financial year; SGBs mature in 8 years with a 2.5% interest rate; premature withdrawal allowed after 5 years (now taxed at 12.5%).

📌 **Static: SGBs were launched in November 2015. They are issued by RBI on behalf of the Government of India. SGBs replaced physical gold.**

011. RBI Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) Holds First Meeting

- ▶ The Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) replaced the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS) and held its first meeting in Mumbai.

- ▶ The PRB consists of 6 members and oversees digital payment regulation.

📌 **Static: BPSS was constituted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. RBI's Digital Payments Index (DPI) for Sep 2025 stood at 516.76.**

012. RBI Launches 'Banking Bhashini' Initiative

- ▶ RBI signed a pact with the Digital India Bhashini Division to launch 'Banking Bhashini' — offering multilingual banking access across India.

- ▶ The initiative aims to bridge language barriers in financial services for India's diverse population.

📌 **Static: Bhashini is the national AI-powered language translation platform of India launched by MeitY. India has 22 scheduled languages.**

013. UPI Dominates with 57% Share of Transactions

- ▶ A DFS report confirmed UPI is India's most preferred transaction mode at 57%, far ahead of cash at 38%; 65% of UPI users transact multiple times daily.

- ▶ QR code deployments surged from 9.3 crore to 65.8 crore; UPI processes 170 billion transactions yearly across 1 billion users.

📌 **Static: UPI was launched by NPCI in April 2016. NPCI was set up in 2008 under the guidance of RBI and IBA. NPCI HQ is in Mumbai.**

014. NMP 2.0 — ₹16.72 Lakh Crore Monetisation Target

- ▶ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched NMP 2.0 with a 5-year roadmap (FY2026–FY2030) targeting ₹16.72 lakh crore, including ₹5.8 lakh crore in private investments.

- ▶ Highways sector holds the highest share at 26% (₹4,42,000 crore), followed by Power (17%), Railways (16%), and Ports (16%).

📌 **Static: NMP 1.0 achieved ~90% of its ₹6 lakh crore target. NMP was first launched in August 2021 by NITI Aayog.**

015. India GDP Growth Revised to 7.6% for FY2025-26

- ▶ NSO revised India's GDP growth projection for FY2025-26 to 7.6% (from 7.4%), driven by Q3 growth of 7.8%.

- ▶ Wholesale Inflation (WPI) climbed to 1.81% in January 2026, driven by a 2.21% rise in Primary Articles.

📌 **Static: NSO functions under MoSPI. India's GDP is measured quarterly. India is the 5th largest economy globally (nominal GDP basis, 2024).**

016. RBI Greenfield Data Center at Khurda, Bhubaneswar

- ▶ RBI is establishing a secured 'greenfield' data center and Enterprise Computing Institute spanning 18.55 acres in Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- ▶ The facility achieved Tier-IV certification for cloud storage and financial operations; it is RBI's second data

center, complementing the primary one at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

📌 **Static: RBI was established on April 1, 1935, nationalized in 1949. Odisha CM: Mohan Majhi. Odisha capital: Bhubaneswar.**

017. RBI Upgrades ₹100 & ₹500 Note Security Features

- ▶ RBI is upgrading security features including Advanced Watermarks and security threads for ₹100 (Lavender, features Rani Ki Vav) and ₹500 notes (Stone Grey, features Red Fort).

- ▶ The ₹500 note represents 86% of total value of currency in circulation; Currency in Circulation reached ₹40 lakh crore as of Jan 31, 2026 — an 11.1% YoY rise.

📌 **Static: Rani Ki Vav is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Patan, Gujarat. Red Fort is located in Delhi, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.**

018. SBI Opens Global Trade Finance Centre in Kolkata

- ▶ State Bank of India opened a Global Capability Centre in Bengaluru and a Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata.

- ▶ SBI also partnered under the MIGA/World Bank guarantee of \$197.67 million via Citibank for nationwide rooftop solar expansion.

📌 **Static: SBI was formed in 1955 (originally Bank of Calcutta, 1806 → Imperial Bank of India). SBI is India's largest public-sector bank. HQ: Mumbai.**

019. Tripura Gramin Bank Launches Solar-Powered ATM Van

- ▶ Tripura Gramin Bank launched 'TGB on Wheels,' India's first solar-powered ATM van, for banking access in remote areas.

- ▶ This initiative supports financial inclusion in the hilly and tribal-dominated regions of Tripura.

📌 **Static: Tripura Gramin Bank is a Regional Rural Bank (RRB). RRBs were established under the RRB Act, 1976, based on the Narasimham Committee (1975) recommendations.**

020. Slice Small Finance Bank — New MD & CEO Rajan Bajaj

- ▶ Rajan Bajaj was appointed as MD & CEO of Slice Small Finance Bank following the merger of fintech Slice with North East Small Finance Bank.

- ▶ Sandeep Bakhshi was reappointed as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank for a two-year term; Arijit Basu became Chairman of IndusInd Bank.

📌 **Static: Small Finance Banks require a minimum capital of ₹300 crore. FDI limit for SFBs is 74%. AU SFB is the largest SFB in India.**

021. IDFC First Bank — FD-Backed Credit Cards Launched

- ▶ IDFC First Bank introduced the FD-backed 'FIRST Hello Cashback Credit Card', the 'Gaj' credit card, and 'Zero Forex Diamond Reserve' credit card.

▶ Axis Bank launched a 'Safety Center' on its 'Open' app, the 'Vyapar Business Loan', and two co-branded credit cards with IndiGo.

📌 **Static: IDFC First Bank was formed in 2018 through the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First. HQ: Mumbai.**

022. IRFC Secures \$400 Million Loan from Japanese Banks

- ▶ Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) finalized a \$400 million loan agreement with SMBC and MUFG Bank (Japan) for railway infrastructure projects.
- ▶ IIFL Home Finance signed a \$300 million agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for affordable housing finance.

📌 **Static: IRFC was set up in 1986 as the dedicated market-borrowing arm of Indian Railways. ADB was established in 1966; HQ: Manila, Philippines.**

023. India–France DTAA Amendment — 5% Tax for Capital Gains

- ▶ India and France amended their 1992 Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), reducing the capital gains/dividends tax to 5% for companies holding >10% shareholding (15% for others).
- ▶ DTAA's prevent double taxation of income in two countries and promote bilateral trade and investment.

📌 **Static: India has DTAA's with 90+ countries. The India-France DTAA was originally signed in 1992. Ministry of Finance manages DTAA negotiations.**

024. CCI Approves Emirates NBD 60% Stake in RBL Bank

- ▶ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) permitted Dubai-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to a 60% stake in RBL Bank.
- ▶ CCI also approved the merger of Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited into NDV Ventures Limited.

📌 **Static: CCI was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002. RBL Bank HQ is in Mumbai. Emirates NBD is headquartered in Dubai, UAE.**

025. NSE International Exchange Launches 'NSE Global Access'

- ▶ The NSE International Exchange (GIFT City) launched 'NSE Global Access', enabling Indian retail investors to invest in global equities under RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- ▶ The general LRS ceiling remains USD 250,000 per financial year per individual.

📌 **Static: GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) is India's first operational smart city/IFSC. LRS was introduced by RBI in 2004.**

026. HDFC Bank Integrates CBDC into SmartGateway

- ▶ HDFC Bank integrated CBDC functionality into its SmartGateway payment platform, making it the first bank to do so.
- ▶ PhonePe introduced biometric UPI payments and an AI-powered natural language search feature via Microsoft's Foundry.

📌 **Static: HDFC Bank was incorporated in 1994. It is India's largest private-sector bank by assets. Sashidhar Jagdishan is MD & CEO of HDFC Bank.**

027. ASK Asset & Wealth Management Becomes 52nd Fund House

- ▶ ASK Asset & Wealth Management secured SEBI approval to commence mutual fund business, becoming India's 52nd active fund house.
- ▶ LIC Mutual Fund inaugurated India's first dedicated women-centric AMC branch in South Delhi.

📌 **Static: SEBI was established in 1988 (statutory body from 1992). SEBI regulates mutual funds under SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. SEBI HQ: Mumbai.**

028. PLI Scheme Crosses ₹2.16 Lakh Crore in Investments

- ▶ By December 2025, the Production Linked Incentive scheme surpassed ₹2.16 lakh crore in investments, generated 14.39 lakh jobs, ₹20.41 lakh crore in sales, and ₹8.3 lakh crore in exports.
- ▶ PLI was expanded to 14 sectors to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency.

📌 **Static: PLI Scheme was launched in 2020 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Administered by respective ministries for each sector.**

029. Cochin Shipyard Wins \$360 Million LNG Vessel Contract

- ▶ Cochin Shipyard secured a \$360 million international contract to manufacture six LNG-powered container vessels for France's CMA CGM Group.
- ▶ CMA CGM is one of the world's largest container shipping companies, headquartered in Marseille, France.

📌 **Static: Cochin Shipyard Limited is a Miniratna (Category-1) CPSE under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Established in 1972. HQ: Kochi, Kerala.**

030. NPCI Partners with NVIDIA for Sovereign AI in Payments

- ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) collaborated with NVIDIA to scale Sovereign AI capabilities across the Indian payment ecosystem.
- ▶ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) also struck an agreement with PayNet Malaysia for cross-border DuitNow QR payments.

📌 **Static: NPCI was set up in 2008 under the guidance of RBI and IBA. NPCI operates UPI, RuPay, IMPS, NACH, FASTag, and AePS. HQ: Mumbai.**

031. RBI Prohibits Recovery Agents from Unregistered Calls

- ▶ RBI strictly prohibited recovery agents from calling borrowers from unregistered numbers or using intimidation, and mandated banks to maintain customer consent records for third-party products for a minimum of 3 years.
- ▶ Bank lending limit against shares was also increased to ₹1 crore.

📌 **Static: RBI issues the Fair Practices Code for lenders. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 protects borrowers from unfair recovery practices.**

032. ICI Bank Launches 'Swasthya Pension Scheme'

- ▶ ICI Bank launched the 'ICI Swasthya Pension Scheme' under the PFRDA regulatory sandbox, merging retirement savings with healthcare; allows premature closure if medical crises exceed 70% of corpus.
- ▶ The scheme is run by ICI Prudential Pension Fund Management Company.

📌 **Static: PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) was established in 2003. National Pension System (NPS) was launched in 2004.**

033. India's Cash-to-GDP Ratio Falls to 11%

- ▶ India's Cash-to-GDP ratio improved by declining from 14.4% in 2021 to 11%, indicating greater digitisation of the economy.
- ▶ India's eight core industries expanded output by 4% in January 2026; NSO placed unemployment rate at 5% in January 2026.

📌 **Static: India's eight core industries include Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.**

034. RBI Sets M&A Financing Limit at 20% of Tier-1 Capital

- ▶ Effective April 1, 2026, the limit for banks to finance Mergers & Acquisitions was increased from 10% to 20% of Tier-1 Capital; banks can finance up to 75% of acquisition value.
- ▶ New capital market exposure norms (effective 2027) cap total bank exposure to capital markets at 40% of net worth.

📌 **Static: Tier-1 capital (Core Capital) includes paid-up equity capital, statutory reserves, and disclosed free reserves. Basel III norms govern bank capital requirements.**

035. IOB Launches 'IOB Gram Sweekar' & Death Claim Portal

- ▶ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched 'IOB Gram Sweekar', dedicated Startup Branches, and an online death claim settlement portal with a strict 15-day timeline.
- ▶ IOB aims to improve rural financial inclusion and grievance redressal through technology.

📌 **Static: IOB was established in 1937 and nationalized in 1969. HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu. IOB is a public-sector bank under the Ministry of Finance.**

036. Financial Literacy Week 2026 — 'KYC: Surakshit Banking'

- ▶ Financial Literacy Week 2026 was observed from February 9–13, with the theme 'KYC — Surakshit Banking Ki Aur Pehla Kadam'.
- ▶ RBI's Digital Payment Index (DPI) for September 2025 was updated to 516.76, up from 493.22 in March 2025.

📌 **Static: RBI observes Financial Literacy Week annually. KYC (Know Your Customer) guidelines are mandatory under PMLA, 2002 and RBI circulars.**

037. MSP for Raw Jute Raised to ₹5,925 per Quintal

- ▶ CCEA raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the 2026-27 season by ₹275, setting it at ₹5,925 per quintal.
- ▶ MSPs are fixed annually by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) based on CACP recommendations.

📌 **Static: India is the world's largest jute producer. Major jute-growing states: West Bengal, Odisha, Assam. CACP: Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.**

038. RBI Signed MoU with ESMA on Central Counterparties

- ▶ RBI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) regarding the recognition of Central Counterparties (CCPs).
- ▶ This facilitates cross-border regulatory cooperation in over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives markets.

📌 **Static: ESMA is an EU financial regulatory institution headquartered in Paris. India's CCP is the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL), est. 2001.**

039. FEMA — Export Realisation Period Extended to 15 Months

- ▶ Under FEMA (Export of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025, the period for export proceeds realisation was extended from 9 months to 15 months.
- ▶ The shipment period against advance payments was increased from 1 year to 3 years.

📌 **Static: FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) was enacted in 1999, replacing FERA (1973). FEMA is administered by RBI and Enforcement Directorate.**

040. Sri Lanka Issues First 'Blue Bond' at NSE IFSC

- ▶ DFCC Bank of Sri Lanka issued the nation's first 'Blue Bond' worth 3 billion LKR, listed at the NSE International Exchange in GIFT City.
- ▶ Blue Bonds are debt instruments issued to finance marine and ocean-based projects supporting sustainable development.

📌 **Static: Sri Lanka's currency is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR). Sri Lanka capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte. DFCC Bank was founded in 1955.**

◆ SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

041. Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) — ₹1 Lakh Crore Approved

- ▶ Cabinet approved ₹1 lakh crore central assistance for UCF to drive urban transformation; includes a ₹5,000 crore credit guarantee for smaller urban bodies.
- ▶ Funding structure: 25% Central, ≥50% from market sources, 25% from States/ULBs. Total investment target: ₹4 lakh crore (FY2025-26 to FY2030-31).

📌 **Static: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) include Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, and Nagar Panchayats. Article 243W of Constitution deals with ULBs.**

042. White Revolution 2.0 — 1.2 Lakh Dairy

Cooperatives

- ▶ Ministry of Cooperation launched White Revolution 2.0 under NDDP 2.0 (September 2024), targeting 1.2 lakh new/existing dairy cooperatives and 1,007 lakh kg/day milk procurement by 2028-29.
- ▶ Women constitute nearly 70% of dairy sector workforce; scheme aims to increase cooperative milk procurement by 50% over 5 years.

📌 **Static: White Revolution (Operation Flood) was launched in 1970 by NDDB, under Dr. Verghese Kurien. Ministry of Cooperation was created in 2021.**

043. Export Promotion Mission — ₹25,060 Crore

Outlay

- ▶ The revamped Export Promotion Mission (FY2025-26 to FY2030-31) has a total outlay of ₹25,060 crore, split into Niryat Protsahan (₹10,401 cr) and Niryat Disha (₹14,659 cr).
- ▶ DGFT is the implementing agency; export credit period extended to 450 days for credit disbursed up to March 31, 2026.

📌 **Static: DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) is under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. MSME Ministry oversees micro, small & medium enterprises.**

044. Vibrant Villages Program Phase 2 — ₹6,839

Crore

- ▶ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Phase 2 of Vibrant Villages Program from Nathanpur village in Cachar district, Assam with a budget of ₹6,839 crore (up to FY2028-29).
- ▶ Targets development of 1,954 border villages along Pakistan and Bangladesh borders across 15-17 states and 2 UTs.

📌 **Static: Vibrant Villages Programme Phase 1 was approved in Feb 2023 with ₹4,800 crore for 2,967 villages along China border (Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, HP, Sikkim, Ladakh).**

045. PRAHAAR — India's National Counter-

Terrorism Policy

- ▶ MHA introduced PRAHAAR (Prevention, Responses, Aggregating internal capacities, Human rights, Attenuating enabling conditions, Aligning international efforts, Recovery) as India's first National Counter-Terrorism Policy.
- ▶ Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) serve as central nodes; NIA handles major investigations.

📌 **Static: NIA was established in 2009 under the NIA Act, 2008, after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. MAC is coordinated by IB. IB was founded in 1887.**

046. E20 Petrol Mandatory from April 1, 2026

- ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas mandated E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20% ethanol) across all states and UTs from April 1, 2026; minimum Research Octane Number (RON) must be 95.
- ▶ This is part of India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme to reduce oil import dependence and carbon emissions.

📌 **Static: India targets 20% ethanol blending by 2025. Major sugarcane/ethanol producers: UP, Maharashtra. EBP was launched in 2003.**

047. NHAH Toll Fully Digital from April 2026 — No

Cash

- ▶ From April 1, 2026, NHAH will completely discontinue cash payments at toll plazas; only FASTag (RFID-based) and UPI accepted. Using UPI without FASTag incurs a 1.25x penalty.
- ▶ FASTag was made mandatory for all vehicles in February 2021.

📌 **Static: NHAH was established in 1988 under the NHAH Act, 1988. FASTag uses RFID technology. India has ~1.46 lakh km of National Highways (NH) network.**

048. NHAH Bee Corridors — 40 Lakh Trees Along

Highways

- ▶ NHAH will create 'pollinator/bee corridors' with bee-friendly vegetation (Neem, Karanj, Palash) along National Highways, planting 40 lakh trees; 3 corridors to be established by 2026-27.
- ▶ This initiative supports biodiversity and pollinator populations crucial for agriculture.

📌 **Static: Palash (Flame of the Forest) is the state flower of Uttar Pradesh. Neem is the national tree of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. NHAH HQ: New Delhi.**

049. PM Modi Launches Free HPV Vaccination

Drive for Girls

- ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched a free HPV ('Gardasil') vaccination drive from Ajmer, Rajasthan, targeting 14-year-old girls to eliminate cervical cancer risk.
- ▶ HPV vaccination is a preventive measure against Human Papillomavirus, the primary cause of cervical cancer.

📌 **Static: Cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer among women in India. Gardasil is made by Merck (USA). Ajmer is known for Dargah Sharif.**

050. MANAV Framework — Ethical AI Governance

- ▶ PM Modi unveiled 'MANAV' (Moral, Accountable, National sovereignty, Accessible, Valid) as a global AI governance framework; the New Delhi Declaration on AI received endorsements from 92 countries.
- ▶ India also adopted 7 SUTRAS for AI risk management: Trust, People First, Innovation, Fairness, Accountability, Understandable, Safety.

📌 **Static: India AI Impact Summit 2026 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (Feb 16-20). Next editions: Geneva (2027), UAE (2028). IndiaAI Mission outlay: ₹10,300 crore.**

051. Rare Earth Permanent Magnets — ₹7,280

Crore Scheme

- ▶ A ₹7,280 crore scheme was approved to promote domestic manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets with a target of 6,000 MTPA, reducing India's 95% import dependency.
- ▶ Union Minister of Mines G. Kishan Reddy announced the initiative for domestic rare earth production.

❖ **Static:** India has ~6% of global rare earth reserves, mostly in Kerala (monazite sands). Rare earth elements (REEs) are critical for EVs, defence systems, and electronics.

❖ **Static:** The 'golden hour' is the first hour after a traumatic injury when medical treatment is most critical. Delhi CM: Rekha Gupta. Delhi LG: Vinay Kumar Saxena.

052. BIRAC-RDI Fund — ₹2,000 Crore for Biotech

- ▶ The first national call was announced for the ₹2,000 crore BIRAC-RDI Fund (part of the ₹1 lakh crore RDI initiative) to bridge biotechnology research from TRL4 to TRL9.
- ▶ BIRAC stands for Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.

❖ **Static:** BIRAC was set up in 2012 under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). India is among the top 12 biotechnology destinations globally.

057. India Semiconductor Mission — ₹1,000 Crore for FY27

- ▶ India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is now backed by a ₹1,000 crore budget for FY2026-27. The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme was launched in 2022 for domestic semiconductor design.
- ▶ Foxconn and HCL will set up a semiconductor unit in Jewar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

❖ **Static:** India is targeting a \$100 billion semiconductor industry by 2030. ISM is under MeitY. Semiconductor plants require Class-1 cleanrooms and significant water resources.

053. Bharat Vistar — AI Farmer Platform with 'Bharti' Assistant

- ▶ Bharat Vistar is an AI-based farmer Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) featuring 'Bharti' — a 24-hour voice-first AI assistant (dial 155261) for weather, pest control, and scheme info; backed by ₹150 crore for FY2026-27.
- ▶ The platform aims to democratise agricultural advisory services across India.

❖ **Static:** India has ~140 million farming households. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare oversees agricultural schemes. eNAM is the online agri-market platform.

058. Amended BharatNet Phase 3 in AP — ₹2,432 Crore

- ▶ An agreement was signed between Digital Bharat Nidhi, the AP Government, and DoT for the Amended BharatNet Phase 3, providing connectivity to 16,920 Gram Panchayats with ₹2,432 crore funding.
- ▶ BharatNet aims to provide broadband connectivity to all rural Gram Panchayats in India.

❖ **Static:** BharatNet was launched in 2011 (originally National Optical Fibre Network — NOFN). BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited) executes BharatNet. AP CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu.

054. Gyan Bharatam Mission — Digitising Ancient Manuscripts

- ▶ UP launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission with ₹482.85 crore outlay to digitise rare handwritten texts, palm leaf manuscripts, and documents older than 75 years.
- ▶ The mission seeks to preserve India's vast repository of traditional knowledge for future generations.

❖ **Static:** India has an estimated 10 million manuscripts in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Pali, etc. The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) under Ministry of Culture also works on this.

059. Kerala Name Change — 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'

- ▶ The Union Cabinet approved the Kerala Alteration of Name Bill 2026 to officially rename the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam' under Article 3 of the Constitution.
- ▶ Article 3 of the Indian Constitution deals with formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries, or names of existing states.

❖ **Static:** Kerala was formed on November 1, 1956 (States Reorganisation Act). Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan. High Court: Kerala High Court at Ernakulam.

055. Kerala Graphene Policy — ₹200 Crore Industrial Park

- ▶ Kerala Cabinet approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy, establishing a ₹200 crore Graphene Industrial Park in Palakkad and the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kochi.
- ▶ The Graphene Aurora Program is supported by MeitY to make Kerala a global graphene hub.

❖ **Static:** Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms; it was discovered in 2004 by Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov (Nobel Prize 2010). Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

060. West Bengal Bangla Yuva Sathi — ₹1,500 Monthly Allowance

- ▶ West Bengal's Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme (effective April 1) provides ₹1,500 monthly unemployment allowance to youth (aged 21-40, Class 10 pass) for up to 5 years, with a ₹5,000 crore budget.
- ▶ The state's Matir Srishti Program (launched 2020) won FAO international recognition for transforming dry land into cultivable terrain.

❖ **Static:** West Bengal CM: Mamata Banerjee. Governor: CV Ananda Bose. West Bengal was formed on August 15, 1947. West Bengal is India's 2nd largest tea producer.

056. Delhi Raahveer Scheme — ₹25,000 for Good Samaritans

- ▶ Delhi launched the 'Raahveer' scheme: citizens helping accident victims during the 'golden hour' receive ₹25,000 per incident; the top 10 Raahveers annually earn a ₹1 lakh national award.
- ▶ The scheme is aligned with Supreme Court Good Samaritan guidelines.

061. Mission Shakti — 'Samarth' Sub-Scheme for Gender Budget

- ▶ Gender budgeting is administered under the 'Samarth' sub-scheme of Mission Shakti. The Gender Budget Statement increased from 8.86% to 9.37% — representing ₹5.01 lakh crore for women's welfare.

▶ Mission Shakti is the umbrella scheme for women empowerment launched in 2021.

❖ **Static:** Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes: Sambal (safety & security) and Samarthya (empowerment). It replaced earlier schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, OSC.

▶ FCI was established in 1965 to implement food policies, including MSP procurement, storage, and distribution.

❖ **Static:** FCI HQ: New Delhi. APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) was set up in 1986. India is the world's largest sugar producer.

062. Jharkhand '1GB Didi' Initiative in Palamu Tiger Reserve

▶ Jharkhand launched '1GB Didi' (Vanjeevi Didi) in the Palamu Tiger Reserve — educated village women receive ₹3,000 monthly stipend to serve as forest ambassadors protecting wildlife.

▶ The initiative links women empowerment with conservation in a Tiger Reserve.

❖ **Static:** Palamu Tiger Reserve was one of the original nine tiger reserves declared under Project Tiger (1973). Jharkhand CM: Hemant Soren. Jharkhand was formed on Nov 15, 2000.

067. Bihar Sonpur International Airport — ₹1,302 Crore Land Acquisition

▶ Bihar Cabinet approved the Greenfield Sonpur International Airport in Saran district with ₹1,302 crore for land acquisition; aims to become South Asia's largest aviation hub by 2030.

▶ Sonpur is famous for the largest cattle/animal fair in Asia — Harihar Kshetra Mela.

❖ **Static:** Bihar CM: Nitish Kumar. Bihar capital: Patna. Bihar was formed from Bengal Presidency in 1912. Major rivers: Ganga, Gandak, Kosi, Sone.

063. SAHI Framework — AI in Healthcare (India AI Summit)

▶ SAHI (Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India) — a national guidance framework for ethical AI in medicine — was launched at the India AI Summit 2026.

▶ BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI), developed with IIT Kanpur, evaluates AI models under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

❖ **Static:** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched in 2021 to create a digital health ecosystem. NHA (National Health Authority) implements ABDM.

068. Maharashtra — Bela Village India's First Net Zero Village

▶ Bela gram in Bhandara district, Maharashtra became India's first Net Zero Village; Soundala in Ahilyanagar district became Maharashtra's first 'Caste-Free Village' via gram sabha resolution.

▶ These initiatives reflect grassroots governance and community leadership.

❖ **Static:** Maharashtra CM: Devendra Fadnavis. Governor: CP Radhakrishnan. Maharashtra has the highest number of districts (36) among all Indian states.

064. Assam — India's First Underwater Brahmaputra Rail-Road Tunnel

▶ Assam's State Cabinet approved India's first underwater twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel on the Brahmaputra River (33.7 km, Gohpur to Numaligarh), costing ₹1,662–₹1,862 crore.

▶ PM Modi also inaugurated the ₹3,030 crore Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu — Northeast India's first 'Extradosed' bridge — across the Brahmaputra.

❖ **Static:** Brahmaputra is the longest river of Assam; known as Tsangpo in Tibet. Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma. Assam became India's 8th state to form the 8th State Pay Commission.

069. UP — Namo Bharat RRTS Delhi–Meerut Operational

▶ PM Modi inaugurated the first Namo Bharat Rapid Regional Transport System (RRTS) and Meerut Metro at Shatabdi Nagar Station; the 82 km Delhi-Meerut corridor cuts travel time from 2.5 hours to 55 minutes.

▶ Trains are manufactured by Alstom under 'Make in India'; Meerut Metro operates at a maximum speed of 120 km/h.

❖ **Static:** NCRTC (National Capital Region Transport Corporation) implements RRTS. Alstom is a French multinational. Meerut is known as the 'Sports City of India'.

065. Andhra Pradesh — Waaree Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory

▶ Waaree Energy Storage Solutions is developing India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory in Rambilli, Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh.

▶ AP also advances the greenfield 'Dagadharthi' airport in Nellore district.

❖ **Static:** Andhra Pradesh CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu. AP capital (administrative): Amaravati. AP has Visakhapatnam, the largest city and major port.

070. IT Amendment Rules 2026 — AI Content Must Be Labelled

▶ IT Amendment Rules 2026 define synthetically generated content (AI-created audio-visuals that appear real) and mandate AI imagery labelling; social media must take down illegal content within 3 hours (reduced from 24 hours).

▶ These rules aim to curb deepfakes and AI misuse in the digital ecosystem.

❖ **Static:** IT Amendment Rules are issued under the IT Act, 2000. India's IT Act, 2000 is the primary law governing cybercrimes and electronic commerce.

066. FCI Authorized to Export 25 LMT Wheat & 5 LMT Sugar

▶ The Centre approved export of 25 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Wheat and 5 LMT Sugar, with wheat exports routed exclusively through FCI (bypassing APEDA).

◆ APPOINTMENTS

071. TV Somanathan Becomes New Cabinet Secretary

- ▶ TV Somanathan became India's new Cabinet Secretary, succeeding Rajiv Gauba, and also chairs the national asset monetization committee.
- ▶ The Cabinet Secretary is the ex-officio Chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat and the senior-most IAS officer in India.

📌 **Static: Cabinet Secretary's role is defined under the Indian Constitution through the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules. The post was created in 1950.**

072. Gyanesh Kumar — 26th Chief Election Commissioner

- ▶ Gyanesh Kumar assumed duties as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, succeeding Rajiv Kumar.
- ▶ He chaired the ECI's first National Round Table Conference with State Election Commissions in 27 years at Bharat Mandapam.

📌 **Static: CEC is appointed by the President of India. After the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2023, the CEC appointment involves a Selection Committee (PM, Cabinet Minister, Leader of Opposition).**

073. Deepak Gupta Appointed CMD of GAIL (India) Ltd

- ▶ Deepak Gupta was appointed as CMD of GAIL (India) Ltd from March 1, 2026, to 2029, succeeding Sandeep Kumar Gupta who retired on February 28.
- ▶ GAIL is India's largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company.

📌 **Static: GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) was incorporated in 1984. It is a Maharatna CPSE. HQ: New Delhi.**

074. Tarique Rahman — 11th PM of Bangladesh

- ▶ Tarique Rahman (BNP Chairman) was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh after BNP won 72% of seats in the 13th parliamentary elections; Bangladesh committed to shifting raw cotton imports from India to the US.
- ▶ Sheikh Hasina is in exile in Delhi after her government's fall.

📌 **Static: Bangladesh capital: Dhaka. Currency: Taka. Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan in 1971 (Liberation War). PM Tarique Rahman previously lived in exile in London.**

075. Rob Jetten — Youngest PM of the Netherlands

- ▶ 38-year-old Rob Jetten (D66 party) was sworn in by King Willem-Alexander as the PM of the Netherlands — the youngest and first openly gay PM in Dutch history.
- ▶ He defeated the far-right Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders.

📌 **Static: Netherlands capital: Amsterdam (seat of government: The Hague). Currency: Euro. Netherlands joined NATO in 1949. King Willem-Alexander assumed throne in 2013.**

076. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi — IONS Chairmanship

- ▶ India regained chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) for the 2026-2028 term after a 16-year hiatus. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took over from Admiral Pharoah Pachan (Royal Thai Navy) at the 9th Conclave of Chiefs in Visakhapatnam.
- ▶ IONS was founded by India in 2008; India held the chair from 2008-2010.

📌 **Static: Indian Navy HQ is in New Delhi. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was commissioned in 2022, built by Cochin Shipyard.**

077. Yumnam Khemchand Singh — 13th CM of Manipur

- ▶ Yumnam Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur.
- ▶ Sumitra Pawar became the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

📌 **Static: Manipur CM: Yumnam Khemchand Singh. Manipur capital: Imphal. Manipur was a princely state that acceded to India in 1949 and became a full state in 1972.**

078. Sanae Takaichi — PM of Japan (Second Cabinet)

- ▶ Sanae Takaichi (Liberal Democratic Party) was reappointed for her second cabinet as PM of Japan after securing a two-thirds supermajority.
- ▶ Japan is a constitutional monarchy; the Emperor is ceremonial head while the PM heads the government.

📌 **Static: Japan capital: Tokyo. Currency: Japanese Yen. Japan is the G7's only Asian member. Japan-India relationship is at the 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' level.**

079. A.K. Balasubramanian — AERB Chairman

- ▶ A.K. Balasubramanian was named Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), which oversees nuclear safety in India.
- ▶ Abhishek Dev took over as Chairman of APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority).

📌 **Static: AERB was established in 1983 under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is directly under the PM. APEDA was set up in 1986.**

080. Rakesh Aggarwal — Director General, NIA

- ▶ Rakesh Aggarwal was appointed as Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ▶ Praveen Kumar was appointed as DG of BSF; Shatruejt Singh Kapoor as DG of ITBP.

📌 **Static: NIA was established in 2009 after 26/11 Mumbai attacks. BSF (Border Security Force) was raised in 1965; guards India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders. ITBP guards India-China border.**

081. Nidhi Chhibber — Interim CEO of NITI Aayog

- ▶ Nidhi Chhibber was given additional charge as interim CEO of NITI Aayog after B.V.R. Subrahmanyam completed his 3-year term.
- ▶ NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.

📌 **Static:** NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is chaired by the Prime Minister. It is a policy think-tank, not a constitutional body.

📌 **Static:** CDC was established in 1946. NIH, established in 1887, is the primary agency for biomedical research in the USA. Both are part of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

082. Tarun Garg — First Indian MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India

- ▶ Tarun Garg was appointed as MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India, making him the first Indian to lead Hyundai Motor India.
- ▶ Hyundai Motor India is the second-largest carmaker in India after Maruti Suzuki.

📌 **Static:** Hyundai Motor India was incorporated in 1996. Hyundai Motor HQ: Seoul, South Korea. Hyundai India's manufacturing plant is in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

087. Karthikeyan Manickam — Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank

- ▶ Karthikeyan Manickam was named Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank; Sandeep Bakhshi was reappointed as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank for a two-year term.
- ▶ ESAF SFB primarily serves low-income groups and microfinance borrowers in South India.

📌 **Static:** ESAF Small Finance Bank is headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala. It was promoted from ESAF Microfinance in 2017. SFB minimum capital requirement: ₹300 crore.

083. Sachin Tendulkar — UN Global Road Safety Champion

- ▶ Sachin Tendulkar was named the UN Global Road Safety Champion; Jean Todt launched the UN 'Make a Safety Statement' campaign in New Delhi aligned with the Marrakesh Declaration (halve global road deaths by 2030).
- ▶ Amitabh Bachchan was appointed brand ambassador for the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for 'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' campaign.

📌 **Static:** Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for most Test runs (15,921) and most ODI runs (18,426). The Marrakesh Declaration on Road Safety was adopted in 2022.

088. Mia Mottley Wins Third Term as Barbados PM

- ▶ Mia Mottley secured her third consecutive term as Prime Minister of Barbados.
- ▶ Barbados became a republic in 2021, removing Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.

📌 **Static:** Barbados capital: Bridgetown. Currency: Barbadian Dollar. Barbados is a Caribbean island nation in the Lesser Antilles. Independence: November 30, 1966.

084. Abhinav Bindra — Second Vice-Chair, IOC Athletes' Commission

- ▶ Pau Gasol (Spain) was elected Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission; Maja Włoszczowska (Poland) was elected First Vice-Chair; Abhinav Bindra (India) was elected Second Vice-Chair.
- ▶ Abhinav Bindra is India's first and only individual Olympic gold medalist (Beijing 2008, 10m Air Rifle).

📌 **Static:** IOC (International Olympic Committee) is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. IOC President: Thomas Bach. India joined the IOC in 1927.

089. Capt. Milind M. Mokashi Takes Command of CTF 154

- ▶ Capt. Milind M. Mokashi (a Shaurya Chakra awardee) took command of Combined Task Force 154 from Italy on Feb 11 in Manama, Bahrain.
- ▶ CTF 154 is a multinational naval task force conducting maritime security operations.

📌 **Static:** Manama is the capital of Bahrain. Shaurya Chakra is India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award. Bahrain hosts the US Fifth Fleet and is a key Gulf ally.

085. Amelia Valverde — Coach of Indian Women's Football Team

- ▶ Amelia Valverde (Costa Rica) was appointed as the coach of the Indian Women's Football Team; Pulela Gopichand is directing a Unified Coaching Framework committee.
- ▶ Indian football is governed by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), founded in 1937.

📌 **Static:** FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) was founded in 1904. AIFF HQ: New Delhi. India's FIFA ranking is around 124 (as of early 2026).

090. Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh — Ease of Doing Business Advisory Head

- ▶ Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh (DG & CEO of IICA) was appointed as Chairperson of the High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business instituted by IICA.
- ▶ IICA (Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

📌 **Static:** India ranked 63rd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 (last published). The WB replaced it with the new B-Ready Framework from 2024.

086. Dr. Jay Bhattacharya — Acting Director of US CDC

- ▶ Dr. Jay Bhattacharya was appointed as the Acting Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will concurrently head the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- ▶ CDC is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

◆ DEFENCE

091. MILAN 2026 — India Hosts 74 Nations at Visakhapatnam

- ▶ The 13th Naval Exercise MILAN 2026 was hosted at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) with 74 friendly countries, concluding aboard INS Vikrant; theme: 'Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration'.
- ▶ 'Milan Village' was inaugurated as a cultural hub at Eastern Naval Command; the exercise is the world's largest multilateral naval exercise.

✦ **Static:** INS Vikrant was designed by the Warship Design Bureau, built by Cochin Shipyard, and commissioned on Sep 2, 2022. It is India's first indigenous aircraft carrier.

092. Exercise Vajra Prahar 2026 — India–USA Special Forces

- ▶ The 16th edition of Exercise Vajra Prahar (India-USA joint special forces exercise) took place at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh (Feb 24 – Mar 16, 2026); US represented by 'Green Berets'.
- ▶ Green Berets are the US Army Special Forces, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

✦ **Static:** Bakloh is home to India's Special Forces Training School. India-USA Major Defence Partnership was signed in 2016. US military exercises with India also include Yudh Abhyas (Army) and Cope India (Air Force).

093. Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 — India–Japan, 7th Edition

- ▶ The 7th Exercise Dharma Guardian (India-Japan annual joint military drill) commenced at Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand (Feb 24 – Mar 9); Ladakh Scouts represented India.
- ▶ Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) participated in this exercise.

✦ **Static:** Japan-India relations are at 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'. India-Japan exercises include Shinyuu Maitri (Air Force), Dharma Guardian (Army), Jimex (Navy).

094. BEL–Safran JV to Manufacture HAMMER in Pune

- ▶ BEL (Bharat Electronics Ltd) and France's Safran Electronics & Defense signed a 50-50 JV to manufacture the HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) smart bomb kit for Rafale jets in Pune.
- ▶ HAMMER is an air-to-ground precision-guided weapon used on Rafale jets.

✦ **Static:** BEL is a Navratna CPSE under MoD established in 1954. HQ: Bengaluru. India has 36 Rafale jets. Rafale is made by Dassault Aviation, France.

095. Exercise DOSTI-17 — India, Sri Lanka, Maldives

- ▶ DOSTI-17 was a trilateral coast guard exercise involving India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, held in Male, Maldives.
- ▶ India also conducted Exercise Khanjar (13th edition) with Kyrgyzstan at Massimari, Assam.

✦ **Static:** Maldives capital: Male. DOSTI exercises have been held since 1991 to strengthen maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Coast Guard was raised on February 1, 1977.

096. INS Anjadip — Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft Commissioned

- ▶ INS Anjadip ('Dolphin Hunter'), the third of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC), was commissioned; INS Androth was also completed.
- ▶ Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna' — India's first indigenously designed cadet training ship — was

launched at L&T Kattupalli shipyard, Chennai by Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan.

✦ **Static:** CDS General Anil Chauhan was appointed in 2022. L&T Kattupalli Shipyard is in Tamil Nadu. India has a policy of building warships indigenously — 'Make in India' in defence.

097. DAC Approves ₹15,000 Crore for HAPS Systems

- ▶ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved ₹15,000 crore for procurement of High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) systems.
- ▶ HAPS operate in the stratosphere (~20 km altitude) and can provide ISR, communication, and navigation services.

✦ **Static:** DAC is chaired by the Defence Minister. It was constituted in 2001 as the apex decision-making body for defence procurement. India's defence budget for FY26: ₹6.81 lakh crore.

098. President Murmu Flies in HAL's 'Prachand' Helicopter

- ▶ President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in the 'Prachand' Light Combat Helicopter, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ▶ Prachand (LCH Mark-1) was inducted into the Indian Army in October 2022.

✦ **Static:** HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) was established in 1940. It is a Navratna CPSE. HQ: Bengaluru. HAL manufactures Tejas fighters, Dhruv helicopters, and Prachand LCH.

099. Army AI Systems — SAMBHAAV, E-Kumbh, PRAKSHEPAN

- ▶ The Indian Army unveiled AI systems: AI Examiner (assessment), SAMBHAAV (geo-spatial AI), E-Kumbh (secure AI cloud), PRAKSHEPAN (disaster prediction), X-Face (deepfake detection), and Navdrishti (telemetry).
- ▶ These systems aim to modernise Army operations through AI-driven intelligence and disaster management.

✦ **Static:** India's Ministry of Defence launched the AI in Defence (AI4D) initiative in 2021. DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) is India's primary defence R&D body.

100. India–France Defence Cooperation Extended 10 Years

- ▶ At the 6th Annual Defence Dialogue (Bengaluru), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and French delegate Catherine renewed the Defence Cooperation Agreement for another 10 years.
- ▶ India and France also inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) Airbus H125 final assembly line in Kolar, Karnataka.

✦ **Static:** India-France relations include the Airbus deal (56 military helicopters), Rafale purchase (36 jets), and Scorpene submarines. France is India's key defence partner.

◆ INTERNATIONAL

101. India–UK FTA to Take Effect April 2026 — 99% Tax-Free Exports

- ▶ The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will take effect in April 2026, making 99% of Indian exports to the UK tax-free; UK tariffs on Indian whiskey reduced (150%→40%) and cars (110%→10%).
- ▶ The 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue launched an Offshore Wind Task Force under 'Vision 2035' in New Delhi.

📌 **Static: UK's Parliament is the Westminster Parliament. India-UK bilateral trade: ~\$26 billion (2023-24). UK left the EU (Brexit) in January 2020.**

102. India–Brazil Trade Target — \$30 Billion by 2030

- ▶ Brazilian President Lula da Silva visited India; both nations agreed to double bilateral trade from \$15.2 billion to \$30 billion by 2030. ApexBrasil opened its first overseas office in New Delhi.
- ▶ Agreements signed on rare earths, critical minerals, renewable energy, and MSME green transition.

📌 **Static: Brazil's currency: Brazilian Real. Brazil capital: Brasília. Brazil is in the BRICS grouping with India. India-Brazil are both G20 and IBSA members.**

103. India Joins US-Led Pax Silica Coalition as 10th Member

- ▶ India became the 10th full member of the US-led Pax Silica coalition (semiconductor supply-chain cooperation). The agreement was signed by India's IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and US representative Jacob Helberg.
- ▶ Pax Silica focuses on securing semiconductor supply chains among allied nations.

📌 **Static: Semiconductors are critical for electronics, defence, and AI. India's CHIPS Act equivalent: India Semiconductor Mission. Silicon is the primary material used in chip manufacturing.**

104. India–Israel Link UPI with Domestic Payment System

- ▶ India and Israel signed an agreement linking India's UPI with Israel's domestic payment infrastructure, alongside cooperation on AI, Quantum Technologies, and critical minerals.
- ▶ The 17th India-Israel Joint Working Group meeting was held in Tel Aviv; the 10th Counter-Terrorism Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi.

📌 **Static: Israel's capital (as recognised by Israel): Jerusalem. Currency: Israeli New Shekel. India established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992.**

105. G20 Summit 2026 in Miami, USA (Dec 14-15)

- ▶ The US will host the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami on December 14-15, 2026. The G20 Troika: South Africa (2025), USA (2026), UK (2027).
- ▶ The BRICS Sherpa Meeting under India's chairmanship was held in New Delhi; theme: 'Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability'.

📌 **Static: G20 was established in 1999. India hosted the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, under the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. G20 covers 85% of global GDP.**

106. Ukraine Rebuilding Cost Rises 12% to \$588 Billion

- ▶ The World Bank, UN, and EU collectively estimated the rebuilding cost for Ukraine has risen 12% to \$588 billion over the next decade; Ukraine's GDP has shrunk 21% since 2021.
- ▶ The Russia-Ukraine conflict, which began in Feb 2022 (full-scale invasion), continues to impact global food and energy markets.

📌 **Static: Ukraine capital: Kyiv. Ukraine currency: Ukrainian Hryvnia. Ukraine joined the UN in 1945 as a founding member. The conflict started with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.**

107. 52nd G7 Summit to Be Held in Évian-les-Bains, France

- ▶ The 52nd G7 Summit will be held in Évian-les-Bains, France in 2026; French President Emmanuel Macron invited PM Modi.
- ▶ The G7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

📌 **Static: G7 was formed in 1976 (Canada joined; originally G6 from 1975). The G7 represents ~46% of global GDP. India attends as a guest of the G7 host nation.**

108. India Joins Board of Peace for Gaza as Observer

- ▶ India joined the inaugural Board of Peace for Gaza in Washington DC as an observer (alongside 21 nations), avoiding the \$1 billion full-membership fee; India supports UNSC Resolution 2803.
- ▶ India was represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Namgya C. Khampa.

📌 **Static: UNSC has 5 permanent members (P5): USA, UK, France, Russia, China. India is seeking a permanent UNSC seat. India has been a UNSC non-permanent member multiple times.**

109. India–Nepal Sign Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement

- ▶ India and Nepal signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement (MLAA) in criminal matters, and a pact on climate change and biodiversity conservation.
- ▶ India-Nepal relations are guided by the Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950) and the open border policy.

📌 **Static: Nepal capital: Kathmandu. Nepal's currency: Nepalese Rupee. Nepal is a federal democratic republic. SAARC HQ is in Kathmandu, Nepal.**

110. FCI–WFP 5-Year Agreement — 2 Lakh MT Rice Supply

- ▶ FCI and WFP signed a 5-year humanitarian partnership: India will supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice (up to 25% broken) at ₹2,800 per quintal (valid till March 31, 2026).
- ▶ WFP is the UN's food assistance branch and the world's largest humanitarian organisation.

📌 **Static: WFP was founded in 1961 and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020. FCI was established in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act. WFP HQ: Rome, Italy.**

111. India–Kenya DigiLocker Pilot Project Agreement

▶ India and Kenya signed an agreement for a DigiLocker pilot project in Kenya, to be developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD); India has similar agreements with Cuba, UAE, and Laos.

▶ DigiLocker is India's digital document wallet platform launched in 2015.

📌 **Static:** DigiLocker is operated by NeGD under MeitY. Kenya's capital: Nairobi. UNEP (UN Environment Programme) HQ is in Nairobi, Kenya.

▶ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Ashok Chakra on Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from Uttar Pradesh on January 26, 2026 (77th Republic Day).

▶ The Assam Regiment won the Best Marching Contingent (Popular Choice) in the Republic Day Parade.

📌 **Static:** Ashok Chakra is India's highest peacetime gallantry award (equivalent to Param Vir Chakra for wartime). Named after the 24-spoke Ashoka Chakra on India's national flag.

112. US 10% Global Tariff & 126% CVD on Indian Solar

▶ US President Trump invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act to impose a 10% global tariff on all imports for 150 days. A 126% Countervailing Duty (CVD) was imposed on solar imports from India.

▶ CVDs are import tariffs imposed to offset foreign government subsidies that artificially lower export prices.

📌 **Static:** India is the world's 3rd largest solar power capacity nation. India and USA share a 'Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership' (upgraded in 2023).

113. EU Opens First Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi

▶ The European Union opened its first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi — the first such office in any partner country.

▶ This facilitates legal and judicial cooperation between India and EU member states.

📌 **Static:** EU was established by the Maastricht Treaty in 1993. EU has 27 member states. EU HQ: Brussels, Belgium. India-EU ties are governed by the Strategic Partnership (2004).

114. India-GCC FTA Negotiations Formally Initiated

▶ India formally initiated FTA negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in New Delhi; Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi led talks.

▶ India runs a significant trade deficit with GCC — exports: \$56.87 billion, imports: \$121.68 billion.

📌 **Static:** GCC consists of 6 members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman. GCC was formed in 1981. GCC HQ: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

115. Mamady Doumbouya — President of Guinea Installed

▶ Mamady Doumbouya was installed as President of Guinea; Shaya Mohsen Zindani was appointed PM of Yemen.

▶ Jose Maria Balcazar became Interim President of Peru until July 28, succeeding impeached Josue Jerry.

📌 **Static:** Guinea capital: Conakry. Guinea gained independence from France in 1958. Mamady Doumbouya led the 2021 coup that overthrew President Alpha Condé.

117. Dalai Lama Wins First Grammy — 68th Grammy Awards

▶ The Dalai Lama won his first-ever Grammy Award at the 68th Grammy Awards for the audiobook 'Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama' in the Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording category.

▶ The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and the 14th Dalai Lama.

📌 **Static:** Grammy Awards are presented by the Recording Academy (USA). The 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. His Holiness lives in Dharamsala, India.

118. Rouble Nagi — Global Teacher Prize 2026

▶ Rouble Nagi, an Indian teacher and social activist from Mumbai, received the Global Teacher Prize 2026 at the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

▶ The Global Teacher Prize is awarded by the Varkey Foundation and carries a \$1 million prize.

📌 **Static:** The Global Teacher Prize was first awarded in 2015. The World Governments Summit is held annually in Dubai, UAE. UAE's currency: UAE Dirham. Capital: Abu Dhabi.

119. Smriti Mandhana — BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

▶ Smriti Mandhana won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for scoring 434 runs and playing a crucial role in India's ICC Women's World Cup victory; Divya Deshmukh won Emerging Player.

▶ Anjali Bhagwat received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her historic Olympic shooting career.

📌 **Static:** India won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup for the first time in 2024. Smriti Mandhana is left-handed. ICC Women's Cricket: Women's T20 WC, Women's ODI WC, Women's Championship.

120. PM Modi Receives Israel's Speaker of the Knesset Medal

▶ PM Narendra Modi was bestowed the 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal' by Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana — Modi became the first world leader to receive this honour.

▶ The Knesset is Israel's unicameral parliament with 120 members.

📌 **Static:** Israel was established in 1948. Capital: Jerusalem (disputed). Currency: Israeli New Shekel. India-Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992. Israel's PM: Benjamin Netanyahu.

121. Ol Chiki Script Centenary — Santhali Language

◆ AWARDS & CULTURE

116. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla — Ashok Chakra

- ▶ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebration of the Ol Chiki script (created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925 for the Santhali language) in New Delhi on February 16, 2026.
- ▶ Santhali was added to the 8th Schedule via the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003; written left-to-right with 30 basic letters.

📌 **Static: The 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists 22 scheduled languages. Santhali belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family.**

122. 'Boong' — First Indian Film to Win BAFTA Children's Category

- ▶ The Manipuri film 'Boong' directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi and backed by Farhan Akhtar won Best Children and Family Film at the 79th BAFTA Awards — first Indian film to win this category.
- ▶ Paul Thomas Anderson's 'One Battle After Another' dominated with 6 awards including Best Film and Best Director at the 79th BAFTAs.

📌 **Static: BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) was founded in 1947. India's official Oscar entry for 2026 was announced from regional cinema.**

123. Our Lady of Grace Cathedral Wins UNESCO Heritage Award

- ▶ The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral (Papdy village, Vasai, Maharashtra) won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ▶ The cathedral underwent a ₹4.75 crore restoration.

📌 **Static: UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) HQ: Paris, France. India has 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (as of 2024). Maharashtra has multiple UNESCO-recognised sites.**

124. West Bengal's FAO-Recognised Aromatic Rice Varieties

- ▶ West Bengal's 'Matir Srishti' Program was awarded an international certificate by FAO; FAO also recognised three aromatic rice varieties: Gobindobhog, Tulaipanji, and Kanakchur.
- ▶ These varieties are unique to West Bengal's agricultural heritage.

📌 **Static: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) was founded in 1945. HQ: Rome, Italy. India is the world's largest rice exporter. West Bengal is the leading rice producer in India.**

125. India's First Cow Cultural Museum — Mathura, UP

- ▶ India's first National Cow Cultural Museum was established within the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University campus in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ▶ Mathura is one of India's holiest cities and the birthplace of Lord Krishna.

📌 **Static: Mathura is famous for its Holi celebrations and Krishna Janmashtami. Uttar Pradesh holds the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India, including the Taj Mahal (Agra).**

126. C. Rajagopalachari Bust at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- ▶ President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a bronze bust of C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 23, 2026, replacing the statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens.
- ▶ Rajaji was a freedom fighter, statesman, and the last Governor-General of India (1948–1950).

📌 **Static: Rashtrapati Bhavan was designed by Edwin Lutyens and completed in 1929. It is the official residence of the President of India. C. Rajagopalachari also founded the Swatantra Party in 1959.**

127. Delhi International Film Festival — 125+ Movies at Bharat Mandapam

- ▶ Delhi International Film Festival (hosted by DTDC at Bharat Mandapam) is scheduled to begin on March 25, 2026, screening over 125 movies.
- ▶ Bharat Mandapam was built by Shapoorji Pallonji at a cost of ₹2,700 crore.

📌 **Static: Bharat Mandapam is located at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It was inaugurated in July 2023. It served as the G20 Summit venue for India in 2023.**

128. India Achieves 2 Guinness Records for AI Pledges

- ▶ India achieved a Guinness World Record for 'Most AI responsibility pledges in 24 hours' — 2,50,946 valid pledges (Feb 16-17). NBEMS also set a record: 17,999 concurrent YouTube viewers for a live AI in Healthcare lesson.
- ▶ These records were set during the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

📌 **Static: NBEMS (National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences) regulates PG medical education in India. Guinness World Records was established in 1955.**

129. Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards — Isha Foundation

- ▶ The first Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards (by Sadhguru's Isha Foundation, facilitated by Rajnath Singh) honoured: Dr. N. Rajam & Alarmel Valli (Art & Culture), Nambi Narayanan & AS Kiran Kumar (Science & Tech), Saina Nehwal (Sports).
- ▶ Dr. Nambi Narayanan is the famous ISRO scientist wrongly accused in the ISRO espionage case.

📌 **Static: Sadhguru (Jaggi Vasudev) founded the Isha Foundation in 1992 in Coimbatore. Saina Nehwal is a former World No.1 in badminton and Olympic bronze medalist (London 2012).**

130. Kempegowda Airport Bengaluru — Best Airport at Arrivals (4th Year)

- ▶ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Bengaluru was ranked Best Airport at Arrivals Globally at the 2025 ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards — retaining the recognition for the 4th consecutive year.
- ▶ NSIC was also promoted from Schedule B to Schedule A Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) after receiving an 'Excellent' rating for FY2024-25.

📌 **Static: KIA Bengaluru is managed by BIAL (Bangalore International Airport Limited). It commenced operations**

in 2008. ACI (Airports Council International) represents ~700 airport operators worldwide.

◆ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

131. 'Param Shakti' Supercomputer at IIT Madras

- ▶ MeitY inaugurated the 'Param Shakti' supercomputer at IIT Madras (India's top-ranked engineering institution); Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also launched the ₹500 crore Bhodhan AI Center of Excellence.
- ▶ The Bodhan AI Center focuses on AI for Education and is backed by the Union Budget.

📌 **Static: India's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) was launched in 2015 to build supercomputing infrastructure. IIT Madras is ranked 1st among Indian institutes in NIRF 2024.**

132. India Demonstrates Tele-Robotic Ultrasound to Antarctica

- ▶ India demonstrated Tele-Robotic Ultrasound connectivity between AIIMS New Delhi and Maitri Research Station in Antarctica — a milestone in remote healthcare technology.
- ▶ AIIMS New Delhi is India's premier medical institution, established in 1956.

📌 **Static: India has three research stations in Antarctica: Dakshin Gangotri (now buried under ice), Maitri (operational since 1988), and Bharati (since 2012). Antarctica Treaty was signed in 1959.**

133. 'VoiceEra' — Open-Source Voice AI Stack Launched

- ▶ MeitY and the Digital India Bhashini Division launched 'VoiceEra', an open-source Voice AI stack enabling multilingual voice applications across India.
- ▶ Bhashini aims to break language barriers for non-English speakers in digital services.

📌 **Static: India has 22 scheduled languages and ~1,500+ mother tongues. Bhashini was launched in 2022. India's digital economy is projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2025.**

134. India Ranks 3rd in Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Index

- ▶ India ranked 3rd globally in AI competitiveness (behind USA and China) and 2nd in AI R&D (behind Singapore) in the Stanford Institute's Global AI Vibrancy Index.
- ▶ India launched the IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of ₹10,300 crore for AI infrastructure and research.

📌 **Static: Stanford University (USA) is globally renowned for AI research. The Alan Turing Institute (UK) and MIT (USA) are also leading AI research institutions worldwide.**

135. OpenAI Partners with Tata, IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, AIIMS

- ▶ Tata Group, TCS, and OpenAI set up India's first 100 MW (scalable to 1 GW) AI data center. OpenAI established educational partnerships with IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, and AIIMS New Delhi.
- ▶ Infosys signed a strategic agreement with Anthropic (maker of Claude AI) to collaborate on enterprise AI — initially in the telecom sector.

📌 **Static: OpenAI was founded in 2015 by Sam Altman and others. ChatGPT was launched in November 2022. IIT Delhi was established in 1961; IIM Ahmedabad in 1961.**

136. Microsoft \$17.5 Billion, Google \$15 Billion Investment in India

- ▶ Microsoft announced a \$17.5 billion investment in India (2025–2029) for AI and digital connectivity. Google committed \$15 billion over 5 years. Adani Group pledged \$400 billion for AI-ready data centers.
- ▶ The L&T–NVIDIA partnership aims to develop India's largest gigawatt-scale AI factory.

📌 **Static: Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella (Indian-origin). Google's India head office is in Gurugram. India has the world's 2nd largest internet user base (~900 million users).**

137. Teacher App 2.0 — AI-Driven with 45 AI Tools

- ▶ Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Teacher App 2.0 — an AI-driven application offering 45 AI-enabled tools for school teachers with lesson planning covering the NEP curriculum.
- ▶ Microsoft's 'Elevate for Educators' aims to upskill 2 million educators across 2 lakh schools by 2030, introducing AI from Grade 3.

📌 **Static: NEP (National Education Policy) 2020 was adopted in July 2020 — the first update in 34 years. It introduces the 5+3+3+4 curricular structure.**

138. UIDAI Launches 'Uday' Mascot & Partners with Google Maps

- ▶ UIDAI launched new mascot 'Uday' and partnered with Google Maps to display 60,000+ authorised Aadhaar centres. MeitY formed a high-level committee under former secretary Ajay Sawhney to review DigiLocker.
- ▶ Aadhaar has over 1.4 billion enrolments as of 2025.

📌 **Static: UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) was established in 2009 under the Planning Commission; now under MeitY. Aadhaar was launched in 2009. UIDAI HQ: New Delhi.**

◆ SPORTS

139. Harmanpreet Kaur — Most-Capped Women's Cricketer

- ▶ Indian women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur played her 356th match, surpassing New Zealand's Suzie Bates (355) to become the most-capped player in women's international cricket history.
- ▶ Ellyse Perry (Australia) became the first Australian woman to reach 350 international appearances.

📌 **Static: Harmanpreet Kaur is from Moga, Punjab. She is known for her historic 171* in 2017 Women's World Cup semi-final. BCCI governs Indian cricket; ICC is the global governing body.**

140. Rashid Khan Takes 700th T20 Wicket

- ▶ Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan achieved the milestone of 700 T20 wickets — the first bowler to do so in the history of T20 cricket.
- ▶ Rashid Khan is one of the greatest T20 bowlers of all time, known for his leg-spin and googly.

📌 **Static:** Afghanistan's ICC Test status was granted in 2017. Afghanistan's cricket board: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). T20 World Cup 2024 was won by India.

📌 **Static:** Santosh Trophy was first held in 1941. It is named after Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury (Maharaja of Santosh, Bengal). AIFF governs Indian football.

141. Paras Dogra — 2nd Batter with 10,000 Ranji Trophy Runs

- ▶ J&K captain Paras Dogra surpassed 10,000 Ranji Trophy runs in his 147th match — only the second after Wasim Jaffer; he also has 33 centuries (2nd most in Ranji history).
- ▶ Vidarbha won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time; Mumbai won the Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy.

📌 **Static:** Ranji Trophy is India's premier first-class cricket tournament, first played in 1934-35. It is named after K.S. Ranjitsinhji. Wasim Jaffer holds the record for most Ranji runs (~12,000+).

142. Magnus Carlsen Wins 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess Championship

- ▶ Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana at the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess (Fischer Random) World Championship in Weissenhaus, Germany; prize fund: \$3.3 million. Aaryan Varshney became India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster.
- ▶ Fischer Random Chess (Chess960) was invented by former World Champion Bobby Fischer.

📌 **Static:** Magnus Carlsen (Norway) is the highest-rated chess player in history. FIDE (World Chess Federation) was founded in 1924. India's Viswanathan Anand was World Chess Champion from 2007-2013.

143. 2026 Australian Open — Rybakina & Alcaraz Win Titles

- ▶ Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the women's title and Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) won the men's title at the 2026 Australian Open.
- ▶ American Sebastian Korda won the 2026 Delray Beach Open; Argentine Tomas Martin Etcheverry won the Rio Open.

📌 **Static:** Australian Open is held in Melbourne. It is one of the four Grand Slams (others: French Open, Wimbledon, US Open). Rod Laver Arena is the main court.

144. India Tops Asian Rifle & Pistol Championship 2026

- ▶ India topped the overall medal tally at the Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship 2026 (New Delhi) with 94 medals (51 Gold, 23 Silver, 20 Bronze). Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar set a new world record in men's rifle.
- ▶ Amanpreet Singh won Gold in 25m center-fire pistol.

📌 **Static:** The Asian Shooting Championship is organised under the Asian Shooting Confederation. Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi is named after the legendary shooter from Bikaner.

145. Services Team Wins 79th Santosh Trophy

- ▶ The Services team defeated Kerala to win the 79th Santosh Trophy in Assam — their 8th title. West Bengal holds the all-time record with 33 Santosh Trophy titles.
- ▶ The Santosh Trophy is the national football championship for states and services in India.

146. Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics — USA Wins Ice Hockey Gold

- ▶ The 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano-Cortina, Italy) featured the motto 'IT's Your Vibe'; mascots: 'Tina' (Olympics) and 'Milo' (Paralympics). Team USA beat Canada 2-1 in Men's Ice Hockey Gold; USA Women's team also won Gold.
- ▶ Ski mountaineering was introduced as a new Olympic sport at the 2026 Winter Olympics.

📌 **Static:** The Winter Olympics 2022 were held in Beijing, China. The Summer Olympics 2024 were in Paris, France. Next Summer Olympics: Los Angeles 2028. IOC President: Thomas Bach.

147. Pramod Bhagat — Gold at BWF Para World Championship (Bahrain)

- ▶ Indian Para-shuttler Pramod Bhagat won Gold in Men's SL3 at the BWF Para World Championship in Bahrain, defeating Mohammad Ali Imran (Indonesia).
- ▶ Pramod Bhagat is a Paralympic champion and the world's No.1 Para-badminton player.

📌 **Static:** Pramod Bhagat won Gold at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020. He is from Odisha. BWF (Badminton World Federation) was founded in 1934; HQ: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

148. Saina Nehwal Retires from Badminton

- ▶ Saina Nehwal officially announced her retirement from professional badminton; she received the Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award in the Sports category.
- ▶ Saina is a former World No.1, Olympic bronze medalist (London 2012), and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee (2009-10).

📌 **Static:** Saina Nehwal is from Hisar, Haryana. She trained under Pullela Gopichand at the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad. She also received the Padma Bhushan in 2016.

149. Indian Team Summits Mount Aconcagua (South America)

- ▶ A 6-member Indian climbing team (NIM, JIM&WS), including Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh, summited Mount Aconcagua (6,961m) in Argentina — led by Col. Hemchandra Singh.
- ▶ Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak in South America and the highest in the Western Hemisphere.

📌 **Static:** NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering) is in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. India's highest peak: Kangchenjunga (3rd highest globally at 8,586m). World's highest: Mount Everest (8,849m).

150. Pankaj Advani — First Libo Win/Libera Labour Men's Champion Cup

- ▶ 28-time World Champion Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Libo Win/Libera Labour Men's Champion Cup 2026 at the Karnataka State Billiards Association in Bengaluru.

▶ Pankaj Advani is India's most decorated cueist and has won world titles in both billiards and snooker.

📌 **Static: Pankaj Advani received the Padma Bhushan in 2018 and is a Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee. He was born in Pune, Maharashtra.**

◆ NATIONAL

151. India GDP Data — NSO Base Year Shift to 2022-23

- ▶ A MoSPI sub-committee resolved to shift India's National Account Base Year from 2012 to 2022-23 using a 'Double Deflation' method. DGCI&S also updated merchandise trade indices base year to FY2022-23.
- ▶ CPI base year was updated from 2012 to 2024.

📌 **Static: MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) computes India's GDP and CPI. NSO (National Statistical Office) is under MoSPI. India's GDP base year was last revised in 2015.**

152. NSIC Upgraded to Schedule A CPSE

- ▶ NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) was promoted from Schedule B to Schedule A Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) after receiving an 'Excellent' rating for FY2024-25.
- ▶ NSIC supports MSMEs with marketing, technology, finance, and digital services.

📌 **Static: NSIC was established in 1955. CPSEs are classified into Schedule A (Navratna/Maharatna), Schedule B, Schedule C, and Schedule D based on size/importance. MCA: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

153. India Power Sector — 513 GW Installed Capacity

- ▶ India added 52,537 MW of power during April 2025–January 2026, a record increase. Total installed capacity reached 513,730 MW (Dec 2025); non-fossil fuel capacity: ~266.8 GW.
- ▶ India's target: 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 as committed at COP26, Glasgow.

📌 **Static: India's power sector is the world's 3rd largest in terms of capacity. Ministry of Power: Manohar Lal Khattar. India's largest power generator: NTPC (Navratna).**

154. CBSE Partners with Microsoft for AI in Education

- ▶ Microsoft partnered with CBSE, NCERT, AICTE, and MSDE for 'Elevate for Educators', targeting 2 million teachers across 2 lakh schools by 2030, introducing computational thinking and AI from Grade 3.
- ▶ CBSE has ~25,000 affiliated schools. NCERT designs the national curriculum framework.

📌 **Static: CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) was established in 1929. AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) was set up in 1945. NCERT was established in 1961.**

155. Assam — First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train (Guwahati–Howrah)

- ▶ India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper train commenced operations between Guwahati and Howrah.

▶ Assam also became the first state to form its 8th State Pay Commission.

📌 **Static: Vande Bharat Express (Train 18) was first launched in February 2019 between New Delhi and Varanasi. Vande Bharat Sleeper is a new variant for long-distance travel.**

156. DARPG 27th Secretariat Reforms — 93.81% e-Office Adoption

- ▶ DARPG's 27th Secretariat Reforms Report highlighted: 4.34 lakh sq ft office space cleared, ₹115.85 crore from scrap disposal, 93.81% e-Office adoption, and 90.41% disposal rate for 5,57,852 public grievances.
- ▶ Average active file transactions dropped from 7.19 to 4.31 due to digitisation.

📌 **Static: DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) is under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. e-Office is a MeitY initiative.**

157. Delhi — CM Jan Sunwai Portal & Bhū-Aadhaar Pilot

- ▶ Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the 'CM Jan Sunwai Portal' for online public complaints and the 'CM Pragati' portal for tracking government asset records.
- ▶ Bhū-Aadhaar Pilot assigns a 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in Tilangpur Kotla village.

📌 **Static: ULPIN (Bhū-Aadhaar) is part of the National Land Records Modernisation Programme. DILRMP (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme) is implemented under Ministry of Rural Development.**

158. UP — HCL-Foxconn Semiconductor Unit in Jewar, Noida

- ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the HCL-Foxconn semiconductor packaging and fabrication unit in Jewar, Noida, UP; a Greenfield PM MITRA textile park is also being developed in Lucknow.
- ▶ UP unveiled a 3-year Excise and Export Policy (until 2028-29) targeting ₹65,000 crore excise revenue by FY27.

📌 **Static: Foxconn (Taiwan) is the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer. PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) parks scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2021-22.**

159. Madhya Pradesh — 9 Cheetahs from Botswana at Kuno

- ▶ On February 28, 2026, 9 cheetahs (6 female, 3 male) from Botswana arrived at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, bringing the total cheetah count to 48. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi are being readied as additional habitats.
- ▶ Project Cheetah was launched in September 2022 with cheetahs flown from Namibia.

📌 **Static: Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952. Kuno National Park is in Sheopur district, MP. Project Cheetah is India's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project.**

160. Central Vista — Seva Teerth Complex Inaugurated

- ▶ PM Modi inaugurated the Seva Teerth Complex in New Delhi, part of the Central Vista project; designed by HCP Planning and built by Tata Projects.
- ▶ Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Limited merger is being monitored by a 3-member Ministry of Power committee.

📌 **Static: Central Vista Redevelopment Project includes the new Parliament building, Kartavya Path, PM's residence, and Vice President's Enclave. New Parliament was inaugurated in May 2023.**

◆ RANKS & REPORTS

161. India 75th in Henley Passport Index 2026

- ▶ India ranked 75th on the Henley Passport Index 2026 (shared with Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritania); the Indian passport grants visa-free access to 56 countries.
- ▶ Singapore holds the most powerful passport globally; Afghanistan has the least powerful.

📌 **Static: Henley Passport Index ranks 199 passports. Singapore passport provides access to 195+ destinations. India has improved its ranking significantly over the years.**

162. World Bank B-Ready Framework Replaces Ease of Doing Business

- ▶ The World Bank officially replaced the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index with the new B-Ready Framework (3-year rollout). India was not in the inaugural set but is slated for the 3rd report in 2026.
- ▶ The inaugural B-Ready report covered 50 economies.

📌 **Static: The World Bank stopped publishing the EoDB index in 2021 after data integrity concerns. World Bank HQ: Washington DC. World Bank President: Ajay Banga (Indian-American).**

163. Denmark Tops Global Corruption Perception Index

- ▶ Denmark topped the Global Corruption Perception Index (CPI) with the highest score for perceived transparency and anti-corruption measures.
- ▶ The CPI is published annually by Transparency International.

📌 **Static: Transparency International was founded in 1993; HQ: Berlin, Germany. Denmark's capital: Copenhagen. Currency: Danish Krone. Denmark is a Nordic welfare state.**

164. NITI Aayog EPI 2024 — Maharashtra Ranks 1st

- ▶ In NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, Maharashtra ranked 1st among large states; followed by Tamil Nadu, Gujarat; UP ranked 4th; Andhra Pradesh 5th.
- ▶ EPI measures states' readiness to export on four parameters: Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, Export Performance.

📌 **Static: India's merchandise exports crossed \$430 billion in FY2023-24. India targets \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. Ministry of Commerce & Industry promotes exports.**

165. ICJS Rankings — Uttarakhand 1st, Haryana 2nd, Assam 3rd

- ▶ Uttarakhand ranked 1st, Haryana 2nd, and Assam Police 3rd in the National Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) Rankings.
- ▶ ICJS integrates the Police, Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, and Forensic departments into a unified digital system.

📌 **Static: ICJS was launched in 2013 under the Ministry of Home Affairs. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) manages criminal justice data. NCRB is under MHA.**

166. BCG Projects India Retail Market to Reach ₹215 Trillion by 2035

- ▶ BCG projects India's retail market to nearly double from ₹90-95 trillion to ₹210-215 trillion by 2035; e-commerce to reach \$280-300 billion by 2030; online shoppers to rise from 300 million to 440 million.
- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of women shoppers reported feeling safer shopping online.

📌 **Static: Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is a global management consulting firm. India is the world's 4th largest retail market. India's e-commerce is dominated by Flipkart, Amazon, and Meesho.**

167. Reliance Retail Tops Hurun India's 100 Unlisted Gems

- ▶ Reliance Retail claimed 1st position on Hurun India's 100 Unlisted Gems (companies with minimum ₹1,000 crore revenue); combined revenue of 100 firms: ₹8.95 trillion; Tata Electronics is the fastest-growing.
- ▶ Hurun India is the Indian arm of the global Hurun Research Institute that publishes wealth and business rankings.

📌 **Static: Reliance Retail was founded in 2006. It operates 15,000+ stores and is the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). RIL Chairman: Mukesh Ambani.**

◆ STATIC GK

168. Small Finance Banks — Key Regulatory Parameters

- ▶ Small Finance Banks (SFBs): Minimum Capital: ₹300 crore; FDI limit: 74%; Priority Sector Lending target: 60%; minimum CAR: 15%; required banking experience: 10 years.
- ▶ First SFB established: Capital SFB. Largest SFB: AU Small Finance Bank (HQ: Jaipur).

📌 **Static: SFBs are licensed by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. They were introduced to provide basic banking services to unserved/underserved sections. SFBs can convert to universal banks after 5 years.**

169. RBI Key Facts for Bank Exams

- ▶ RBI was established April 1, 1935 (based on Hilton Young Commission recommendations); nationalised in 1949. Headquarters: Mumbai. RBI Act: 1934. RBI issues currency under Section 22 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- ▶ Current RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra (25th Governor). Dy. Governors: Shirish Chandra Murmu, Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, Poonam Gupta.

📌 **Static: RBI's Central Board has 21 members. 1st Governor: Sir Osborne Smith (British). 1st Indian**

Governor: C.D. Deshmukh. RBI's monetary policy tool: Repo Rate, CRR, SLR.

Static: Universal Postal Union: Bern, Switzerland. Amnesty International: London. IAEA: Vienna. WTO: Geneva. ILO: Geneva. INTERPOL: Lyon, France.

170. Andaman & Nicobar Islands — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Capital: Sri Vijayapuram (renamed from Port Blair in 2024). Formed as UT: November 1, 1956. Barren Island — India's only active volcano. 10° Channel separates Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- ▶ Tribes: Sentinelese, Jarawa, Onge, Great Andamanese, Shompen. State symbols: Animal — Dugong; Bird — Andaman Wood Pigeon.

Static: First Indian tricolor was hoisted here by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on December 30, 1943. India's southernmost point: Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island). LG (13th): Admiral (Retd) D.K. Joshi.

171. West Bengal — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Formed: August 15, 1947. Capital: Kolkata. CM: Mamata Banerjee. State Symbols: Animal — Fishing Cat; Bird — White-throated Kingfisher; Tree — Chatim; Flower — Night-flowering Jasmine; Fish — Ilish.
- ▶ India's first underground metro launched in Kolkata in 1984. Bank of Hindustan (1770) — India's first bank — was in Kolkata. India's 2nd largest tea producer.

Static: Darjeeling Tea was India's first GI tag (2004). Sunderbans is a UNESCO and Ramsar site. Kolkata was India's capital until 1911. Damodar River = 'Sorrow of Bengal'.

172. Ladakh — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Formed as UT: October 31, 2019 (J&K Reorganisation Act). Two districts: Leh (summer capital) and Kargil (winter capital). LG: Kavinder Gupta. Hemis NP: Snow Leopard Capital of the World.
- ▶ Umling La: World's highest motorable road (19,000 ft). India's first Dark Sky Reserve: Hanle, Ladakh. State Symbols: Animal — Snow Leopard; Bird — Black-necked Crane.

Static: GI Tags: Ladakh Pashmina, Raktsey Karpo Apricot, Ladakh Sea Buckthorn. Pangong Tso is a high-altitude lake shared with China. Ladakh is larger in area than any Indian state.

173. Telangana — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Formed: June 2, 2014 (India's youngest state; separated from AP). Capital: Hyderabad. CM: Revanth Reddy. Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma. Hyderabad = 'Cyberabad' (IT Hub) and 'Genome Valley' (Vaccine Capital).
- ▶ State Symbols: Animal — Spotted Deer; Bird —

177. International Organisation Headquarters — Must Know

- ▶ UN, UNDP, UNICEF, IMF, World Bank: New York/Washington DC. WHO, WEF: Geneva. UNESCO: Paris. UNEP: Nairobi. OPEC: Vienna. WWF: Gland (Switzerland). ADB: Manila. NATO: Brussels.
- ▶ ASEAN: Jakarta. SAARC: Kathmandu. ISA (International Solar Alliance): Gurugram, India (125 members; launched 2015 at COP21, Paris by India & France).

178. Chandigarh — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier (famously excluded 'Sector 13' as unlucky). Shared capital of Haryana and Punjab. Administrator: Gulab Chand Kataria. Official language: English.
- ▶ Contains Capitol Complex (UNESCO recognised). City emblem: Le Corbusier's 'Open Hand Monument'. Rock Garden by Nek Chand (made from industrial waste).

Static: State symbols: Tree — Mango; Flower — Dhak/Palash; Bird — Grey Hornbill; Animal — Grey Mongoose. GI Tag: Phulkari embroidery.

179. Tripura — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Attained full statehood: 1972. Capital: Agartala. CM: Dr. Manik Saha. Governor: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu. Official languages: Bengali, Kokborok, English. Shares borders with Bangladesh on 3 sides.
- ▶ Literacy rate: 87%. India's 2nd largest rubber producer. GI Tags: Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risa Textile, Matabari Peda.

Static: Heritage sites: Sundari Temple (Shaktipeeth), Unakoti (Angkor Wat of NE India), Neermahal. Festivals: Kokborok Day (Jan 19), Kharchi Puja. Clouded Leopard NP is inside Sepahijala WLS.

180. Uttarakhand — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Formed: November 9, 2000 (India's 27th state; separated from UP; formerly Uttaranchal). Dual capitals: Dehradun (Winter) and Gairsain (Summer). CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami. Governor: Gurmit Singh.
- ▶ Rishikesh: 'Yoga Capital of the World'. Tehri Dam: India's highest dam. Tungnath (Panch Kedar): World's highest Shiva temple. State symbols: Animal — Alpine Musk Deer; Bird — Himalayan Monal.

Static: Jim Corbett NP (oldest NP in India, 1936). GI Tags: Tejpatta (first GI), Dehradun Basmati, Aipan art. Char Dham: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath.

181. Delhi — Key Static Facts

- ▶ Organised as UT: November 1, 1956; elevated to NCT in 1991 (69th Amendment). CM: Rekha Gupta. LG: Vinay Kumar Saxena. GI Tag: Basmati Rice (joint with other states). Cuisine: Chhole Bhature.
- ▶ State Symbols: Animal — Nilgai; Bird — House Sparrow/Pigeon; Tree — Flamboyant/Gulmohar; Flower — Alfalfa. Heritage: Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb (both UNESCO WHS).

Static: Red Fort (Lal Qila) is depicted on the ₹500 note and was built by Shah Jahan. India Gate honours British India soldiers who died in WWI. Delhi hosts India's political capital — New Delhi.

182. Maharashtra — Wildlife Protected Areas

- ▶ National Parks: Chandoli, Gugamal, Nawegaon, Tadoba, Pench, and Sanjay Gandhi NP. Tiger Reserves: Pench, Nawegaon, Melghat, Tadoba, Sahyadri, and Bor.
- ▶ Maharashtra has 36 districts — the highest among all Indian states.

📌 **Static:** Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is Maharashtra's largest and oldest tiger reserve (est. 1955). Sanjay Gandhi NP is the only NP within a metropolitan city. Maharashtra was formed on May 1, 1960.

183. Kerala — Key Static Facts

▶ Formed: November 1, 1956. CM: Pinarayi Vijayan. Kerala is being renamed to 'Keralam'. Capital: Thiruvananthapuram. National Parks/Sanctuaries include: Wayanad WLS, Silent Valley NP, Eravikulam NP, Periyar Tiger Reserve.
 ▶ Attukal Pongala is the world's largest women-led religious gathering. GI Tags: Alleppey Green Cardamom, Marayoor Jaggery.

📌 **Static:** Kerala has India's highest literacy rate (~96%). Kerala's major river: Periyar. Ashtamudi Lake and Vembanad Lake are important Ramsar sites. Kerala is known as 'God's Own Country'.

184. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) — All Key Facts

▶ SGBs were launched in November 2015. Issued by RBI on behalf of Government of India. Maturity: 8 years; premature withdrawal after 5 years. Interest rate: 2.5% per annum (semi-annual). Max subscription: 4 kg per individual per FY.
 ▶ Minimum subscription: 1 gram. SGB is denominated in grams of gold. Capital gains on redemption at maturity are exempt from tax.

📌 **Static:** SGBs are regulated under the Government Securities Act, 2006. They can be traded on stock exchanges after the lock-in period. SGBs reduce demand for physical gold.

185. MUDRA Yojana — Complete Static Facts

▶ PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched on April 8, 2015. Implemented by SIDBI. Three categories: Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishor (₹50,001 to ₹5 lakh), Tarun (₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh), Tarun Plus (₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh — new).
 ▶ MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency. Loans are collateral-free for MSMEs.

📌 **Static:** SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) was established in 1990. MUDRA Bank was incorporated in 2015 as a subsidiary of SIDBI. Target: non-corporate small businesses.

186. National Parks and Tiger Reserves — Key States

▶ India's oldest NP: Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand, 1936). Largest NP: Hemis NP (Ladakh). Highest NP: Namdapha (Arunachal Pradesh). Only floating NP: Keibul Lamjao (Manipur). Only NP in metropolitan city: Sanjay Gandhi NP (Mumbai).
 ▶ India has 55 Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger (launched 1973). Most tiger reserves: Madhya Pradesh. India has ~75% of world's tigers.

📌 **Static:** Project Tiger is under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). NTCA was set up in 2005 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Tiger: India's national animal.

187. GI Tags — First GI Tags in India

▶ India's first GI tag: Darjeeling Tea (2004). First non-veg GI tag: Hyderabad Haleem. First fresh produce GI: Mahabaleshwar Strawberry. First GI for Andaman: Nicobari Coconut (2025).
 ▶ India has issued 600+ GI tags across states. GI tags are registered under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

📌 **Static:** GI tags are governed by CGPDTM (Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks) under the Ministry of Commerce. Validity: 10 years, renewable.

188. India's Constitutional Amendments — Key Facts

▶ 73rd Amendment (1992): Constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). 74th Amendment (1992): Constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies. 92nd Amendment (2003): Added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali to 8th Schedule.
 ▶ 69th Amendment (1991): Created NCT of Delhi. Article 3: Formation/alteration of states. Article 368: Procedure for amendment.

📌 **Static:** India's Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950. 26 November is celebrated as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) since 2015.

189. 8th Schedule Languages of India

▶ The 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists 22 scheduled languages. Originally 14 languages in 1950; added Sindhi (21st Amendment, 1967), Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali (71st Amendment, 1992), Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali (92nd Amendment, 2003).
 ▶ The Official Languages Act, 1963 designates Hindi and English as official languages of the Union.

📌 **Static:** Classical language status: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali (as of 2024 Budget announcement). Tamil is the oldest.

190. Key Reserve Bank of India Monetary Policy Tools

▶ Repo Rate: Rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks. Reverse Repo Rate: Rate at which RBI borrows from banks. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio): Percentage of NDTL kept with RBI (no interest). SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio): Liquid assets banks must maintain.
 ▶ MSF (Marginal Standing Facility): Emergency borrowing by banks above repo rate. LAF (Liquidity Adjustment Facility): RBI's liquidity management tool.

📌 **Static:** RBI's MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) has 6 members (3 RBI + 3 Government nominees). MPC was constituted under the RBI Act amendment in 2016. MPC targets CPI inflation at 4% (±2%).

191. India's Important National Days (February)

▶ Feb 1: Indian Coast Guard Raising Day (50th). Feb 13: National Women's Day (Sarojini Naidu's birthday, 1879, Hyderabad). Feb 21: International Mother Language Day. Feb 24: Central Excise Day (CBIC). Feb 28: National Science Day (Raman Effect, 1928).
 ▶ National Science Day 2026 theme: 'Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat'.

📌 **Static:** Sir C.V. Raman won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for the Raman Effect. He was the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize in Science. National Science Day commemorates his discovery on Feb 28, 1928.

192. India's Major Financial Institutions — Key Facts

- ▶ SEBI (est. 1988, statutory 1992): Regulates capital markets. IRDAI (est. 1999): Regulates insurance. PFRDA (est. 2003): Regulates pension. NHB (est. 1988): Housing finance regulator. SIDBI (est. 1990): MSME finance. NABARD (est. 1982): Rural development finance.
- ▶ EXIM Bank (est. 1982): Facilitates international trade finance. NaBFID (est. 2021): Infrastructure development finance institution.

📌 **Static:** RBI is the apex banking regulator. Ministry of Finance oversees these institutions through the Department of Financial Services (DFS). NABARD was set up based on the Sivaraman Committee.

193. India's Puppetry Traditions — GK for Bank Exams

- ▶ Department of Posts issued 8 commemorative stamps on 'Puppets of India' (face value ₹5 each, designed by Sankha Samanta). Major puppet types: Kathputli (Rajasthan), Yakshagana/Gombeyata (Karnataka), Tholu Bommalata (Andhra Pradesh), Pavakathakali (Kerala).
- ▶ India's puppetry falls under four major forms: String (marionettes), Glove, Rod, and Shadow puppets.

📌 **Static:** Tholu Bommalata (AP) and Ravanchhaya (Odisha) are shadow puppet traditions. Kathputli is one of India's oldest puppet arts. Puppetry is a part of India's UNESCO intangible heritage list.

194. Manipur — Key Cultural and Ecological Profile

- ▶ Manipur became a full state in 1972. Capital: Imphal. CM: Yumnam Khemchand Singh. National Parks: Keibul Lamjao (world's only floating NP, home of Sangai deer) and Shirui NP (home to Shirui lily).
- ▶ Festivals: Gaan-Ngai, Lui-Ngai-Ni (Naga tribes), Lai Haraoba, Chavang Kut. Cultural dances: Manipuri classical dance (Ras Lila).

📌 **Static:** Sangai (Eld's deer/brow-antlered deer) is Manipur's state animal. Manipur is also known for Polo — the game is said to have originated here. Manipuri dance is one of 8 classical Indian dance forms.

195. India–France Partnership — Key Static Facts

- ▶ India and France have a 'Strategic Partnership' since 1998. Key defence deals: 36 Rafale jets (2016), 26 Rafale-M (Navy, 2023), 3 Scorpene submarines (ongoing). India-France DTAA: Originally signed 1992 (amended 2026 to 5% tax for large shareholders).
- ▶ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was co-founded by India and France at COP21, Paris (2015). ISA HQ: Gurugram, India.

📌 **Static:** France is a P5 member of UNSC. France-India joint exercises: Varuna (Navy), Shakti (Army), Garuda (Air Force). French President: Emmanuel Macron. France uses Euro as currency.

196. BRICS — Key Static Facts

- ▶ BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) was established in 2006 (as BRIC; South Africa joined in 2010). India hosted the 15th BRICS Summit in 2023 in Johannesburg (virtual). 18th BRICS Summit 2026 is under India's chairmanship.

- ▶ Expanded BRICS (BRICS+) includes: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE (joined 2024). BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) HQ: Shanghai, China.

📌 **Static:** India's BRICS Sherpa: Secretary Sudhakar Dalela. India's BRICS theme 2026: 'Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability'. India holds the rotating chairmanship.

197. Basohli Paintings, Cham Dance, Thangka — Art Forms

- ▶ Basohli paintings (Kathua, J&K): Bold colours, beetle wing cases used for emeralds, depicted Rasamanjari text. Thangka painting (Ladakh): Buddhist scroll paintings. Cham dance (Ladakh): Masked Buddhist ritual dance.
- ▶ Warli painting (Maharashtra/Dadra): Tribal art of Warli people using geometric shapes on mud walls. Kalighat painting (Kolkata): Temple-influenced folk art.

📌 **Static:** Madhubani/Mithila painting (Bihar) has a GI tag. Pattachitra (Odisha/WB). Gond painting (MP). Phad painting (Rajasthan). Cherial scroll painting (Telangana) have GI tags.

198. India's Ramsar Wetland Sites — Key Facts

- ▶ India has 85+ Ramsar Sites (largest in Asia). The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. India became a signatory in 1982.
- ▶ Notable Ramsar Sites: Chilika Lake (Odisha, India's largest lagoon and 1st Ramsar site), Keoladeo NP (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Sunderbans (WB), Wular Lake (J&K), Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan).

📌 **Static:** Most Ramsar sites by state: Tamil Nadu. World's largest wetland: Pantanal (Brazil). World Wetlands Day: February 2. Montreux Record: under environmental threat.

199. Important Committees & Their Recommendations

- ▶ Narasimham Committee (1991 & 1998): Banking reforms, priority sector lending, NPA norms. Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008): Financial sector reforms. Urjit Patel Committee (2014): Inflation targeting, MPC. Bimal Jalan Committee (2019): RBI's economic capital framework.
- ▶ Gadgil-Nair Committee: Lead Bank Scheme (1969). Sivaraman Committee: NABARD (1982). Hilton Young Commission: RBI (1934). B. Sivaraman: NABARD. Narayanasamy Committee: Urban Cooperative Banks.

📌 **Static:** M. Narasimham chaired both key banking sector reform committees. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC): Proposed Financial Code to replace 60+ acts.

200. Important International Days in Banking Context

- ▶ April 1: RBI Foundation Day (1935). July 11: World Population Day. October 16: World Food Day (FAO established 1945). December 9: International Anti-

Corruption Day. April 7: World Health Day (WHO est. 1948).

▶ February 28: National Science Day (Raman Effect).

February 21: International Mother Language Day.

November 14: Children's Day (India, Nehru's birthday) & World Diabetes Day.

📌 **Static: International Literacy Day: Sept 8.**

International Day of Forests: March 21. World Earth Day:

April 22. World Environment Day: June 5. Ozone Day:

September 16.



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