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National News

Major National News from India on August 16, 2025

Tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The nation, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his seventh death anniversary. Various dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, visited his memorial, 'Sadaiv Atal,' in New Delhi to pay their respects.

Heavy Monsoon Rains and Landslides: Mumbai and parts of Maharashtra are experiencing heavy monsoon downpours, leading to waterlogging in several areas. A landslide in Vikhroli, an eastern suburb of Mumbai, resulted in the deaths of two people, with others injured. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Mumbai, predicting intense rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds.

Commencement of SLINEX-25: The Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25) has commenced with the arrival of Indian Naval Ships in Sri Lanka. This is a significant bilateral naval exercise aimed at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

Janmashtami Celebrations and Bank Holidays: As Krishna Janmashtami is being celebrated, there is a variation in bank holidays across the country. While some states have declared a holiday, banks remain open in others as August 16 is the third Saturday of the month, which is a working day for banks in some regions.

'SabhaSaar' AI Tool Launched: The Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has launched an AI-powered tool named 'SabhaSaar.' The tool is designed to generate structured minutes of Gram Sabha meetings from audio and video recordings, aiming for uniformity across the nation. It was initially rolled out in Tripura and is built on the 'Bhashini' AI language platform.

Bihar's 'JP Senani' Pension Scheme: The Bihar government has doubled the monthly pension for "JP Senanis"—political activists who were jailed during the Emergency in support of Jayaprakash Narayan's movement. The pension for those jailed for over six months has been increased from ₹15,000 to ₹30,000, and for those jailed for less than six months, it has been raised from ₹7,500 to ₹15,000.

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Q2. What is the primary purpose of the 'SabhaSaar' AI tool launched by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj?

- A. To predict election results for local body polls.
- B. To manage financial accounts of Gram Panchayats.
- C. To generate structured minutes of Gram Sabha meetings from audio and video recordings.
- D. To provide real-time weather updates for rural areas.

Answer: C

The news explicitly states that the 'SabhaSaar' tool is an AI-powered tool designed to "generate structured minutes of Gram Sabha meetings from audio and video recordings."

Q3. What is the name of the naval exercise that commenced between India and Sri Lanka on August 16, 2025?

- A. MILAN
- B. SLINEX-25
- C. Varuna
- D. Malabar

Answer: B

The news headline clearly mentions the "Commencement of SLINEX-25," which is identified as the Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise.

Q4. What significant change has the Bihar government made to the 'JP Senani' pension scheme?

- A. It has discontinued the pension scheme entirely.
- B. It has reduced the monthly pension for all recipients.
- C. It has doubled the monthly pension for those who were jailed during the Emergency.
- D. It has introduced a new pension scheme for retired government employees.

MCQS

Q1. Who paid homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his seventh death anniversary?

- A. Only the Prime Minister of India
- B. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and other dignitaries
- C. The Governor of New Delhi and state ministers
- D. The Chief Ministers of all Indian states

Answer: B

The news states that the nation, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid homage, and specifically mentions that President Droupadi Murmu and other dignitaries visited his memorial to pay their respects.





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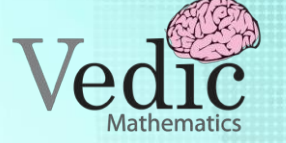
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Answer: C

The news states that the Bihar government has "doubled the monthly pension" for "JP Senanis," specifically detailing the new pension amounts of ₹30,000 and ₹15,000.

Q5. Why was a red alert issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for Mumbai?

- A. Due to a severe heatwave.
- B. Due to a cyclone approaching the coast.
- C. Due to a major dust storm.
- D. Due to predictions of intense rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds.

Answer: D

The news report states that the IMD has issued a red alert for Mumbai, "predicting intense rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds," following the heavy monsoon downpours and waterlogging in the region.

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