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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 39th Surajkund Festival begins with theme Local to Global - Atmanirbhar Bharat



It is inspiring to see the 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela continue its legacy as a premier global stage for traditional artistry. The inauguration by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan highlights a significant push toward digitizing the artisan experience and integrating traditional crafts into the modern economy.

Here is a breakdown of the key highlights and initiatives mentioned: **Key Highlights of the 39th Surajkund Mela**

- **Technological Integration:** The launch of the **Mela Sathi App** aims to enhance the visitor experience and streamline connectivity for participants.
- **Cultural Renaissance:** A focus on placing traditional handicrafts at the center of India's national growth and identity.
- **Economic Vision:** Moving beyond simple "preservation" to building a **sustainable economy** by empowering local creators.



## Focus on PM Vishwakarma Yojana

The Vice President specifically noted the impact of the **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana**. This scheme is designed to provide a holistic ecosystem for "Vishwakarmas" (artisans and craftspeople).

Feature	Description
End-to-End Support	Covering everything from raw material procurement to marketing.
Skill Upgradation	Providing modern training while respecting traditional techniques.
Financial Inclusion	Offering collateral-free credit and digital transaction incentives.
Identity	Recognition through the PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID card.

## Why This Matters

The Surajkund Mela isn't just a fair; it's a diplomatic and economic bridge. By empowering artisans, the government is essentially protecting **intangible cultural heritage** while ensuring that "centuries-old knowledge" translates into modern-day livelihoods.

"Our artisans are the custodians of our history. Empowering them isn't just about charity; it's about building a strong, inclusive, and sustainable economy." — **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan**

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## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Who inaugurated the 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in 2026?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) C P Radhakrishnan
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Manohar Lal Khattar

**2. Where is the Surajkund International Crafts Mela held annually?**

- A) Gurugram, Haryana
- B) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Faridabad, Haryana
- D) Jaipur, Rajasthan

**3. Which mobile application was launched by the Vice President during the event to assist visitors and participants?**

- A) Mela Guide App
- B) Surajkund Connect
- C) Mela Sathi App
- D) Artisan Help App

**4. Which government initiative did the Vice President highlight for providing end-to-end support and skill development to artisans?**

- A) PM-Kisan Yojana
- B) PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana



- C) Digital India Mission  
D) Make in India Initiative

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) C P Radhakrishnan
2	C) Faridabad, Haryana
3	C) Mela Sathi App
4	B) PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Indian Railways Launches First LNG-Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU Train



This is a breakthrough for Indian Railways as they move toward "Net Zero" carbon emissions. The successful operationalization of the **LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU** at the Sabarmati Integrated Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad represents a clever engineering solution—retrofitting existing assets to achieve immediate environmental and economic gains.

Here is a detailed look at the impact of this milestone:

### Technical & Operational Profile

- The Modification:** Two 1,400 HP Driving Power Cars (DPCs) were retrofitted with 2,200-litre LNG tanks.
- Fuel Efficiency:** The dual-fuel system allows LNG to replace approximately 40% of diesel consumption.
- Performance:** Field trials covered over 2,000 km on the **Mehsana-Sabarmati** section, proving that the switch does not compromise the train's speed or reliability.
- Range:** A single full tank of LNG provides a range of approximately 222 km of daily operation.

### Economic & Environmental Benefits

The shift to LNG isn't just about being "green"—it's also about the bottom line.

Feature	Impact/Benefit
Cost Savings	Estimated annual savings of ₹11.9 lakh per DPC (approx. ₹23.9 lakh for a full 8-coach rake).
Emission Reduction	Significant decrease in \$CO_2\$, \$NO_x\$, and particulate matter.
Sustainability	Aligns with India's goal to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and lower the carbon footprint of non-electrified routes.



### What's Next for Indian Railways?

Following the success of these trials and approval from the **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**, the project is set to scale:

- **Expansion:** Plans are already underway to convert **8 to 10 more DEMU trains** to this dual-fuel mode.
- **Wider Vision:** This sits alongside other "Green Rail" initiatives, including solar-powered stations and the development of hydrogen-fueled trains.

"This is a unique initiative... it will reduce costs and increase effectiveness while maintaining the same level of performance." — **Ved Prakash, DRM Ahmedabad**

- A) 10 per cent
- B) 25 per cent
- C) 40 per cent
- D) 60 per cent

**3. Which specific part of the DEMU train was modified to accommodate the dual-fuel system?**

- A) The passenger coaches
- B) The driving power cars
- C) The overhead pantographs
- D) The braking system reservoirs

**4. What is the horsepower rating of the DEMU train used for this conversion project?**

- A) 700 HP
- B) 1,000 HP
- C) 1,400 HP
- D) 2,000 HP

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. What is the primary objective of operationalising the LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train?**

- A) To increase the maximum speed of suburban trains
- B) To reduce emissions and fuel costs in rail operations
- C) To phase out electric locomotives entirely
- D) To test new passenger amenities in 1,400 HP trains

**2. In the dual-fuel system, approximately what percentage of diesel is substituted by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)?**

**5. According to Divisional Railway Manager Ved Prakash, how many kilometres did the converted power cars cover during their successful field trials?**

- A) More than 500 kilometres
- B) More than 1,000 kilometres
- C) More than 1,500 kilometres
- D) More than 2,000 kilometres







## Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (To reduce emissions and fuel costs)
2	C (40 per cent)
3	B (The driving power cars)
4	C (1,400 HP)
5	D (More than 2,000 kilometres)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**NASA postpones launch of Artemis II mission due to unfavourable weather conditions in Florida**



The 2026 Arctic outbreak in Florida has certainly thrown a curveball at NASA's schedule, but it highlights the extreme caution required when dealing with the **Space Launch System (SLS)** and its liquid hydrogen fuel.

The postponement of the **Artemis II** mission is a calculated move to ensure that the hardware—which uses technology similar to that of the

Space Shuttle—isn't compromised by near-freezing temperatures.

### Updated Artemis II Timeline

- February 2 (Completed):** NASA conducted the **Wet Dress Rehearsal (WDR)**. Despite a small hydrogen leak at the tail service mast, engineers deemed it within limits and successfully filled the rocket with 700,000 gallons of cryogenic propellant.
- February 3 (Today):** NASA is holding a **news conference at 12:00 PM ET** to discuss the initial results of the WDR and confirm if the hardware is ready.
- February 8:** The **earliest possible launch date**. If this window is missed, other opportunities in the current cycle exist on February 10 and 11.

### Mission Profile: Journey Around the Moon

Artemis II is the first time in over 50 years that humans will venture into deep space. The crew includes Commander **Reid Wiseman**, Pilot **Victor Glover**, Mission Specialist **Christina Koch**, and CSA Mission Specialist **Jeremy Hansen**.

Phase	Description
Spacecraft	Orion (named <i>Integrity</i> by the crew).
Duration	A <b>10-day</b> high-stakes test flight.
Trajectory	A "free-return trajectory" that uses the Moon's gravity to slingshot the capsule back to Earth.
Max Distance	The crew will travel farther from Earth than any humans in history.





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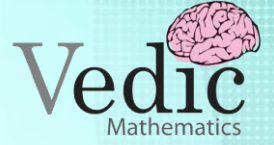
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Phase	Description
The Goal	Testing life-support, communications, and the <b>European Service Module (ESM)</b> .

### Why No Lunar Landing?

It is a common misconception that every Moon mission involves a landing. Artemis II is strictly a **crewed flight test**. Its job is to prove that the Orion capsule can safely sustain life in deep space before **Artemis III** attempts to put boots back on the lunar surface (currently targeted for 2028).

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

#### 1. What is the primary reason NASA postponed the launch of the Artemis II mission?

- A) Technical failure in the Orion spacecraft's heat shield
- B) Unfavourable weather conditions, including cold and strong winds
- C) A scheduling conflict with a mission to Mars
- D) Insufficient fuel supply for the SLS rocket

#### 2. Following the postponement, what is now the earliest possible launch date for Artemis II?

- A) February 2
- B) February 6
- C) February 8
- D) March 1

#### 3. What critical pre-launch procedure is scheduled to take place on February 2?

- A) Lunar orbital insertion
- B) Wet dress rehearsal
- C) Crew quarantine graduation
- D) Trans-lunar injection burn

#### 4. Which of the following best describes the core objective of the Artemis II mission?

- A) To establish the first permanent base on the lunar south pole
- B) To conduct a 10-day crewed journey around the Moon and back
- C) To land four astronauts on the Moon for a 48-hour stay
- D) To deploy a new satellite network around the Moon's far side

#### 5. Which spacecraft will the four astronauts be testing during this deep-space exploration mission?

- A) Apollo 11
- B) Dragon 2
- C) Orion
- D) Starship

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Unfavourable weather/Arctic outbreak)



Question	Answer
2	C (February 8)
3	B (Wet dress rehearsal)
4	B (Crewed journey around the Moon; no landing)
5	C (Orion)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### US Approves \$3.8 Billion Apache Helicopter Sale to Israel



This major arms deal, approved by the U.S. State Department on **January 30, 2026**, underscores a strategic decision to modernize Israel's aerial capabilities during a period of complex regional transitions.

The sale is part of a broader **\$6.67 billion** security package for Israel, announced simultaneously with a **\$9 billion** Patriot missile sale to Saudi Arabia.

#### The Apache AH-64E "Guardian" Sale

The core of this agreement is the transition of the Israel Air Force (IAF) from legacy models to

the most advanced attack helicopter in the U.S. inventory.

Component	Details
Quantity	30 AH-64E Apache Guardian helicopters.
Engines	70 T700-GE-701D engines (60 installed, 10 spares).
Technology	Longbow Fire Control Radars and Modernized Night Vision Sensors (M-TADS/PNVS).
Cost	Approximately <b>\$3.8 billion</b> .
Primary Contractors	Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

#### Broader Package Details

Beyond the helicopters, the U.S. cleared three other significant contracts for Israel:

- **Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV):** 3,250 vehicles worth **\$1.98 billion** to enhance ground force mobility.
- **Armored Personnel Carrier Power Packs:** **\$740 million** for Namer APC engines and logistics.
- **Light Utility Helicopters:** **\$150 million** for a small fleet of unlisted utility aircraft.

#### Strategic Context

This approval is particularly notable for two reasons:

1. **The Gaza Ceasefire:** The sale comes amid a "fragile ceasefire" (reached in late 2025) and despite significant pressure from human



rights organizations and certain U.S. lawmakers to halt arms transfers.

2. **Modernization Lessons:** Israeli defense officials cited "lessons learned" from recent conflicts, emphasizing that the AH-64E's ability to **control multiple drones** from the cockpit and its improved networking with ground forces were critical requirements for future operations.

"It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability." — **U.S. State Department Statement**



B) \$2.1 billion

C) \$3.8 billion

D) \$6.7 billion

**3. The Apache helicopter sale is part of a larger weapons package for Israel. What is the total estimated value of that entire package?**

A) \$3.8 billion

B) \$5.5 billion

C) \$6.7 billion

D) \$15.6 billion

**4. In addition to the helicopters, the broader defense package includes \$1.8 billion (or nearly \$2 billion) for which type of equipment?**

A) Iron Dome interceptor missiles

B) Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV)

C) Naval patrol vessels

D) Cyber defense infrastructure

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. The United States recently cleared a major arms sale to Israel involving which type of aircraft?**

A) F-35 Stealth Fighters

B) Apache Attack Helicopters

C) Black Hawk Utility Helicopters

D) Predator Drones

**2. What is the approximate value of the specific deal for the 30 attack helicopters and their related equipment?**

A) \$1.5 billion

**5. According to the U.S. State Department, what is the primary strategic rationale for this arms transfer?**

A) To replace Israel's entire existing air force fleet

B) To assist Israel in developing a strong self-defense capability and deterrence

C) To facilitate the immediate expansion of ground operations

D) To test new laser-guided technology in active zones





## Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	<b>B</b> (Apache Attack Helicopters)
2	<b>C</b> (\$3.8 billion)
3	<b>C</b> (\$6.7 billion)
4	<b>B</b> (Joint Light Tactical Vehicles)
5	<b>B</b> (Self-defense capability and deterrence)

## SPORTS

### India's Devika Sihag to take on Huang Yu Hsun of Chinese Taipei in semi-finals of Thailand Masters 2026



That "afternoon" match turned out to be a career-defining moment for the young Indian shuttler. **Devika Sihag** not only won that semi-final but went on to secure the entire championship, marking a historic start to 2026 for Indian badminton.

### Semi-Final Result: Devika Sihag vs. Huang Yu-Hsun

Devika pulled off a "phoenix-like" comeback in her semi-final match against the fifth-seeded **Huang Yu-Hsun** (World No. 35) on Saturday, January 31.

- **The Score:** 22-20, 21-13.
- **The Comeback:** In the first game, Devika was trailing **15-20**. She remarkably saved **five game points** in a row, scoring seven consecutive points to snatch the game 22-20.
- **Momentum:** She dominated the second game from the start, leading 11-5 at the break and never looking back.

### The Final: A Historic Title

Following her semi-final victory, Devika faced Malaysia's **Goh Jin Wei** in the final on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Achievement	Detail
Final Result	Devika was leading <b>21-8, 6-3</b> when Goh Jin Wei retired due to a hamstring injury.
Historic Context	She became only the <b>third Indian woman</b> to win a BWF Super 300 title, joining the elite company of Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu.
Ranking Impact	Entering the tournament ranked <b>World No. 63</b> , this maiden Super 300 title will significantly boost her standing on the BWF World Tour.
Giant Killing	En route to the title, she defeated the World No. 16 (Katethong) and World





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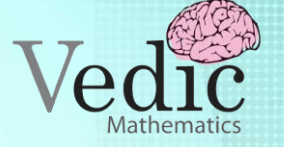
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Achievement	Detail
	No. 35 (Huang) without dropping a single game in the entire tournament.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Who is Devika Sihag scheduled to face in the semi-finals of the Thailand Masters 2026?**

- A) Supanida Katethong
- B) An Se-young
- C) Huang Yu Hsun
- D) Ratchanok Intanon

**2. Which seed does Huang Yu Hsun hold in the women's singles category of the tournament?**

- A) First seed
- B) Third seed
- C) Fifth seed
- D) Eighth seed

**3. Devika Sihag secured her semi-final spot by defeating which world-ranked player in the quarterfinals?**

- A) World No. 5
- B) World No. 16
- C) World No. 25
- D) World No. 40

**4. In which city and stadium is the Thailand Masters 2026 taking place?**

- A) Bangkok, Nimibutr Stadium
- B) Phuket, Indoor Stadium Huamark
- C) Nonthaburi, Impact Arena
- D) Chiang Mai, 700th Anniversary Stadium

**5. Which country does Devika Sihag's semi-final opponent, Huang Yu Hsun, represent?**

- A) Thailand
- B) South Korea
- C) Chinese Taipei
- D) Japan

## Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C (Huang Yu Hsun)
2	C (Fifth seed)
3	B (World No. 16, Supanida Katethong)
4	A (Bangkok, Nimibutr Stadium)
5	C (Chinese Taipei)





## BANKING/ECONOMY

### Economic Survey Flags Shift in India's Pharma and Medical Devices Sector



The **Economic Survey 2025-26**, tabled in Parliament on January 29, 2026, paints a picture of an industry at a crossroads. While India remains the "Pharmacy of the World" in terms of sheer output, the Survey argues that long-term leadership now depends on "**strategic indispensability**" rather than just being the low-cost provider.

Here is the strategic breakdown of this structural transformation:

#### Pharmaceuticals: From Volume to Value

The Survey highlights a glaring "value-volume gap." While India is a giant in production, it still has significant ground to cover in terms of global revenue share.

- **The Stats:** India is the **3rd largest by volume** (meeting 20% of global generic demand) but ranks **11th by value**, holding only a **3% share** of the global market.

- **The Shift:** To bridge this gap, the industry is moving toward **complex generics, biosimilars, and patented innovation**.
- **Self-Reliance:** The **PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs** has mobilized ₹4,763 crore (as of Sept 2025), creating a capacity of 55,000 tonnes per year for 26 critical products to reduce dependence on imported raw materials (APIs).

#### Medical Devices: The New High-Tech Hub

The medical devices sector is described as a "rising star," transitioning from basic consumables to sophisticated, life-saving technology.

- **High-End Manufacturing:** Indian firms are now producing advanced equipment like **MRI scanners, CT scanners, linear accelerators, and cardiac stents**.
- **Export Surge:** Medical device exports grew from \$2.5 billion in FY21 to \$4.1 billion in FY25, reaching 187 countries.
- **Innovation Levers:** The Survey advocates for the wider adoption of **AI and 3D printing** in manufacturing to compete with global giants.

#### Key Policy Enablers

The Survey credits several government "**anchors**" for this transformation:

Initiative	Purpose	Status/Impact
PLI Schemes	Attract large-scale investment.	Attracted over <b>₹2.0 lakh crore</b> across 14 sectors.



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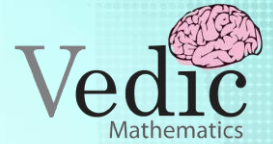
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Initiative	Purpose	Status/Impact
Bulk Drug Parks	Common infrastructure.	3 Mega Parks being developed in Gujarat, Himachal, and Andhra Pradesh.
RPTUAS	Quality Upgradation.	255 applications approved to help MSMEs meet global standards.
SMDI Scheme	Medical Device support.	Launched Nov 2024 with ₹500 crore for clinical studies and capacity building.

A) A shift from value-driven expansion to volume-led growth

B) A shift from volume-led growth to value-driven expansion

C) A total transition from private to public sector manufacturing

D) A reduction in exports to focus solely on domestic demand

**2. Which of the following is emphasized by the Survey as a key focus area for India to move up the global healthcare value chain?**

A) Production of simple generic medications only

B) Innovation, complex products, and advanced manufacturing

C) Reducing the number of medical device manufacturing units

D) Decentralizing pharmaceutical research labs

**3. In the context of the medical devices industry, "moving up the value chain" implies a focus on which of the following?**

A) Increasing the quantity of basic consumables like bandages

B) Transitioning to high-tech, innovative, and complex medical equipment

C) Importing all high-end components for assembly

D) Limiting exports to neighboring countries only

## The Road Ahead: Challenges

Despite the optimism, the Survey flags a few critical "to-do" items:

- Reducing Import Dependency:** Especially for high-end medical electronic components.
- Streamlining Certification:** Aligning Indian standards more closely with global regulatory bodies to ease exports.
- R&D Investment:** Encouraging the private sector to move away from "imitation" toward "innovation."

"The next phase of global manufacturing will be shaped less by simple cost arbitrage and more by strategic indispensability." — **Economic Survey 2025-26**

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, what is the primary "structural transformation" occurring in India's pharmaceutical industry?**







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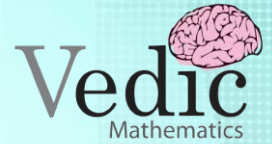
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**4. The Survey highlights a shift toward "advanced manufacturing." What does this typically involve in the pharmaceutical context?**

- A) Manual packaging of bulk drugs
- B) Traditional assembly-line processing
- C) Use of cutting-edge technology and automated, precision-based systems
- D) Focusing exclusively on traditional medicine (Ayurveda)

**5. What is the broader national goal mentioned in the Survey regarding the healthcare industry?**

- A) To become the world's largest importer of medical devices
- B) To reduce the number of pharmacies in rural areas
- C) To align with national clean energy goals through green pharma
- D) To enhance India's position and influence in the global healthcare value chain

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Volume-led growth to value-driven expansion)
2	B (Innovation, complex products, and advanced manufacturing)
3	B (High-tech and complex medical equipment)
4	C (Cutting-edge technology and precision systems)

Question	Answer
5	D (Move up the global healthcare value chain)

## STATE NEWS

### Republic Day awards of Tamil Nadu 2026



The **Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026** ceremony, held during the 77th Republic Day celebrations in Chennai, served as a somber yet proud reminder of selfless courage. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented these awards to individuals who risked—and in one case, gave—their lives to protect others.

### Posthumous Honor: Peter Johnson

The story of Peter Johnson is one of ultimate sacrifice. On June 1, 2025, Johnson was at a check dam across the **Thamirabharani River** in Kuzhithurai (Kanniyakumari district).

- **The Act:** He spotted two youngsters, Mano (17) and Akhilesh (12), being swept away by a sudden, strong current.



- **The Result:** Johnson successfully guided both boys to the safety of the riverbank. However, exhausted by the effort and caught in the heavy stream, he was unable to save himself and tragically drowned.
- **The Award:** His wife, **A. Jessie**, received the medal and citation on his behalf.

### Fire and Rescue Services Heroes

The other three medals were awarded to a team of brave firefighters from the **Coonoor fire station** who executed a high-stakes rescue in May 2025.

Name	Role	The Rescue Act
V. Sankar	Fireman Driver	Rescued three tourists from Kerala whose car was trapped in a raging flash flood on the <b>Pandiyar River</b> (Dharmagiri region).
S. Rameshkumar	Fireman	Tied ropes around their waists and jumped into the swirling waters to reach the half-submerged vehicle.
P. Suresh	Fireman	Worked in tandem to pull all three occupants to safety one by one as water levels continued to rise.

### Award Details

The Anna Medal for Gallantry is one of the highest state-level honors for bravery in Tamil Nadu. Each awardee (or their family) received:

- A **gold-coated medal** worth approximately ₹9,000.
- A cash prize of **₹1 lakh**.

- A formal **citation** signed by the government.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Who was posthumously awarded the Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026?**

- A) V. Sankar
- B) Peter Johnson
- C) S. Rameshkumar
- D) P. Suresh

**2. Peter Johnson received the gallantry award for which heroic act?**

- A) Saving passengers from a train accident
- B) Rescuing two youngsters from drowning in the Thamirabharani river
- C) Extinguishing a major fire in a chemical factory
- D) Leading a mountain rescue operation during a landslide

**3. How many personnel from the Fire and Rescue Services department were honored with the Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026?**

- A) Two
- B) Three





C) Four

D) Five

**4. Which river was the site of the rescue attempt that led to the posthumous honor for Peter Johnson?**

A) Cauvery

B) Vaigai

C) Thamirabharani

D) Palar

**5. Which of the following individuals was recognized as a "fireman driver" among the 2026 awardees?**

A) P. Suresh

B) V. Sankar

C) S. Rameshkumar

D) Peter Johnson

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Peter Johnson)
2	B (Saving youngsters from drowning)
3	B (Three: V Sankar, S Rameshkumar, and P Suresh)
4	C (Thamirabharani)

Question	Answer
5	B (V. Sankar)

### Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

**Q.1. Who recently became the first female officer in the Indian Army to qualify to fly the Rudra Armed Helicopter?**

A. Nidhi Yadav

B. Nisha Verma

C. Hansja Sharma

D. Shivani Jha

1. C

Captain Hansja Sharma has become the first woman officer in the Indian Army to qualify to fly the Rudra armored helicopter. Captain Hansja Sharma, a 27-year-old from Jammu, achieved this historic feat from the Combat Army Aviation Training School (CAATS) in Nashik and also won the Silver Cheetah Trophy.

**Q.2. From which date will the SWM Rules, 2026, come into effect?**

A. 1 January 2026

B. 26 January 2026

C. 1 April 2026

D. 2 October 2026

2. C





The government has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, which will come into effect from April 1. These rules provide for four-level waste segregation, strengthening extended producer responsibility, implementing the principle of polluter pays, and promoting urban waste management based on a circular economy.

**Q.3. Who recently implemented the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework in India?**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. National Biodiversity Authority
- C. MoEFCC
- D. Wildlife Institute of India

3. B

The main body implementing the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework in India is the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). This Chennai-based legal body (established in 2003) ensures the sustainable use of biological resources and fair benefit sharing with local communities under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

**Q.4. Who recently won the Men's Hockey India League 2026 title?**

- A. Ranchi Royals
- B. Hyderabad Toofans
- C. Delhi Dragons
- D. Kalinga Lancers

4. D

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers won the Men's Hockey India League 2025-26 (HIL 2026) title after defeating Ranchi Royals 3-2 in a thrilling final at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. It was the Lancers' second historic win, with Belgian Alexander Hendrickx scoring two goals.

**Q.5. Who recently dedicated the new Aadhaar app to the nation?**

- A. Ashwini Vaishnav
- B. Jitin Prasada
- C. Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- D. Dharmendra Pradhan

5. B

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada, dedicated the new Aadhaar App to the nation. This marks a significant milestone in identity verification in a people-centric manner. The Aadhaar App, developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is a next-generation mobile application designed to provide Aadhaar number holders (ANHs) a secure, easy, and privacy-first way to store, share, display, and verify their digital identity.

**Q.6. Recently, the third International Conference on Insolvency was organized by the IBBI in collaboration with which organization?**

- A. ICAI
- B. ASSOCHAM
- C. INSOL India







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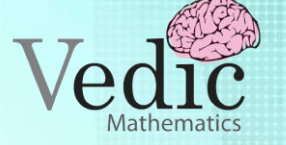
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#### D. CLI

6. C

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), in collaboration with INSOL India, organised its third International Conclave 2026 in New Delhi. The conference focused on 'A Decade of IBC and Future Reforms', where policymakers and experts discussed the direction of bankruptcy resolution.

**Q.7. In which city was the third meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council recently held?**

- A. Kochi
- B. Kandla
- C. Delhi
- D. Patna

7. A

The third meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) was held in Kochi, Kerala. Chaired by Union Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the meeting announced projects worth over ₹1,500 crore aimed at promoting cargo and passenger transport through rivers in the country.

**Q.8. Which state recently ranked first in the implementation of the PESA Act?**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Maharashtra

#### D. Himachal Pradesh

8. C

Maharashtra ranked first in the PESA State Rankings 2024-25, followed by Madhya Pradesh in second and Himachal Pradesh in third. These rankings are based on implementation of the PESA Act and strengthening gram sabhas and panchayats in scheduled areas, which promote local self-governance.

**Q.9. In which state was the Chief Minister's Eti Koli Duti Pat Scheme recently launched for tea plantation workers?**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Assam
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bihar

9. B

The Assam government has launched the "Eti Koli Duti Pat" scheme for tea garden workers. The scheme aims to provide a one-time financial assistance of ₹5,000 to all temporary and permanent tea garden workers (excluding management) to celebrate the 200th year of Assam Tea.

**Q.10. In which city was the 7th India International Seaweed Expo and Summit recently held?**

- A. Kochi
- B. Bhopal
- C. Patna





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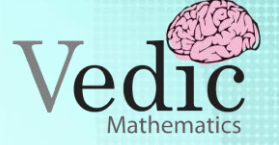
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#### D. Hyderabad

10. A

The 7th India International Seaweed Expo and Summit took place at the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi, Kerala. Its focus was on sustainable development, industrial growth, and the potential of the seaweed sector. The event was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and jointly organized by CMFRI and CSIR–Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute.

**Q.11. How many seconds before midnight was the Doomsday Clock 2026 recently set?**

- A. 90 seconds
- B. 100 seconds
- C. 85 seconds
- D. 120 seconds

11. C

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has set the Doomsday Clock's hands to 85 seconds before midnight, the closest they estimate to a worldwide catastrophe. The announcement, made in Washington, D.C., reflects a deteriorating security environment due to the breakdown of nuclear rules, escalating conflicts in Europe and Asia, climate and biological threats, and a deteriorating international order.

**Q.12. The recent Jalaj Livelihood Centers initiative was jointly implemented by the**

**Namami Gange Mission and which organization?**

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Wildlife Institute of India
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. National Biodiversity Authority

12. B

Recently, the Union Minister for Jal Shakti inaugurated 25 JALAJ Livelihood Centers. JALAJ is a joint initiative of the Namami Gange Mission and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). It aims to link the conservation of the Ganga River with sustainable livelihoods in the Ganga River Basin. The initiative follows a circular economy model by training local people in eco-friendly livelihood practices. It promotes community ownership of conservation, with a special focus on women's participation. JALAJ creates a symbiotic relationship between rivers and local communities.

**Q.13. The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) recently sailed from which Indonesian port?**

- A. Jakarta
- B. Surabaya
- C. Belawan
- D. Bali

13. C

The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi, departed from Belawan







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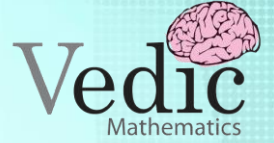
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(Belawan) Port in Indonesia. The visit was aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and in line with India's 'Act East Policy'.

**Q.14. Which institute recently identified 492 potential glacial lake sites in the Eastern Himalayas?**

- A. IIT Roorkee
- B. IIT Guwahati
- C. Wadia Institute
- D. ISRO

14. B

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have identified 492 potential glacial lake sites in the eastern Himalayas. The study, published in Nature Scientific Reports, aims to reduce the risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and improve early warning systems.

**Q.15. The Sea of Japan, which was recently in the news, is a marginal sea of which ocean?**

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Atlantic Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. Indian Ocean

15. A

Recently, North Korea fired a ballistic missile toward the Sea of Japan, raising security concerns in the region. The Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, is a small sea in the western Pacific Ocean. It lies between Japan and Sakhalin Island on the east and Russia, North

Korea, and South Korea on the west. It connects to the East China Sea via the Tsushima Strait and the Korea Strait. To the north, it connects to the Sea of Okhotsk via the La Perouse Strait and the Tatar Strait.

## FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

This solemn anniversary remains a defining moment in Indian history, marking the end of the life of the "Father of the Nation." Every year, January 30 is observed as **Martyrs' Day (Sarvodaya Diwas)** to honor his memory and the sacrifices of all those who laid down their lives for the country.

Here are some additional details surrounding that day and the legacy of the Birla House:

### The Final Moments at Birla House

The assassination took place during the evening prayer meeting (Prarthana Sabha). As Gandhi walked toward the prayer ground, supported by his grand-nieces Abha and Manu (often called his "walking sticks"), Godse emerged from the crowd.

- **The Date:** January 30, 1948, at approximately 5:17 PM.
- **The Weapon:** A Beretta M1934 semi-automatic pistol.
- **The Final Words:** While there is historical debate, it is widely accepted and popularized that his final words were "Hey Ram" (Oh God).



## From Birla House to Gandhi Smriti

The site of the assassination, formerly the residence of industrialist G.D. Birla, was converted into a national memorial.

- **Nationalization:** The Government of India acquired the property in 1971 and opened it to the public in 1973.
- **The Martyr's Column:** A simple, elegant column now stands at the exact spot where Gandhi was shot.
- **The "Last Steps":** The path Gandhi took from the house to the prayer ground is preserved with stone footprints, allowing visitors to follow his final journey.

## The Trial and Aftermath

The trial was held at **Peterhoff, Shimla** (which then served as the High Court of Punjab).

Figure	Role	Outcome
Nathuram Godse	Primary Assassin	Sentenced to death; executed on Nov 15, 1949.
Narayan Apte	Co-conspirator	Sentenced to death; executed on Nov 15, 1949.
Justice Atma Charan	Presiding Judge	Delivered the final verdict in the Red Fort trials.

## Global Impact

The news of his death sparked a global outpouring of grief. **Albert Einstein**, who famously corresponded with Gandhi, remarked:

"Generations to come, it may be, will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. On which date was Mahatma Gandhi assassinated?**

- A) 15 August 1947
- B) 26 January 1950
- C) 30 January 1948
- D) 2 October 1948

**2. Where did the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi take place?**

- A) Raj Ghat
- B) Birla House (New Delhi)
- C) Sabarmati Ashram
- D) Aga Khan Palace

**3. What was Mahatma Gandhi preparing to do at the moment he was approached by his assassin?**

- A) Deliver a speech to the Parliament
- B) Board a train to Pakistan
- C) Attend a prayer meeting
- D) Sign a peace treaty

**4. Who was the individual responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi?**





- A) Sardar Patel  
B) Bhagat Singh  
C) Nathuram Godse  
D) Udham Singh

**5. How many times was Mahatma Gandhi shot during the incident?**

- A) Once  
B) Twice  
C) Three times  
D) Four times

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C (30 January 1948)
2	B (Birla House)
3	C (Attend a prayer meeting)
4	C (Nathuram Godse)
5	C (Three times)

### Dear Aspirants,

"We trust that this current affairs preparation will be beneficial for your upcoming examination. Consistent daily study of current affairs is highly recommended. Should you have any suggestions for improvement or feedback regarding the class, please feel free to communicate them. Your ideas are valuable, and we welcome your assistance in helping us to provide enhanced support in the future."

**We wish best for your studies & Exams**

### Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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