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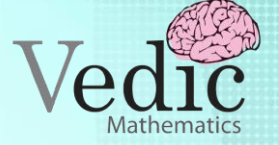
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NATIONAL NEWS

EAM Dr S Jaishankar meets with Foreign Affairs Minister of Palestine, Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, in New Delhi



On Friday, January 30, 2026, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held a series of high-level bilateral meetings in New Delhi on the sidelines of the **2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting**. These discussions focused on regional stability, humanitarian issues, and deepening economic ties.

IN India and Palestine: Focused on Peace & Development

Dr. Jaishankar met with H.E. Ms. Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine.

- **Development Cooperation:** The leaders reviewed existing projects—including India's support for a diplomatic institute and artificial limbs project—and agreed on new initiatives to strengthen bilateral support.
- **Gaza Peace Plan:** A critical part of the dialogue involved exchanging views on the Gaza Peace Plan. India reiterated its support



for a **two-state solution** and expressed concern over the "catastrophic humanitarian situation" in Gaza.

- **Regional Stability:** Both sides emphasized the importance of international law and political action to ensure enduring peace in the region.

IN India and Libya: Boosting Economic Ties

In a separate meeting, Dr. Jaishankar welcomed his Libyan counterpart, **Mr. Eltaher S.M. Elbaour**, on his first official visit to India.

- **Economic Cooperation:** The discussion prioritized advancing collaboration in four key sectors:
 1. **Trade & Business**
 2. **Infrastructure**
 3. **Energy**
- **Dialogue & Diplomacy:** Dr. Jaishankar thanked Minister Elbaour for his briefing on the current internal situation in Libya and underscored India's firm stance that **dialogue and diplomacy** are the only paths to stability in the country.

Context: The 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting

These meetings occurred as part of a larger diplomatic gathering where India and the **Arab League** nations (19 member countries) met for the first time in 10 years. Key outcomes included:

- **New Delhi Declaration:** A joint commitment to achieving a \$500 billion trade goal by 2030.
- **Security:** Strong condemnation of cross-border terrorism and a call for maritime safety in the Red Sea.

Note: The "Board of Peace" recently proposed by the U.S. administration was also a topic of discussion among the regional leaders during the summit.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. During the meeting between Dr. S. Jaishankar and Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, which specific regional issue was a primary focus of their discussion?

- A) The Indo-Pacific Strategy
- B) The Gaza Peace Plan
- C) The Arctic Council development
- D) Central Asian connectivity

2. Which of the following was NOT listed as a key area of discussion for boosting bilateral cooperation between India and Libya?

- A) Infrastructure
- B) Trade and Business
- C) Space Exploration
- D) Energy

3. Dr. S. Jaishankar met with Eltaher Elbaour to discuss cooperation and receive a briefing on the situation in which country?

- A) Palestine
B) Libya
C) Egypt
D) Jordan

4. Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, who met with the Indian External Affairs Minister in New Delhi, holds which portfolio?

- A) Foreign Affairs Minister of Palestine
B) Prime Minister of Libya
C) Defense Minister of Palestine
D) Trade Minister of Libya

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (The Gaza Peace Plan)
2	C (Space Exploration)
3	B (Libya)
4	A (Foreign Affairs Minister of Palestine)

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AWARDS

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth presents awards for Best Contingents and Tableaux of R-Day Parade 2026



On Friday, January 30, 2026, Minister of State for Defence **Sanjay Seth** presented the official awards for the 77th Republic Day Parade at the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in New Delhi. The awards were divided into two main streams: the **Jury's Choice** (evaluated by expert panels) and the **Popular Choice** (decided by citizens via the MyGov portal).

Jury Choice Awards (Official Panel)

These awards are determined by three separate panels of judges who evaluate discipline, theme relevance, and visual impact.

Best Tableaux (States & Union Territories)

Rank	State/UT	Theme
1st	Maharashtra	Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta
2nd	Jammu & Kashmir	Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir



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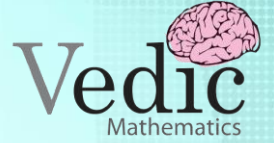
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Rank	State/UT	Theme
3rd	Kerala	Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy

Best Marching Contingents

- **Three Services:** Indian Navy (led by 144 young personnel, showcasing maritime strength).
- **CAPF & Auxiliary Forces:** Delhi Police.

Central Ministries & Special Prizes

- **Best Ministry Tableau:** Ministry of Culture (*Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation*).
- **Special Prize:** Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for their floral float celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram.
- **Special Prize (Dance):** Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India dance group.

Popular Choice Awards (MyGov Poll)

For the fourth consecutive year, public participation via the MyGov portal decided a separate set of winners.

Best Tableaux (Popular Vote)

1. **Gujarat:** *Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance – Freedom: Vande Mataram* (Secured 43% of the total vote).
2. **Uttar Pradesh:** *Culture of Bundelkhand*.
3. **Rajasthan:** *Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art)*.

Best Marching Contingents (Popular Vote)

- **Three Services:** Assam Regiment.
- **CAPF & Auxiliary Forces:** CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force).
- **Central Ministry:** Department of School Education and Literacy (*National Education Policy 2020*).

Spotlight: Maharashtra's Winning Theme

The Maharashtra tableau featured a grand "Dhol" played by a woman at the front, followed by a sculptor crafting a Ganesha idol and a temple representation of the *Ashtavinayak*. It successfully blended the state's cultural heritage with the modern vision of economic and environmental self-reliance.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which state won the "Best Tableau" award in the States/Union Territories category (Judges' Choice)?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Jammu and Kashmir

2. Which of the following marching contingents was adjudged the best among the Three Services?



- A) Indian Army
B) Indian Navy
C) Indian Air Force
D) Assam Regiment

3. In the "Popular Choice" awards decided by the MyGov poll, which state secured the first position for its tableau?

- A) Maharashtra
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Rajasthan
D) Gujarat

4. Which entity topped the "Central Ministries" category at the Republic Day Parade 2026?

- A) Department of School Education and Literacy
B) Ministry of External Affairs
C) Ministry of Home Affairs
D) Department of Science and Technology

5. Which organization won the award for the Best Marching Contingent in the CAPF and Auxiliary Forces category?

- A) CRPF
B) BSF
C) Delhi Police
D) CISF

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Details
1	C	Maharashtra (Theme: Ganeshotsav)
2	B	Indian Navy
3	D	Gujarat (followed by UP and Rajasthan)
4	A	Dept. of School Education and Literacy
5	C	Delhi Police

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US President Trump signs executive order imposing tariff on oil-related goods



On Thursday, January 29, 2026, **President Donald Trump** signed an executive order that significantly escalates economic pressure on Cuba by threatening secondary tariffs on any nation providing the island with oil.

This move follows the recent U.S. military operation in Venezuela that ousted President Nicolás Maduro, which effectively cut off Cuba's primary source of subsidized fuel.

Key Details of the Executive Order

The order declares the Cuban government an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to U.S. national security.

- **Tariff Mechanism:** The U.S. will impose an **additional ad valorem (estimated value) duty** on imports from any country that directly or indirectly sells or provides oil to Cuba.
- **Implementation:** The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce are authorized to identify these countries and determine the specific tariff levels.
- **National Emergency:** The order was issued under the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**, a tool the administration has frequently used to enforce its "America First" foreign policy.
- **National Security Allegations:** The White House cited Cuba's support for "malign actors" and hostile nations—specifically mentioning Russia, China, and Iran—as well as hosting intelligence facilities and terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

Impact on Major Suppliers

The primary target of this order is **Mexico**, which recently overtook Venezuela as Cuba's largest oil supplier.

Country	Status & Impact
Mexico	Currently provides approx. 44% of Cuba's oil. President Claudia Sheinbaum has temporarily paused some shipments but maintains that Mexico will continue "solidarity" with Cuba.
Venezuela	Supplies have effectively dropped to zero following the U.S. operation that placed

Country	Status & Impact
	Venezuelan oil exports under U.S. oversight earlier this month.
Russia	Supplies roughly 10% of Cuba's oil. The new tariffs aim to deter Russia from increasing its exports to fill the void left by Venezuela.

Global Reactions

"I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE... Cuba looks like it's ready to fall."

— *President Donald Trump via Truth Social*

- **Cuba:** Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez condemned the move as a "brutal act of aggression" and "international piracy," accusing the U.S. of attempting to suffocate the Cuban people.
- **Mexico:** President Sheinbaum warned the move could trigger a "humanitarian crisis" on the island, which is already suffering from 20-hour daily power outages and severe food shortages.

What's Next?

The U.S. Department of Commerce is expected to release a list of "prohibited suppliers" within the coming weeks. If Mexico or other allies continue shipments, they could face immediate tariffs on their exports to the U.S. market



Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. According to the executive order signed by President Trump, what is the specific condition for imposing tariffs on a foreign country's goods?

- A) If the country fails to meet US carbon emission standards.
- B) If the country directly or indirectly sells or provides oil to Cuba.
- C) If the country maintains a bilateral trade surplus with the US.
- D) If the country refuses to join the US-led energy alliance.

2. What type of duty does the White House order specify may be imposed on imports from countries supplying oil to Cuba?

- A) Specific duty
- B) Compound duty
- C) Ad valorem (estimated value) duty
- D) Anti-dumping duty

3. The executive order targets countries that provide oil to Cuba "directly or indirectly." This move is primarily seen as a way to pressure which neighboring country, often cited as a "lifeline" for Cuba?

- A) Canada
- B) Mexico
- C) Brazil

D) Argentina

4. Which legal justification or framing did the White House use to issue this directive against the Cuban government?

- A) A routine trade policy update.
- B) A "National Emergency" declaring Cuba an "extraordinary threat."
- C) An environmental protection act.
- D) A North American free trade amendment.

5. Which two US departments have been authorized to implement and enforce the new tariff system under this order?

- A) Department of Treasury and Department of Energy.
- B) Department of State and Department of Commerce.
- C) Department of Defense and Department of Justice.
- D) Department of Labor and Department of Interior.

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Details
1	B	Countries providing oil to Cuba.
2	C	Ad valorem duty (based on the value of the goods).
3	B	Mexico (a major oil supplier to the island).





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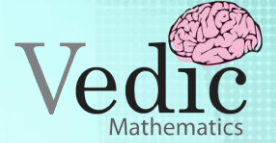
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Question	Answer	Details
4	B	Declaring a National Emergency due to Cuba being a security threat.
5	B	State and Commerce Departments.

SPORTS

India's Isharani Baruah upsets second seed Sung Shuo Yun to enter Thailand Masters quarterfinals



In a thrilling display of India's rising badminton talent at the **Thailand Masters 2026** (BWF Super 300), young shuttlers Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag made headlines with major upsets to reach the quarterfinals in Bangkok.

Isharani Baruah's Giant-Killing Performance

World number 48 **Isharani Baruah** produced a career-defining performance by knocking out the tournament's second seed, **Sung Shuo Yun** of Chinese Taipei.

- **Score:** 21-13, 14-21, 21-14.
- **The Match:** After a dominant first game, Baruah weathered a strong comeback from the 34th-ranked Sung. In the decider, the 22-

year-old Indian showed remarkable composure to seal the match in over an hour, avenging her previous loss to Sung at the 2023 Guwahati Masters.

Devika Sihag: The Road to the Title

While the quarterfinals were a milestone, **Devika Sihag** went much further, ultimately clinching her **maiden BWF World Tour title** on February 1, 2026.

- **Quarterfinal Breakthrough:** Devika defeated eighth-seeded **Tung Ciou-Tong** (Chinese Taipei) 21-14, 21-14.
- **The Big Scalp:** She later stunned the top seed and home favorite, **Supanida Katethong**, in the quarterfinals.
- **Final Victory:** In the final, Devika was leading 21-8, 6-3 when her opponent, Malaysia's **Goh Jin Wei**, was forced to retire due to a hamstring injury.

Historical Note: With this win, the 20-year-old from Haryana joins an elite club, becoming only the third Indian woman—after **Saina Nehwal** and **PV Sindhu**—to win a BWF Super 300 singles title.

Other Indian Results

- **Men's Singles:** **Tharun Manne** reached the quarterfinals after a nail-biting 21-17, 14-21, 24-22 win over **Ting Yen-Chen**, though he eventually fell to China's **Zhu Xuan Chen**.
- **Exits:** **Mithun Manjunath** put up a brave fight against Olympic bronze medalist **Lee Zii Jia**, winning the first game before losing 21-11, 16-21, 12-21. Seventh seed **Kiran George**



and rising star **Anmol Kharb** also bowed out in hard-fought matches.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which Indian shuttler caused a major upset by defeating the second seed Sung Shuo Yun to enter the quarterfinals?

- A) Devika Sihag
- B) Isharani Baruah
- C) P.V. Sindhu
- D) Malvika Bansod

2. What was the final scoreline in Isharani Baruah's victory over the world number 34, Sung Shuo Yun?

- A) 21-13, 21-14
- B) 21-14, 21-14
- C) 21-13, 14-21, 21-14
- D) 21-10, 19-21, 21-18

3. In which city is the Thailand Masters badminton event being held?

- A) Phuket
- B) Chiang Mai
- C) Pattaya
- D) Bangkok

4. Besides Isharani Baruah, which other Indian player reached the "last eight" stage by defeating Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong?

- A) Ashmita Chaliha
- B) Devika Sihag
- C) Anupama Upadhyaya
- D) Tasnim Mir

5. What is the current world ranking of Isharani Baruah as per the provided report?

- A) 34
- B) 48
- C) 52
- D) 21

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Details
1	B	Isharani Baruah
2	C	21-13, 14-21, 21-14 (Three-set match)
3	D	Bangkok
4	B	Devika Sihag (won 21-14, 21-14)
5	B	World Number 48

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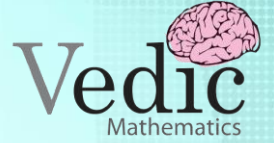
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SPORTS

Veer Chotrani stuns world number 19 Baptiste Masotti to reach Squash on Fire Open quarterfinals



In a major breakthrough for Indian squash, **Veer Chotrani** pulled off one of the biggest wins of his career at the **Squash on Fire Open 2026** in Washington, D.C.

Ranked **World No. 49**, the 24-year-old Mumbai-born athlete stunned the 4th-seeded Frenchman and **World No. 19, Baptiste Masotti**, in a gripping five-game second-round encounter.

Match Breakdown: Chotrani vs. Masotti

The match was a rollercoaster of momentum, lasting 52 minutes:

- **The Start:** Chotrani came out aggressive, taking the first game 11-6.
- **The Fightback:** Masotti utilized his top-20 experience to claim the next two games (11-7, 11-8), putting the Indian on the brink of elimination.
- **The Dominance:** In a stunning tactical shift, Chotrani dismantled Masotti in the fourth game, winning 11-1.

- **The Decider:** The fifth game was a neck-and-neck battle. At 9-9, Chotrani held his nerve to take the final two points, sealing the match 11-9.

Quarterfinal Result: Chotrani vs. Declan James

Following his massive upset, Chotrani faced 6th seed **Declan James** of England in the quarterfinals on Friday, January 30.

Despite a valiant effort and a marathon third-game tiebreak, Chotrani's run came to an end. He lost to the Englishman in four closely contested games: 8-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-9.

IN Other Indian Highlights at Squash on Fire

- **Anahat Singh's Historic Run:** While Chotrani exited, 17-year-old **Anahat Singh** has been the star of the tournament. She reached her first-ever **PSA Bronze-level final** after defeating USA's Sabrina Sobhy (3-1) in the semifinals. She is scheduled to face top seed **Georgina Kennedy** for the title.
- **Velavan Senthilkumar:** Faced a heartbreaking exit in the second round, losing a 64-minute five-game thriller (11-8 in the fifth) to the 2nd-seeded Mexican, **Leonel Cardenas**.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Indian squash player Veer Chotrani reached the quarterfinals of the Squash on Fire Open by defeating which world number 19 player?





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- A) Leonel Cardenas
B) Baptiste Masotti
C) Declan James
D) Velavan Senthilkumar

2. Where is the "Squash on Fire Open" tournament being held?

- A) Paris
B) London
C) Washington
D) Mexico City

3. What is the current world ranking of Veer Chotrani according to the report?

- A) 19
B) 34
C) 49
D) 62

4. Veer Chotrani is set to face which seeded player in the quarterfinals?

- A) Second seed Leonel Cardenas
B) Sixth seed Declan James
C) First seed Baptiste Masotti
D) Third seed Velavan Senthilkumar

5. Which Indian player was eliminated from the tournament after losing to Mexico's Leonel Cardenas?

- A) Veer Chotrani
B) Saurav Ghosal
C) Velavan Senthilkumar
D) Mahesh Mangaonkar

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Details
1	B	Baptiste Masotti (France)
2	C	Washington
3	B	World Number 49
4	B	Declan James (England)
5	C	Velavan Senthilkumar

BANKING/ECONOMY

SEBI grants NOC for long-awaited IPO of National Stock Exchange



On Friday, January 30, 2026, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** granted a formal **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** to the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, ending a decade-long regulatory stalemate. This clearance is the most significant step toward the public listing of India's largest stock exchange since its first attempt in 2016.

Why the NOC is a Major Milestone

For years, the NSE's IPO was frozen due to the "**Co-location Case**"—allegations that certain brokers were given unfair, preferential access to the exchange's servers.

- **Settlement Cleared:** The breakthrough came after SEBI accepted NSE's settlement application. The exchange recently proposed paying approximately **₹1,387 crore** to resolve long-standing disputes regarding co-location and "dark fiber" connectivity.
- **Corporate Governance:** The appointment of **Srinivas Injeti** (former Corporate Affairs Secretary) as Chairperson in late 2025 signaled a major shift in governance that helped satisfy SEBI's compliance requirements.

Expected Timeline for the IPO

While the NOC is a "green light," it does not mean the IPO will launch tomorrow. According to NSE CEO **Ashishkumar Chauhan**, the remaining process typically takes **6 to 8 months**:

1. **Prospectus Drafting (3-4 Months):** NSE must now update and file its **Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)** with SEBI.

2. **Regulatory Review (2-3 Months):** SEBI will review the new filing and may issue further observations.

3. **Launch Window:** Market analysts estimate the IPO could hit the primary market in the **second half of 2026** (around August–October).

Valuation and Market Impact

The NSE IPO is expected to be one of the largest in Indian history.

Feature	Details
Estimated Valuation	Currently pegged at over ₹5 lakh crore (\$60B+) based on unlisted market trades.
IPO Structure	Primarily an Offer for Sale (OFS) ; existing shareholders (like LIC, SBI, and Temasek) will sell their stakes.
Shareholder Base	NSE is the most widely held unlisted company in India, with over 1.77 lakh shareholders .
Market Position	World's largest derivatives exchange by volume and a near-monopoly in Indian equity trading.

Impact on Investors: The news has already triggered a **10–15% surge** in NSE's unlisted share prices. Once listed, it will offer investors direct exposure to the core infrastructure of the Indian economy.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which regulatory body granted the **No-Objection Certificate (NOC)** for the **National Stock Exchange's (NSE)** initial public offering?

A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- B) Ministry of Finance
C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
D) Competition Commission of India (CCI)

2. Who currently serves as the Chairperson of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

- A) Madhabi Puri Buch
B) Srinivas Injeti
C) Ashishkumar Chauhan
D) Ajay Tyagi

3. The granting of the NOC by SEBI is considered a significant milestone because the NSE IPO had been delayed for:

- A) Several months
B) Several years
C) One decade
D) Two weeks

4. What does the acronym "IPO" stand for in the context of NSE's growth journey?

- A) Internal Profit Organization
B) Investment Policy Order
C) Initial Public Offering
D) Institutional Price Option

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Details
1	C	SEBI (The capital markets regulator in India).
2	B	Srinivas Injeti.
3	B	Several years (due to various regulatory hurdles).
4	C	Initial Public Offering.

STATE NEWS

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – State Survey



A recent state-wide study, published on **January 27, 2026**, highlights the transformative impact of the **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** (Medicine at People's Doorstep) scheme in Tamil Nadu. The survey, which covered all 38 districts, confirms that the initiative has effectively bridged the "access gap" for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly for marginalized groups.



Key Findings of the Study

The study utilized a cross-sectional household survey of 6,856 individuals (aged 30+) to evaluate the scheme's effectiveness in managing diabetes and hypertension.

1. High Screening & Treatment Reach

- **Screening Coverage:** Approximately 80% of the participants were screened for diabetes and hypertension. Crucially, over two-thirds of these screenings were conducted directly by MTM field workers at the patients' homes.
- **Treatment Adherence:** A massive 95%+ of those diagnosed were found to be on treatment, indicating that the doorstep delivery model is highly effective at keeping patients on their medication.
- **Public Shift:** Around 30% of patients with NCDs have shifted from private to government-funded care in the past year due to the scheme's convenience.

2. The "Control" Gap

Despite high screening and treatment rates, the study identified a significant challenge in disease management:

- **Diabetes Control:** Only 9.8% of diagnosed patients had their blood sugar levels under effective control.
- **Hypertension Control:** Only 35.4% had their blood pressure within the target range.

Expert Take: Public health officials suggest that while MTM has solved the problem of *access* (secondary prevention), the next phase must focus on *primary prevention*—addressing

diet, lifestyle, and behavior to improve actual health outcomes.

Equity and Reach

The survey highlighted the scheme's success in reaching vulnerable populations:

- **Women & Rural Communities:** Women and rural residents showed significantly higher coverage rates than men and urban dwellers. This is attributed to the scheme's daytime household-visit model, which often misses working men.
- **Caste Representation:** The reach was notably strong among **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)** communities, fulfilling the goal of equitable healthcare.

Areas for Improvement

- **Cancer Screening:** While diabetes and hypertension reach is high, cancer screening (oral, breast, and cervical) remains "substantially lower" and requires targeted expansion.
- **Urban Strategy:** The study recommends redesigning the model for urban areas to better reach floating populations and working professionals.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. According to the state-wide study, which demographic groups saw the most significant improvement in access to diabetes and hypertension care under the MTM scheme?

A) Urban youth and corporate employees





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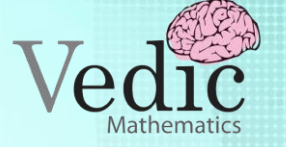
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B) Women and rural populations

C) Children and school students

D) Industrial workers and migrants

2. How was the screening for diabetes and hypertension primarily conducted for the 80% of people reached by the scheme?

A) Through mandatory check-ups at private hospitals

B) By MTM field workers during home visits

C) Via mobile applications and self-reporting

D) At specialized urban health camps only

3. What was the specific finding of the study regarding the treatment of diagnosed patients?

A) Less than 50% of patients were aware of their treatment options.

B) More than 95% of diagnosed patients were on treatment.

C) Most patients preferred traditional medicine over MTM services.

D) Treatment was only available for hypertension, not diabetes.

4. Despite high screening and treatment rates, what major challenge did the study highlight regarding the MTM scheme?

A) Low disease control among patients

B) Lack of participation from field workers

C) Inability to reach all 38 districts

D) High cost of medication for rural people

5. What was the geographical scope and methodology of the study conducted to evaluate the scheme?

A) A pilot study limited to Chennai and Madurai

B) A cross-sectional household survey covering all 38 districts

C) An online survey targeting government employees

D) A longitudinal study focusing only on coastal districts

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Women and rural populations)
2	B (By MTM field workers at home)
3	B (More than 95% were on treatment)
4	A (Disease control was low)
5	B (State-wide survey in all 38 districts)





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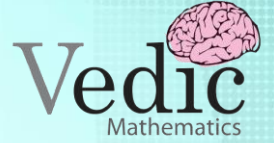
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Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Which institute recently developed a new scientific framework for predicting glacial hazards in the Eastern Himalayan region?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Roorkee
- C. IIT Guwahati
- D. IISc Bengaluru

1. C

In a major scientific breakthrough, centers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, have developed a new method for assessing glacier hazards in the eastern Himalayan region. The study identified hundreds of locations where glacier lakes could form in the future, raising concerns about flooding, ecosystem safety, and the ability of high-altitude areas to cope with climate change.

Q.2. Which state recently implemented the Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Gujarat

2. C

The state of Uttarakhand has taken another significant step toward reforming its civil law framework by strengthening the Uniform Civil

Code through new amendments. This initiative aims to make the law more practical, transparent, and citizen-friendly, while also strengthening equity and digital governance in civil matters across the state.

Q.3. Which state recently announced assistance of ₹1,250 crore under the Namo Laxmi Scheme?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

3. B

The Gujarat government has announced ₹1,250 crore in funding for over 1.2 million female students pursuing secondary and higher secondary education in the 2025-26 academic year under the Namo Laxmi Yojana. The scheme aims to ensure that girls do not drop out of school due to financial constraints. This scheme was launched by the Gujarat government.

Q.4. Which is the first state in India to recently declare Bacillus subtilis as its State Microbe?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha

4. C

Kerala has taken a unique and science-based step by officially recognizing a microorganism





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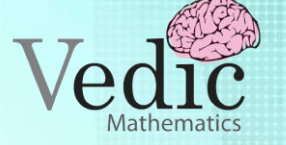
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as part of the state's identity. In the first initiative of its kind in India, the state government has highlighted the importance of microorganisms in everyday life, from human health to agriculture and environmental sustainability.

Q.5. Who will be the second youngest songwriter to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame?

- A. Billie Eilish
 - B. Adele
 - C. Taylor Swift
 - D. Olivia Rodrigo
5. C

American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift will become the second-youngest artist in history (36 years old) to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame's 2026 batch. She will be honored with the prestigious award on June 11 in New York. Stevie Wonder holds the record for the youngest inductee.

Q.6. Which agreement was recently signed with the India-EU Defence and Security Partnership?

- A. CEPA
- B. India-EU Free Trade Agreement
- C. Bilateral Investment Treaty
- D. Digital Trade Pact

6. B

India and the European Union (EU) have concluded their first major security and defense partnership as well as a landmark free trade agreement (FTA), which Prime Minister Modi called the "mother of all deals." This happened during the 16th India-EU Summit, which focused on maritime security, cyber threats, and technological cooperation.

Q.7. According to the Brand Finance Report 2026, what is the total brand value of the world's top 25 IT services brands?

- A. USD 152.4 billion
- B. USD 160.0 billion
- C. USD 167.2 billion
- D. USD 175.6 billion

7. C

According to the Brand Finance Report 2026, the total brand value of the world's top 25 IT services brands has reached USD 167.2 billion, up 2% from 2025. Accenture topped the list for the eighth consecutive year with a brand value of USD 42.3 billion.

Q.8. Which bank did SBI recently overtake to become the second most valuable bank?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Kotak Mahindra Bank

8. C





State Bank of India (SBI) overtook ICICI Bank to become India's second most valuable bank by market capitalization in January 2026. SBI regained its position after more than six years, thanks to a 31% increase in its stock price over the past six months, while ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank saw declines.

Q.9. With which organization did the RBI recently sign an MoU for cooperation related to Central Counterparties (CCPs)?

- A. World Bank
 - B. IMF
 - C. BIS
 - D. European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)
9. D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for cooperation and exchange of information related to Central Counterparties (CCPs). The agreement aims to provide formal recognition to Indian CCPs like CCIL under European Union (EU) rules and strengthen cross-border regulatory cooperation.

Q.10. According to a recent SEBI survey, what percentage of Indian households invest in the securities market?

- A. 7.2%
- B. 8.6%
- C. 9.5%

D. 11.3%

10. C

According to the SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) Investor Survey, only 9.5% (approximately 32.1 million) of India's approximately 337.2 million households invest in the securities market (stocks, mutual funds, etc.). This figure indicates that over 90% of Indian households are still excluded from direct stock market exposure.

Q.11. Which company recently launched the "Swabhimaan Retirement" plan?

- A. LIC
- B. HDFC Life
- C. Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- D. Max Life

11. C

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched the "Swabhimaan Retirement" plan. This is a non-linked, non-participating individual deferred annuity plan that provides guaranteed lifelong income after retirement. This plan allows customers to lock in their pension at current rates and increase their income every 5 years.

Q.12. With which company did Adani Defence & Aerospace recently partner for Regional Transport Aircraft?

- A. Boeing
- B. Airbus
- C. Embraer





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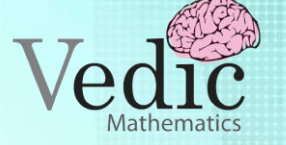
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D. Lockheed Martin

12. C

Adani Defence and Aerospace has entered into a strategic partnership with Brazilian aerospace company Embraer to develop a regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India. The agreement focuses on indigenous aircraft manufacturing, assembly, supply chain, and pilot training under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Q.13. When will the recently revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme be implemented?

A. April 1, 2026

B. June 1, 2026

C. July 1, 2026

D. October 1, 2026

13. C

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (2026) will come into effect from July 1, 2026. This new scheme will replace the existing scheme of 2021 and aims to facilitate faster and better resolution of customer complaints against banks, NBFCs and digital payments.

Q.14. Who recently partnered with Google Pay for collateral-free personal loans?

A. Bajaj Finance

B. SMFG India Credit

C. Tata Capital

D. Paytm

14. B

SMFG India Credit has partnered with Google Pay to offer personal loans without collateral to eligible users. This completely digital process will allow loan disbursements within minutes, all through the app, to increase financial inclusion.

Q.15. Who was recently appointed head coach of the Indian senior women's national football team?

A. Sunil Chhetri

B. Amelia Valverde

C. Maymol Rocky

D. Alex Ambrose

15. B

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Costa Rica's Amelia Valverde as the new head coach of the Indian senior women's national football team. Valverde, 39, previously coached Costa Rica from 2015-2023 and joined the team in Turkey in March to prepare for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup.





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We wish best for your studies & Exams

Best Wishes

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