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English



Top Stories of The Day

- *Government Invokes Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to Ensure Uninterrupted LPG Supply Across India.*
- *Exercise Lamitiye 2026 Begins in Seychelles with Tri-Service Participation from India.*
- *Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Ring Metro Corridor in Delhi.*
- *Indian Railways Launches SHINE Initiative to Empower Women Employees.*
- *Uttar Pradesh Government Launches Project GANGA to Provide Rural Broadband Connectivity.*
- *Brand Finance Report Lists World's Top 10 Most Valuable Banking Brands for 2026.*
- *Hurun Report Global Rich List 2026 Shows Indian Tech Entrepreneurs Richer than Shah Rukh Khan.*
- *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Report Says India Is the World's Second-Largest Arms Importer.*
- *Rashmika Mandanna Wins Best Actress at Telangana Gaddar Film Awards for The Girlfriend.*
- *Maharashtra Assembly Passes Maharashtra Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to Speed Up Stamp Duty Case Disposal.*

Government Invokes Essential Commodities Act to Ensure Uninterrupted LPG Supply



- The Government of India has invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to ensure uninterrupted supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas across the country. The decision was taken to prevent shortages and maintain stable availability of LPG for domestic consumers amid rising demand.

Measures to Increase LPG Production

- Under this directive, oil refineries and petrochemical plants have been instructed to maximise LPG production. They have also been asked to divert certain hydrocarbon streams toward LPG output so that domestic consumption needs can be met without disruption.

Regulation of Natural Gas Supply

- Along with invoking the Act, the government issued the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 to regulate the production and allocation of natural gas, including imported liquefied natural gas. The order aims to ensure a balanced distribution of gas among different sectors.

Priority Sectors for Gas Allocation

- Priority in gas allocation will be given to critical sectors such as:
 - Domestic PNG (Piped Natural Gas) supply
 - CNG used in transportation

- LPG production
- Fertiliser plants
- Pipeline compressor fuel requirements
- This prioritisation ensures that essential energy needs and key industries continue functioning smoothly.

Implementation and Monitoring

- The implementation of the gas allocation framework will be coordinated by GAIL (India) Limited with support from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, which operates under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Key Facts:

- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the central government to regulate the production, supply, and distribution of essential commodities.
- Its objective is to prevent hoarding, black marketing, and price manipulation of essential goods.
- Commodities covered may include food items, petroleum products, fertilisers, and medicines.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 relaxed stock limits on agricultural commodities except in extraordinary situations like war, famine, natural calamities, or extraordinary price rise.
- LPG is one of the most widely used household cooking fuels in India and is distributed mainly through public sector oil marketing companies.

India–Seychelles Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026

- An Indian Armed Forces contingent has arrived in Seychelles to participate in the 11th edition of the joint military exercise “Exercise Lamitiye” with the Seychelles Defence Forces.
- The exercise is being held at the Seychelles Defence Academy.

Meaning and Background of the Exercise

- The term “Lamitiye” means “friendship” in the Creole language. The exercise is a biennial (every two years) joint training programme conducted in Seychelles since 2001 to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.



Participation from All Three Services

- The 2026 edition is significant because it involves a tri-service participation from India—Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The Indian Army contingent includes personnel from the Assam Regiment.
- The Indian Navy has deployed the stealth frigate INS Trikand.
- The Indian Air Force is participating with a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.

Objectives of the Exercise

The joint exercise aims to:

- Enhance interoperability and operational coordination between the two militaries.
- Train troops in sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments.
- Improve cooperation in peacekeeping operations and maritime security.
- Promote exchange of skills, best practices, and tactical experience between the forces.

PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Ring Metro in Delhi



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first “Ring Metro” in Delhi.
- The project completes a circular metro corridor in the capital by linking key sections of the Pink Line (Delhi Metro), allowing trains to run around the city in a ring-like pattern.

New Metro Corridors Opened

Two new metro stretches were inaugurated:

- Majlis Park – Maujpur–Babarpur corridor (Pink Line) – about 12.3 km long with several elevated stations.
- Deepali Chowk – Majlis Park corridor (Magenta Line extension) – about 9.9 km long.
- These corridors significantly expand the metro network and improve connectivity in North, Northwest, and Northeast Delhi.

Completion of the Circular Metro Network

- With the opening of the Majlis Park–Maujpur section, the Pink Line forms a circular route around Delhi, making it the country's first operational ring-shaped metro network.

Infrastructure Investment

- The newly inaugurated metro corridors are part of infrastructure projects worth over ₹18,000 crore, aimed at improving urban transport and reducing congestion in the National Capital Region.

Benefits of the Ring Metro

- Provides direct connectivity across different parts of Delhi without changing multiple metro lines.
- Reduces travel time between North, South, East, and West Delhi.
- Helps decongest roads and promotes sustainable urban transport.
- Improves connectivity with major railway stations, bus terminals, and other metro lines.

Key Facts:

- Pink Line (Line-7) of Delhi Metro is about 73.49 km long, making it the longest metro line in Delhi Metro network.
- It has 46 stations and multiple interchange points with other metro lines such as Yellow, Blue, Red, Green, and Violet lines.
- The line largely runs along Delhi's Inner Ring Road, hence the name Ring Metro.
- The metro system in Delhi is operated by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.
- Delhi Metro began operations in 2002, becoming India's first modern metro rail system.

Indian Railways Launches 'SHINE' Initiative to Empower Women Employees



- Indian Railways has launched the SHINE Initiative to promote gender inclusivity and empower women employees across its workforce.
- The initiative was introduced to create a safe, supportive, and progressive workplace

environment and to encourage greater participation of women in the railway sector.

Objective of the Initiative

The SHINE programme focuses on:

- Leadership development and mentorship for women employees.
- Skill enhancement and training programmes to strengthen professional capabilities.
- Creating a network of women professionals within the railway system.
- Promoting gender equality and awareness about workplace rights.

Key Features

- The initiative provides structured mentorship opportunities for women staff.
- Workshops and training sessions will be organised to improve technical, managerial, and communication skills.
- It encourages women employees to take part in decision-making roles and leadership positions within departments.
- The programme also promotes gender sensitivity and a harassment-free workplace environment.

Significance

- As one of the largest employers in the world, Indian Railways aims to increase women's participation in technical, administrative, and operational roles through this initiative.
- The programme aligns with broader government efforts to promote women empowerment and inclusive growth in public sector institutions.

Uttar Pradesh Government Launches 'Project GANGA' to Expand Rural Broadband Connectivity

- The Project GANGA has been launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide high-

speed broadband internet to around 20 lakh households in rural and semi-urban areas across the state over the next 2–3 years.

- The initiative aims to strengthen digital connectivity, improve access to online services, and boost the rural digital economy.



MoU with Private Sector Partner

- To implement the project, the State Transformation Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with One OTT Entertainment Limited, which is part of the Hinduja Group.
- The collaboration will help expand digital infrastructure and deliver broadband services in villages.

Role of Local Entrepreneurs

- Under the project, about 8,000–10,000 local entrepreneurs at the Nyaya Panchayat level will be trained as Digital Service Providers (DSPs).
- These DSPs will deliver high-speed broadband and other digital services to rural households.

Employment Generation

- The initiative is expected to generate over 1 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, especially for rural youth engaged in service delivery, installation, and maintenance of digital infrastructure.

Importance of the Project

The project aims to:

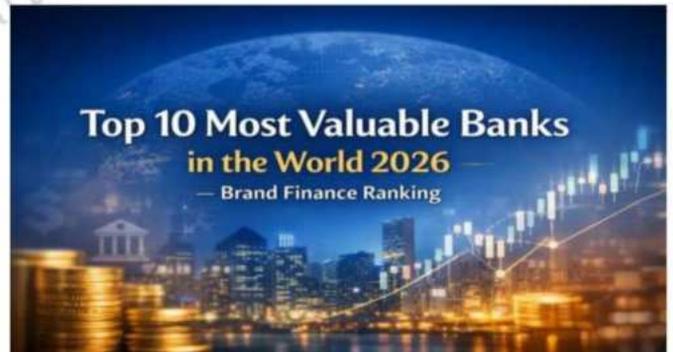
- Expand digital connectivity in rural areas

- Improve access to e-governance services
- Support online education, telemedicine, and digital payments
- Promote rural entrepreneurship and employment

Key Facts:

- Project GANGA stands for Government Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement.
- It aims to connect 20 lakh households with high-speed broadband in Uttar Pradesh.
- The project focuses mainly on rural and semi-urban areas to reduce the digital divide.
- The initiative aligns with the Government of India's Digital India campaign to expand digital infrastructure and services nationwide.
- Another major national rural broadband programme is BharatNet, which aims to connect Gram Panchayats through optical fibre networks.

Top 10 Most Valuable Banks in the World – 2026



- According to the Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026, Chinese and American banks dominate the list of the world's most valuable banking brands. The total brand value of the world's top 500 banking brands reached about \$1.8 trillion in 2026, reflecting strong growth in the global banking sector.

Top 10 Most Valuable Banks in 2026

- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (China) – \$90.9 billion
- China Construction Bank (China) – \$77.2 billion
- Bank of China (China) – \$70.8 billion
- Agricultural Bank of China (China) – \$62.8 billion
- Bank of America (USA) – \$47.6 billion
- JPMorgan Chase (USA) – \$44.8 billion
- Wells Fargo (USA) – \$39.8 billion
- JP Morgan (USA) – \$36.3 billion
- Citigroup (USA) – \$35.7 billion
- HSBC (United Kingdom) – \$33.7 billion

Key Highlights

- ICBC retained the position of world's most valuable banking brand for the 10th consecutive year.
- Chinese banks dominate the ranking with four banks in the top five.
- Five American banks also feature in the top ten, highlighting strong US banking presence globally.
- The UK-based HSBC re-entered the top 10 for the first time since 2019.

Hurun Global Rich List 2026: Indian Tech Entrepreneurs Richer Than Shah Rukh Khan



- According to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, several young Indian entrepreneurs from the technology and startup sector have surpassed the wealth of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan.

- The report highlights the growing influence of India's startup ecosystem, particularly in sectors such as ed-tech, fintech, and hospitality.

Wealth of Shah Rukh Khan

- Shah Rukh Khan entered the Hurun Global Rich List with an estimated net worth of about \$1.3 billion. His wealth comes not only from acting but also from film production, brand endorsements, and business ventures.

Indian Tech Founders Surpassing Him

- Several startup founders have higher estimated wealth than the actor, including:
- Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari, founders of Physics Wallah, each with a net worth of around \$1.7 billion.
- Ritesh Agarwal, founder of OYO, with wealth of around \$1.6 billion.
- Their entry reflects the rapid expansion of technology-driven businesses in India, especially those targeting the country's large digital consumer base.

Significance of the Trend

- The list indicates a shift in wealth creation in India:
- Traditional industries are increasingly being replaced by startup-led wealth creation.
- Digital education, fintech, and online services are generating billion-dollar enterprises.
- Young entrepreneurs are becoming a major driver of India's economic growth.

Key Facts:

- The Hurun Global Rich List ranks US-dollar billionaires worldwide based on their net worth.
- The 2026 list recorded China as the country with the highest number of billionaires, followed by the United States, while India ranked third with over 300 billionaires.
- Wealth calculations for the 2026 list were based on data up to 15 January 2026.

- The Hurun Report is published by Hurun Report, founded by Rupert Hoogewerf.
- The list highlights the growing role of startup founders and technology entrepreneurs in global wealth rankings.

India Becomes World's Second-Largest Arms Importer: SIPRI Report



- According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India emerged as the second-largest importer of major arms globally during the 2021–2025 period, accounting for about 8.2% of global arms imports.
- The report highlights that despite efforts to strengthen domestic defence manufacturing through initiatives such as Make in India, India still depends significantly on foreign defence equipment for military modernisation.

Major Arms Suppliers to India

- Although India has diversified its defence procurement sources, Russia remains the largest supplier of arms to India, though its share has declined in recent years.

Other key suppliers include:

- France
- United States
- Israel
- This shift reflects India's strategy to diversify defence partnerships and reduce dependence on a single supplier.

Global Arms Trade Trends

- The SIPRI report also indicates major changes in global arms transfers:
- Ukraine became the largest arms importer due to the ongoing war with Russia.
- The United States remained the largest arms exporter, accounting for the biggest share of global exports.
- France emerged as the second-largest arms exporter globally.

Reasons for India's High Defence Imports

- India's large arms imports are driven by several strategic factors:
- Ongoing border tensions with China and Pakistan.
- Modernisation of military platforms across the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Replacement of ageing Soviet-era defence equipment.

Key Facts:

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is an independent international research institute based in Stockholm.
- SIPRI was established in 1966 and conducts research on conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.
- SIPRI Director: Dan Smith
- The institute publishes the SIPRI Yearbook and reports on global arms transfers and military expenditure.
- India has historically been one of the largest arms importers since the 1990s due to defence modernisation needs.
- India is simultaneously trying to increase indigenous defence production through initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy.

Rashmika Mandanna Wins Best Actress at Telangana Gaddar Film Awards



- Indian actress Rashmika Mandanna won the Best Actress award at the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards for her performance in the Telugu romantic drama *The Girlfriend*. The award recognises her impactful portrayal of the character Bhooma Devi in the film.
- Her performance received appreciation from audiences and critics for portraying the emotional complexities of a young woman in a troubled relationship.

About the Film "The Girlfriend"

- *The Girlfriend* is a Telugu-language romantic drama written and directed by Rahul Ravindran.
- The film stars Rashmika Mandanna, Dheekshith Shetty, and Anu Emmanuel in key roles. It was released in November 2025 and explores themes of relationships, emotional manipulation, and personal growth.

Check out the full winners list here:

- Main category winners
- Best Film: Raju Weds Rambai
- Second Best Film: Dhandoraa
- Third Best Film: The Great Pre-Wedding Show
- Best Director: Sailu (Raju Weds Rambai)
- Best Actor: Naga Chaitanya (Thandel)
- Best Actress: Rashmika Mandanna (*The Girlfriend*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Sivaji (Dhandoraa)
- Best Supporting Actress: Bhumika (Euphoria)

- Best Music Director: Mark K Robin (Dhandoraa)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Anurag Kulkarni (Raju Weds Rambai)
- Best Female Playback Singer: Sahithi Chaganti (Kannappa)
- Best Child Actor: Rohan Roy (The Great Pre-Wedding Show)
- Best Comedian: Krishna Teja (Jigris)

Film and technical awards

- National Integration Film: Thandel
- Best Environmental Film: Igua
- Best Debut Feature Film: Little Hearts
- Best Entertainment Film: Sankranthiki Vasthunnam
- Best Social Message Film: Court
- Best Special Effects Film: Mirai
- Best Children's Film: Anaganagana
- Best Story Writer: Gunasekhar (Euphoria)
- Best Screenplay Writer: Anil Ravipudi
- Best Lyricist: Nandakishore (Kuberaa)
- Best Cinematographer: Karthik Ghattamaneni (Mirai)
- Best Editor: Sreekar Prasad (Mirai)
- Best Audiographer: M. R. Rajakrishnan (Kishkindhapuri)
- Best Choreographer: Gira Gira Gira (Champion)
- Best Art Director: Thota Tharani (Champion)
- Best Makeup Artist: Govind (Akhanda 2)
- Best Costume Designer: Chandrakant (Champion)

Special jury awards

- Best Special Jury Film: 23
- Best Actor: Chaitu Jonnalagadda (Raju Weds Rambai)
- Best Actress: Ananthika (8 Vasanthalu)
- Special Jury Hero: Roshan (Champion)

Legendary honour awards

- NTR National Award: Chiranjeevi
- ANR Award: Jayasudha

- Kantha Rao Award: R Narayana Murthy
- BN Reddy Award: Singeetam Srinivasa Rao
- Paidi Jairaj Award: Kamal Haasan
- Nagireddy Chakrapani Award: Ashwini Dutt
- C Narayana Reddy Award: Suddala Ashok Teja

About the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards

- The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards are state film awards instituted by the Government of Telangana to honour excellence in Telugu cinema.
- The awards are named after Gaddar, a prominent cultural icon known for his contributions to social movements and Telugu literature.
- These awards were introduced to recognise outstanding work by actors, filmmakers, and technicians in the Telugu film industry.
- Telangana Gaddar Film Awards were instituted in 2025 by the Government of Telangana.
- The awards are organised by the Telangana Film Development Corporation.
- The awards are named after Gaddar, known for his influence in cultural and political movements in Telangana.
- Actress Rashmika Mandanna gained pan-India recognition for films such as Pushpa: The Rise, Animal, and Pushpa 2: The Rule.

Maharashtra Assembly Passes Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2026



- The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed the Maharashtra Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to ensure faster disposal of pending stamp duty cases and improve administrative efficiency in

the revenue department. The Bill was passed unanimously during the Budget Session of the Maharashtra Legislature.

- The amendment modifies Section 52(A) of the Maharashtra Stamp Act, decentralising financial powers within the department so that lower-level officials can decide higher-value cases, reducing the burden on senior authorities.
- Earlier, many cases remained pending with the Inspector General of Registration (IGR) due to limited decision-making powers at the local level. The amendment allows officials such as Collectors and Deputy Inspectors General to adjudicate stamp duty disputes, thereby reducing delays and the need for citizens to travel to Mumbai for case resolution.

Maharashtra Stamp Act

- The Maharashtra Stamp Act, 1958 governs levy and collection of stamp duty on property transactions and legal documents in the state.
- Stamp duty is charged on instruments such as:
 - Sale deeds
 - Lease agreements
 - Mortgage deeds
 - Gift deeds

Importance of Stamp Duty

- Stamp duty is a major source of revenue for state governments, especially from real estate transactions.
- Maharashtra earns a significant share of revenue from property registration and stamp duty collections, particularly in cities like Mumbai, Pune, and Thane.

Administrative Structure

- Inspector General of Registration (IGR) oversees property registration and stamp duty administration in the state.
- Decentralisation aims to reduce backlog, increase efficiency, and improve ease of property registration.

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which law was invoked by the Government of India in 2026 to ensure uninterrupted LPG supply? **Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**
- ❖ Which countries participate in the joint military Exercise Lamitiye? **India and Seychelles.**
- ❖ India's first Ring Metro has been inaugurated in which city? **Delhi.**
- ❖ India's first Ring Metro is part of which metro line of the Delhi Metro network? **Delhi Metro Pink Line.**
- ❖ Which organisation launched the SHINE initiative to empower women employees? **Indian Railways.**
- ❖ What does SHINE stand for in the initiative launched by Indian Railways? **Support for Her in Network and Empowerment.**
- ❖ The SHINE initiative mainly focuses on empowering which group in Indian Railways? **Women employees.**
- ❖ Which state government launched Project GANGA to expand rural broadband connectivity? **Uttar Pradesh.**
- ❖ Which bank is the most valuable banking brand in the world in 2026? **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.**
- ❖ Which report revealed that several Indian tech entrepreneurs are richer than Shah Rukh Khan in 2026? **Hurun Global Rich List.**
- ❖ What is the estimated net worth of Shah Rukh Khan in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026? **About \$1.3 billion.**
- ❖ Which ed-tech company's founders debuted with about \$1.7 billion each in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026? **Physics Wallah.**
- ❖ Which organisation released the report stating that India is the world's second-largest arms importer? **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.**
- ❖ Who won the Best Actress award at the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards for the film The Girlfriend? **Rashmika Mandanna.**
- ❖ Rashmika Mandanna won the Telangana Gaddar Award for Best Actress for which film? **The Girlfriend.**
- ❖ Which state passed the Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to speed up disposal of pending cases? **Maharashtra.**

Current affairs form the dynamic backbone of preparation for competitive examinations such as UPSC, SSC, and banking services. They bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world developments, transforming static knowledge into practical understanding. In an age marked by rapid geopolitical changes, economic reforms, and policy innovations, a significant portion of these exams—often 30–35%—draws directly or indirectly from recent events.

Mastery of current affairs not only enhances scores but also cultivates analytical thinking, clarity of perspective, and decision-making skills—qualities indispensable for future administrators and professionals.

Key Dimensions of Importance

- **Syllabus Integration:** Current events seamlessly connect with core subjects like polity, economy, history, and geography. For instance, understanding constitutional provisions becomes more meaningful when linked to recent judicial reforms or landmark judgments.
- **Scoring Edge:** Many questions in prelims and mains are derived from contemporary developments. A well-prepared aspirant can secure quick and confident marks through accurate knowledge of high-yield topics from reliable news sources.
- **Interview Excellence:** In personality tests and interviews, panels evaluate awareness of pressing national and global issues—ranging from climate diplomacy to economic policy—requiring thoughtful, balanced responses.

As many toppers emphasize, current affairs are not a separate subject but the soul of exam preparation. Consistent engagement with credible sources like The Hindu, PIB releases, and Yojana magazine strengthens critical thinking and nurtures a well-rounded outlook, moving beyond rote memorization.

In a competitive landscape where millions aspire for limited opportunities, current affairs serve as a decisive differentiator. Adopting structured habits—daily news analysis, monthly revisions, and regular mock tests—empowers candidates to adapt confidently to evolving exam patterns. Ignoring this essential component is like navigating uncertain waters without direction—while mastering it ensures clarity, confidence, and a competitive advantage.



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