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NATIONAL NEWS

Health Ministry gets ₹1.06 lakh crore allocation in Union Budget 2026



The Union Budget 2026-27 represents a landmark moment for India's healthcare sector, with the allocation crossing the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the first time. The ₹1,06,530.42 crore outlay for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) signals a shift from purely reactive healthcare to a strategic, innovation-led ecosystem.

Financial Blueprint: Breaking Records

The budget reflects a robust 10% increase from the previous year's revised estimates and a staggering 194% cumulative growth since FY 2014-15.

Department / Scheme	Allocation (₹ Cr)	Significance
MoHFW (Total)	₹1,06,530.42	Landmark 10% YoY increase.
National Health Mission (NHM)	₹39,390	Focus on primary care and maternal health.

Department / Scheme	Allocation (₹ Cr)	Significance
PM-ABHIM	₹4,770	67.6% surge for health infrastructure.
AB PM-JAY	₹9,500	Strengthening the world's largest insurance scheme.
Health Research (DHR)	₹4,821	24% boost for clinical research and ICMR.

- **AIIMS Expansion:** Dedicated funding for operationalizing new AIIMS and upgrading state medical colleges.
- **Regional Medical Hubs:** A new scheme to support states in setting up **five regional medical hubs** in partnership with the private sector, aimed at boosting "Medical Value Tourism."
- **Trauma Care:** A 50% expansion in emergency and trauma care capacity at district hospitals.

Strategic Pillars of Reform

1. Biopharma SHAKTI: A New Industrial Era

The standout announcement is the "Biopharma SHAKTI" initiative, with an outlay of **₹10,000 crore** over five years.

- **Goal:** Transform India into a global hub for biologics and biosimilars.
- **Infrastructure:** Establishment of **3 new NIPERs** (National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research) and upgrading 7 existing ones.
- **Clinical Trials:** Creating a network of **1,000 accredited clinical trial sites** to make India a preferred global destination for R&D.

2. Infrastructure & Tertiary Care

The government is doubling down on "super-specialty" access through the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**, allocated **₹11,307 crore**.

3. Mental Health & Specialized Care

- **NIMHANS 2.0:** Recognizing the gap in North India, a second national-level mental health institute (NIMHANS 2.0) will be established.
- **Ayurveda Push:** Three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda are planned to meet the global surge in demand for traditional medicine.

4. Direct Relief for Patients

To tackle out-of-pocket expenditure, the Finance Minister announced:

- **Customs Duty Waivers:** Full exemption on **17 life-saving cancer drugs**.
- **Rare Diseases:** Seven more rare diseases added to the list of duty-free drug imports.

Digital & Workforce Evolution

The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** received **₹350 crore** to continue building the digital spine of Indian healthcare—interoperable records and tele-medicine. Furthermore, the budget addresses the "human" side of health by aiming to train **1 lakh**

allied health professionals and 1.5 lakh caregivers over the next year, focusing on geriatric and wellness care.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the total record allocation for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Union Budget 2026-27?

- A) ₹96,845.20 crore
- B) ₹1,06,530.42 crore
- C) ₹1,12,400.00 crore
- D) ₹85,000.00 crore

2. Compared to the revised estimates of FY 2025-26, what is the approximate percentage growth in the healthcare budget for FY 2026-27?

- A) 5%
- B) 10%
- C) 15%
- D) 20%

3. Since FY 2014-15, the Indian health budget has seen a cumulative increase of over ____ percent.

- A) 100%
- B) 150%
- C) 176%
- D) 210%

4. Which of the following best describes the government's signaled commitment through the 2026-27 healthcare allocation?

- A) Short-term relief for urban hospitals
- B) Transitioning entirely to private healthcare
- C) Long-term commitment to affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare
- D) Reduction in digital health spending to favor traditional medicine

Answer Key & Explanations

Question	Answer	Explanation
1	B	The text explicitly states a record ₹1,06,530.42 crore allocation.
2	B	The budget reflects a nearly 10% growth over the previous year's revised estimates.
3	C	Over the past 12 years (since 2014-15), the budget has grown by a massive 176%.
4	C	The budget's focus spans hospitals, research, drugs, and digital health to ensure quality and accessibility.

NATIONAL NEWS

State becomes India's renewable energy powerhouse with 16.5% share

Gujarat has firmly established itself as India's renewable energy (RE) powerhouse. As of **early 2026**, the state leads the nation with a cumulative installed capacity of **42.583 GW**,

contributing a significant **16.5%** to India's total green energy basket.



This leadership is not accidental; it is the result of aggressive land allocation, a robust "plug-and-play" infrastructure for developers, and the pioneering **Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy 2025**.

The Numbers Behind the Leadership

Gujarat's energy portfolio is a balanced mix of wind, solar, and hybrid projects, allowing it to maintain grid stability while scaling up rapidly.

Category	Capacity / Stat	National Rank
Total RE Capacity	42.583 GW	1st
Wind Power	14,820.94 MW	1st
Solar Power	25,529.40 MW	2nd
Rooftop Solar	6,412.80 MW (11 Lakh+ homes)	1st

Strategic Growth Drivers

1. Mega Projects: Khavda RE Park

The **Khavda Renewable Energy Park** in Kutch is the crown jewel of India's green transition.

- **Planned Capacity:** 37.35 GW (The world's largest).
- **Current Status:** Already achieved **11.33 GW** of commissioned capacity.
- **Impact:** Once fully operational, it alone will significantly bridge the gap toward India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel goal by 2030.

2. Rooftop Solar Revolution

Gujarat accounts for **over 25% of India's total rooftop solar capacity**.

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:** Gujarat has been a primary beneficiary of this central scheme, with over **1.1 million** residential installations.
- **Economic Impact:** This decentralization has empowered households to become "prosumers," reducing state-wide peak demand and lowering consumer bills.

3. Integrated Policy Framework (2025-2030)

The state recently launched the **Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy 2025**, which aims for **100 GW of capacity by 2030**.

- **Hybrid Focus:** Incentivizing wind-solar hybrid projects to optimize land use.
- **Green Hydrogen:** Setting the stage for Gujarat to become a global hub for green hydrogen production, utilizing its vast coastline.
- **Battery Storage (BESS):** Recognizing intermittency issues, the state is now



mandating and incentivizing large-scale battery storage.

National and Global Alignment

Gujarat's trajectory is the backbone of India's **Net-Zero 2070** commitment. By generating an estimated **2.37 lakh jobs** in the RE sector, the state is proving that the green transition is as much an economic engine as it is an environmental necessity.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is Gujarat's total installed renewable energy capacity, making it the top-ranking state in India?

- A) 25.142 GW
- B) 35.800 GW
- C) 42.583 GW
- D) 50.120 GW

2. What percentage of India's total renewable energy capacity does Gujarat contribute?

- A) 10.5%
- B) 16.5%
- C) 22.0%
- D) 25.5%

3. In which specific renewable energy category does Gujarat hold the first rank in India?

- A) Solar Power

B) Hydroelectric Power

C) Biomass Energy

D) Wind Power

4. According to the data, what is Gujarat's national ranking in solar power installations?

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a driver of Gujarat's green transformation?

- A) Large solar parks
- B) Rapid rooftop solar adoption
- C) Strong policy support
- D) High subsidies for coal mining

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	C) 42.583 GW
2	B) 16.5%
3	D) Wind Power
4	B) Second
5	D) High subsidies for coal mining



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Taiwan's First Domestically Built Submarine Completes Maiden Underwater Trial



Taiwan has achieved a significant breakthrough in its quest for maritime self-reliance. On **January 29, 2026**, the island's first domestically built submarine, the **Narwhal** (also known as *Hai Kun*), successfully completed its maiden **shallow-water submerged navigation test** off the coast of Kaohsiung.

This milestone is a cornerstone of Taiwan's "asymmetric warfare" strategy, designed to counter a much larger naval force by strengthening undersea deterrence.

Technical and Strategic Profile: The Narwhal (SS-711)

The *Narwhal* is the prototype of a planned eight-vessel fleet. It represents a massive leap in local engineering, supported by critical technology from the U.S. and the UK.

Feature	Specification / Detail
Class & Type	Diesel-electric attack submarine

Feature	Specification / Detail
Displacement	Approximately 2,500 tonnes
Length	~70 meters
Weaponry	U.S.-made Mark 48 heavyweight torpedoes
Combat System	Provided by Lockheed Martin
Design	Improved <i>Hai Lung</i> -class with X-form rudders for better shallow-water agility
Total Cost	~ ₹13,000 crore (T\$49.36 billion)

Roadmap to a Sovereign Fleet

The successful dive trial triggers a critical phase for Taiwan's navy and its primary contractor, **CSBC Corporation**.

- **Three-Cycle Testing:** The *Narwhal* will now undergo three distinct underwater phases: periscope depth trials, shallow-water maneuvers, and finally, **deep-sea trials** (exceeding 200 meters).
- **Delivery Timeline:** While originally slated for late 2025, the formal handover to the Navy is now targeted for **June 2026**.
- **The 2-3-2 Strategy:** To manage costs and technical learning, the remaining seven submarines will be built in batches (two, then three, then two). Taiwan aims to have at least **two indigenous submarines** operational by 2027.
- **Rescue Capability:** Following the dive success, the Ministry of National Defense announced a **₹3,400 crore** (NT\$13.2 billion)

plan to build a dedicated submarine rescue ship to support the new fleet.

Why This Matters

For decades, Taiwan's undersea fleet consisted of just four aging vessels—two from the 1980s and two World War II-era boats used for training. The *Narwhal* program effectively breaks a long-standing diplomatic blockade that prevented Taiwan from purchasing modern submarines from abroad. By building its own, Taiwan is securing its vital sea lanes and complicating any potential naval encirclement.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the name of Taiwan's first domestically developed submarine that recently conducted its underwater sea trials?

- A) Sea Dragon
- B) Hai Kun (Narwhal)
- C) Formosa
- D) Blue Whale

2. Which state-owned shipbuilder is leading Taiwan's indigenous submarine program?

- A) Hyundai Heavy Industries
- B) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- C) CSBC Corporation
- D) Lockheed Martin

3. In which city's southern port were the shallow-water underwater trials conducted?

- A) Taipei
- B) Taichung
- C) Hualien
- D) Kaohsiung

4. How many total submarines are currently planned under Taiwan's indigenous initiative?

- A) Two
- B) Five
- C) Eight
- D) Twelve

5. The development of the "Narwhal" is part of Taiwan's strategy to strengthen:

- A) Deep-sea mining capabilities
- B) Maritime deterrence and self-reliant defense
- C) International cruise tourism
- D) Commercial shipping routes to Europe

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Hai Kun (Narwhal)
2	C) CSBC Corporation
3	D) Kaohsiung
4	C) Eight
5	B) Maritime deterrence and self-reliant defense

SPOR

Australian Open 2026



In a historic night at Melbourne Park on **February 1, 2026**, Carlos Alcaraz etched his name into the pantheon of tennis legends. By defeating the 10-time champion Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open final, Alcaraz not only claimed his maiden title "Down Under" but also became the **youngest man in history to complete a Career Grand Slam**.

At just **22 years and 272 days**, Alcaraz surpassed the 88-year-old record held by Don Budge (22 years, 357 days) and the Open Era record of his mentor, Rafael Nadal (24 years, 101 days).

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The Final: A Clash of Generations

The match was a tactical masterclass that saw the "Old Guard" and the "New Era" collide in a grueling four-set battle lasting three hours and two minutes

Set	Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	Key Moment
1	2	6	Djokovic dominated early with clinical baseline play.
2	6	2	Alcaraz increased his intensity and court coverage.
3	6	3	The Spaniard's drop shots began to fatigue the veteran.
4	7	5	Alcaraz broke serve at 5-5 to seal the championship.
Total	3	1	Carlos Alcaraz wins the Australian Open

The Road to the Career Grand Slam

Alcaraz has achieved the rarest feat in tennis—winning all four major titles—faster than any of the "Big Three." His seven Grand Slam titles now include:

- **US Open:** 2022, 2025
- **Wimbledon:** 2023, 2024
- **French Open:** 2024, 2025
- **Australian Open:** 2026

"Nobody knows how hard I have been working to get this trophy. I've just chased this moment so much. To put my name on the history books alongside the greatest is an honor."

— **Carlos Alcaraz** during the trophy ceremony.



Djokovic's Remarkable Stand

Despite the loss, Novak Djokovic's performance at 38 remains unprecedented. He remains stuck at **24 Grand Slam titles**, narrowly missing the chance to become the first player in history (male or female) to reach 25. This was notably his **first-ever loss in an Australian Open final**, having won all ten of his previous appearances in the championship match.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. At which tournament did Carlos Alcaraz complete his career Grand Slam in February 2026?

- A) Wimbledon
- B) US Open
- C) French Open
- D) Australian Open

2. Whom did Carlos Alcaraz defeat in the final to achieve this historic feat?

- A) Jannik Sinner
- B) Rafael Nadal
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Daniil Medvedev

3. At what age did Carlos Alcaraz become the youngest man in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam?

- 3A) 19 years

- B) 21 years

- C) 22 years

- D) 24 years

4. What does "completing a career Grand Slam" signify in professional tennis?

- A) Winning all four major tournaments in a single calendar year
- B) Winning all four major tournaments at least once over the course of a career
- C) Winning the same major tournament four years in a row
- D) Reaching the final of all four major tournaments in one season

5. According to the text, the 2026 final was significant because it symbolized:

- A) The end of professional tennis in Australia
- B) A new sponsorship deal for Spanish players
- C) The passing of an era and the rise of a new one in global tennis
- D) The retirement of Carlos Alcaraz

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	D) Australian Open
2	C) Novak Djokovic
3	C) 22 years





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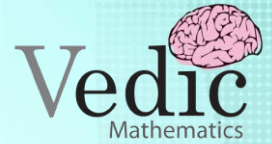
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Question	Correct Answer
4	B) Winning all four major tournaments at least once
5	C) The passing of an era and the rise of a new one

Category	Winner	Work	Significance
Album of the Year	Bad Bunny	<i>Debí Tirar Más Fotos</i>	First-ever Spanish-language album to win the top prize.
Record of the Year	Kendrick Lamar ft. SZA	"Luther"	Kendrick's second consecutive win in this category.
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish & Finneas	"Wildflower"	First artists to win this category three times.
Best New Artist	Olivia Dean	—	The soulful British singer became the 9th consecutive woman to win.

AWARDS

Grammy Awards 2026 Full Winners List



The **68th Annual Grammy Awards**, held on February 1, 2026, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, was a historic night that shattered long-standing records and signaled a global shift in the music industry.

The ceremony was headlined by **Bad Bunny**, who made history by winning **Album of the Year**, and **Kendrick Lamar**, who became the most-awarded rapper in Grammy history.

The "Big Four" Winners

The night's most prestigious awards were distributed among a diverse group of global icons and rising stars.

Major Highlights and Record-Breakers

1. Kendrick Lamar's Dominance

Kendrick Lamar was the night's biggest winner, taking home **five awards**. With these wins, his career total reached **26 Grammys**, officially surpassing Jay-Z as the most-awarded hip-hop artist in the Recording Academy's history.

- Key Wins:** Best Rap Album (*GNX*), Best Melodic Rap Performance ("Luther"), and Best Rap Song ("TV Off").

2. Billie Eilish's Hat-Trick

By winning **Song of the Year** for "Wildflower," Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas became the first songwriters in history to win the award three times (previously winning for "Bad Guy" and "What Was I Made For?"). Billie also tied Adele for the most General Field wins by a female artist (7).





3. Lady Gaga's Pop Sweep

After a massive year, Lady Gaga dominated the Pop and Dance categories:

- **Best Pop Vocal Album:** *Mayhem*
- **Best Dance Pop Recording:** "Abracadabra"
- **Best Remixed Recording:** "Abracadabra (Gesaffelstein Remix)"

4. K-Pop Milestone

The group **Huntr/x** achieved a major breakthrough for the genre, winning **Best Song Written for Visual Media** for "Golden" (from *KPop Demon Hunters*). This marked the first time a K-pop song has won a Grammy in any category.

Genre Winners at a Glance

- **Best Rock Album:** *Never Enough* by Turnstile
- **Best Alternative Music Album:** *Songs of a Lost World* by The Cure
- **Best Country Solo Performance:** Chris Stapleton for "Bad As I Used to Be"
- **Best Progressive R&B Album:** *Mutt* by Leon Thomas
- **Best Música Urbana Album:** *Debí Tirar Más Fotos* by Bad Bunny

The ceremony also featured a poignant "In Memoriam" segment and powerful tribute performances, including a high-octane salute to **Ozzy Osbourne** featuring Post Malone and members of Black Sabbath.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. According to the text, what does the Grammy Awards ceremony primarily celebrate?

- A) Film and television achievements
- B) Musical excellence, creativity, and cultural impact
- C) Sports performances and athletic endurance
- D) Technological innovations in radio broadcasting

2. Which of the following genres were specifically mentioned as being reflected in the 2026 winners?

- A) Classical, Jazz, and Folk
- B) Rock, Metal, and Electronic
- C) Pop, Rap, Country, and Latin
- D) Opera, Reggae, and Blues

3. The winners of the 2026 Grammy Awards were noted for reflecting which two aspects?

- A) High ticket sales and social media followers
- B) Commercial success and artistic innovation
- C) Previous wins and years of experience
- D) Political influence and fashion trends

4. What was the general atmosphere surrounding the 2026 ceremony before it began?

- A) Lack of interest



- B) Huge anticipation
C) Significant controversy
D) Economic concern

5. Based on the description, breakout artists at the Grammys are those who:

- A) Have retired from the industry
B) Are receiving lifetime achievement awards
C) Have recently emerged and gained significant recognition
D) Only work in the production side of music

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Musical excellence, creativity, and cultural impact
2	C) Pop, Rap, Country, and Latin
3	B) Commercial success and artistic innovation
4	B) Huge anticipation
5	C) Have recently emerged and gained significant recognition

Banking/Economy

Sarvesh Ranjan Promoted to Chief General Manager at Union Bank of India



Shri Sarvesh Ranjan's promotion to Chief General Manager (CGM) at Union Bank of India, effective February 1, 2026, marks a strategic move for one of India's leading public sector banks. By elevating a veteran with specialized expertise in compliance and technology, the bank is reinforcing its defenses against the evolving risks of digital-age banking.

Profile of the New CGM: Shri Sarvesh Ranjan

With nearly 30 years of banking experience, Shri Ranjan is an Engineering Graduate whose career has spanned the entire spectrum of banking operations.

Feature	Details
Previous Role	General Manager (Central Reconciliation, Transaction Monitoring & AML)
New Role	Chief General Manager (Effective Feb 1, 2026)

Vedic **Spardhaguru**
Spardhaguru India Private Limited
GST NO: 29ABJCS4595D1ZV
World Mental Calculation London
Vedic Math Primary to Graduate Level
International Olympiad Exam Japan
International MATH Exam Training Institute
Follow us on: f t i n
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Feature	Details
Key Specializations	Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Cyber Security, and Compliance
Education	Engineering Graduate; Leadership programs from ISB Hyderabad and Switzerland

Strategic Significance of the Appointment

Shri Ranjan's elevation is particularly timely as the banking sector faces increased regulatory scrutiny and a surge in digital transaction volumes.

1. Expertise in Compliance & AML

Before his promotion, Shri Ranjan headed the **Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Transaction Monitoring** units. As banks transition toward more rigorous real-time monitoring to prevent financial fraud, his deep understanding of these systems is a major asset for Union Bank's risk management framework.

2. Tech-Forward Leadership

In an era of "Cyber-Resilient Banking," his certification in **IT and Cyber Security from IDRB Hyderabad** (the technical arm of the RBI) ensures that the bank's top leadership can navigate the complexities of AI-driven threats and cloud-based banking infrastructure.

3. Institutional Continuity

The transition follows the retirement (superannuation) of **Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare** on January 31, 2026. By promoting internally, Union Bank has ensured that strategic projects—including its ongoing digital

transformation initiatives—continue without operational lag.

Career Trajectory

Shri Ranjan's journey within Union Bank reflects a "ground-up" leadership style:

- **Field Experience:** Extensive stints in Branch Banking and Regional/Zonal offices.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Experience at the **Staff Training College**, indicating a focus on human capital development.
- **Corporate Strategy:** Strategic roles at the Corporate Office overseeing critical backend operations like **Central Reconciliation**.

This appointment reinforces Union Bank's commitment to robust governance and operational excellence as it eyes further expansion in the competitive retail and corporate lending space.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who has been recently promoted to the position of Chief General Manager (CGM) at Union Bank of India?

- A) Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare
- B) Shri Sarvesh Ranjan
- C) Shri Rajkiran Rai
- D) Shri A. Manimekhalai

2. **Shri Sarvesh Ranjan's promotion follows the superannuation of which official?**

- A) Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare



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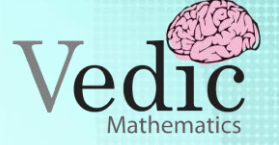
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- B) Shri Nitesh Ranjan
C) Shri Nidhu Saxena
D) Shri Ramasubramanian S.

3. According to the announcement, the promotion of Shri Sarvesh Ranjan reflects the bank's focus on:

- A) Massive branch expansion
B) International mergers
C) Leadership continuity and operational strength
D) Digital currency implementation

4. What does the term "superannuation" refer to in the context of Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare?

- A) Resignation for personal reasons
B) Transfer to a different bank
C) Retirement from service after reaching the prescribed age
D) Promotion to a higher board-level position

5. Which bank is the subject of this leadership change announcement?

- A) State Bank of India
B) Bank of Baroda
C) Union Bank of India
D) Punjab National Bank

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Shri Sarvesh Ranjan
2	A) Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare
3	C) Leadership continuity and operational strength
4	C) Retirement from service
5	C) Union Bank of India

STATE NEWS

Tamil Nadu's Knowledge City Initiative



The India Global Education Summit (IGES) 2026, held in Chennai on January 28-29, marked a transformative step for Tamil Nadu's academic landscape. Co-organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK, the summit served as the launchpad for the state's ambitious Knowledge City project.



The Tamil Nadu Knowledge City (TNKC)

The foundation stone for the Knowledge City was laid by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**. This 872-acre project in the **Tiruvallur district** (near Sengathakulam) is designed to move beyond a traditional education park into a global "academic-industrial ecosystem."

- Integrated Infrastructure:** The project will feature the **Knowledge Tower**, a 1-lakh-sq.-ft. plug-and-play facility for foreign universities and research labs.
- Core Focus Areas:** The city will host advanced research in **Quantum Computing, Electric Vehicles (EV), Clean Energy, Health-AI, and Agritech**.
- Timeline:** The first phase of core infrastructure (roads, water, and sanitation) is currently under development by SIPCOT, with allocations expected to begin by the **end of 2026**.

Key International Tie-ups & Investments

The summit facilitated several Letters of Intent (LoI) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with an initial investment value of approximately **₹355 crore**, expected to create over **2,200 direct jobs**.

Partner Institution	Project Details	Investment / Scale
University of Melbourne	Applied research facility for Quantum Computing & Agritech .	₹35 Crore (20,000 sq. ft.)
IIT Madras	Centre for Advanced Automotive Research (EV testing & research).	₹200 Crore (40,000 sq. ft.)

Partner Institution	Project Details	Investment / Scale
Illinois Institute of Technology	Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing & Clean Energy.	Global Learning Centre
IIT Madras Global	Skilling and research facility for AI and Semiconductors.	20,000 sq. ft.
University of East London	Establishment of an Innovation Hub within the city.	Strategic Partnership
Aarksee Group	R&D center focused on Carbon Capture and Sustainability.	Research Lab

Strategic Vision: "The Education Capital"

The project aims to support over **25,000 students and researchers** in the long term. By bringing global universities to Indian shores, the Tamil Nadu government aims to:

- Reduce Student Outflow:** Provide world-class education locally to minimize the need for students to go abroad.
- Research Commercialization:** Create a direct link between academic research and industrial manufacturing.
- Job Creation:** Align education policy with the demands of "Sunrise Sectors" like green energy and AI.

The Knowledge City is managed by the **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)**, which is also working on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to attract further global investment.



Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Where was the "Knowledge City" project officially announced by the Tamil Nadu government?

- A) Global Investors Meet, Coimbatore
- B) India Global Education Summit 2026, Chennai
- C) Tech Innovation Conclave, Madurai
- D) Sustainable Development Forum, Tiruchirappalli

2. In which district is the 872-acre Knowledge City planned to be established?

- A) Kanchipuram
- B) Tiruvallur
- C) Chengalpattu
- D) Vellore

3. What is the primary vision for the Knowledge City project?

- A) A dedicated residential zone for government employees
- B) An integrated academic-industrial ecosystem
- C) A specialized agricultural export zone
- D) A high-security military research facility

4. According to the plan, which of the following sectors will the Knowledge City combine?

- A) Higher education, research, and advanced manufacturing
- B) Textile production, fishing, and tourism
- C) Mining, heavy metal works, and logistics
- D) Retail commerce, entertainment, and fashion

5. When is the first phase of the Knowledge City project expected to be ready for allocation?

- A) Early 2025
- B) Mid-2027
- C) End of 2026
- D) Beginning of 2030

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) India Global Education Summit 2026, Chennai
2	B) Tiruvallur
3	B) An integrated academic-industrial ecosystem
4	A) Higher education, research, and advanced manufacturing
5	C) End of 2026





Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Who presented the government's vision for integrating AI in education and skill development at Google's AI for Learning Forum?

- A. Dharmendra Pradhan
- B. Jayant Chaudhary
- C. Ashwini Vaishnav
- D. Rajeev Chandrashekar

1. B

At Google's AI for Learning Forum in New Delhi, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Education, outlined the Indian government's vision for integrating AI into education and skill development. He shared a roadmap for strengthening learning outcomes and employability through AI, aligned with the 2047 vision of a developed India.

Q.2. India has nominated Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges to UNESCO under which title?

- A. Sacred Forests of Meghalaya
- B. Xingkieng Zari Cultural Landscape
- C. Xingkieng Zari/Lew Chhrai Cultural Landscape
- D. Khasi Heritage Landscape

2. C

India has nominated the famous 'Living Root Bridges' of Meghalaya for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for 2026-27 under the title "Xingkiang Jri/Lue Charai Cultural Landscape".

Q.3. Dhamtari district, located in which state, has become the first district in India to collect property tax through the Samarth Panchayat portal?

- A. Bihar
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Tamil Nadu

3. C

Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district on Thursday became the first district in the country to launch digital property tax collection through the SAMARTH Panchayat portal. This move marks a major milestone towards digital rural governance. The initiative began in Sankara Gram Panchayat of Nagari block, where a resident paid property tax using the UPI-enabled online payment gateway.

Q.4. In which state was a high-level committee formed to review Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)?

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu





4. D

The Central Government (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) has constituted a high-level committee to review the functioning of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu, identify operational challenges and recommend measures to strengthen them.

Q.5. Sampoorna Abhiyaan 2.0 was launched by which organization?

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Planning Commission
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

5. B

NITI Aayog launched Sampoorna Abhiyaan 2.0. NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam launched this nationwide campaign, which will run until April 14, 2026. Its goal is to achieve 100% saturation of key indicators such as health, nutrition, education, and agriculture in aspirational districts and blocks.

Q.6. The 'NPS Health Pension Scheme' was launched by which authority?

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. PFRDA
- D. IRDAI

6. C

The 'NPS Health Pension Scheme' was launched by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The scheme was introduced by PFRDA as a sector-specific scheme under its regulatory sandbox framework.

Q.7. Where was the 29th All India National Martial Arts Championship 2026 held, in which SG Roshni of Tamil Nadu won the gold medal?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Goa
- C. West Bengal
- D. Bihar

7. B

A Class 9 student from Ranipet has brought laurels to Tamil Nadu by winning a gold medal at the 29th All India National Martial Arts Championship 2026 in Goa. This success reflects the growing popularity of traditional Indian martial arts among young athletes and showcases the talent from small towns.

Q.8. Which of the following countries has banned the import of animals and animal products from India amid concerns over the spread of Nipah virus?

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. England
- C. New Zealand
- D. South Korea

8. A





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Following the Nipah virus cases reported in India, Kyrgyzstan has banned the import of live animals and animal products from India as a precautionary measure. This decision was taken to prevent the potential spread of the Nipah virus, which emerged in India in 2026.

Q.9. In which of the following places has India's first AI-powered university been launched?

- A. Patna
- B. Jodhpur
- C. Meerut
- D. Bhopal

9. C

A pilot project for India's first AI-powered university has been launched at Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU) in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. In collaboration with Google Cloud and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), it is being developed as a "living laboratory" where AI tutors and smart campus systems will be used.

Q.10. According to the recently released Economic Survey 2025-26, what is the real GDP growth projected for the financial year 2026?

- A. 7.2%
- B. 7.4%
- C. 7.6%
- D. 7.8%

10. B

According to the recently released Economic Survey 2025-26, real GDP growth is projected to be 7.4% for fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26). This growth is expected to be driven primarily by strong private consumption and investment.

Q.11. Which has become the first law enforcement agency in India to integrate Aadhaar with the Pathik app?

- A. Ahmedabad Crime Branch
- B. Delhi Police
- C. Bihar Police
- D. Central Bureau of Investigation

11. A

The Ahmedabad Crime Branch of the Gujarat Police has become the first law enforcement agency in India to officially integrate Aadhaar-based verification with PATHIK software. This technology aims to provide fast, secure, and paperless identity verification of guests staying at hotels.

Q.12. Where was the 9th National Conference of the Bureau of Police Research and Development held?

- A. Patna
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. New Delhi
- D. Bhopal

12. B





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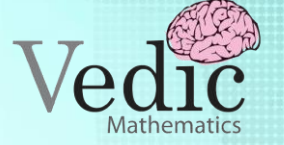
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The 9th National Conference of Correctional Administrators, organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), took place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, inaugurated the two-day conference, which was jointly organized by the BPD and the Andhra Pradesh Prisons and Correctional Services.

Q.13. Which country recently hosted the first-ever meeting of India and Arab Foreign Ministers?

- A. India
- B. Egypt
- C. United Arab Emirates
- D. Qatar

13. A

India hosted the first-ever India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. This was the first meeting of its kind, held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, and took place after a gap of 10 years.

Q.14. Who was Padma Shri awardee Thomas V. Kunnunkal, who passed away at the age of 99?

- A. Singer
- B. Classical Dancer
- C. Geologist
- D. Educationist

14. D

Padma Shri awardee Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal (99) was a renowned Jesuit educationist, former chairman of the CBSE, and founder of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). He played a key role in reforming education, especially by introducing the open school system for underprivileged children.

Q.15. In which city is the 12th edition of the Smile International Film Festival being held?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Nashik
- D. Kolkata

15. A

The 12th edition of the Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY), organised by the Smile Foundation, began in New Delhi. The seven-day event is being organised in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Speaking on the occasion, Shantanu Mishra, Co-Founder of Smile Foundation, said, "Smile Foundation is an Indian development organisation that works for the welfare of underprivileged children and families in the areas of education, health, livelihood and women's empowerment."





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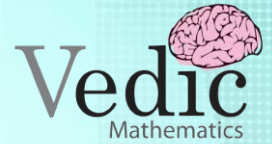
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FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

That is a fascinating dive into the etymology of the state! Jharkhand truly lives up to its name, boasting some of the most stunning forest cover in India, including the famous Saranda Forest—the largest sal forest in Asia.

To build on your facts, here are a few more "Gems of Jharkhand" that highlight its unique identity:

Jharkhand: Beyond the Greenery

1. The "Ruhr" of India

While its name focuses on forests, its soil is pure gold for the economy. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is so rich in minerals that it's often compared to Germany's Ruhr valley.

- It holds nearly 40% of India's mineral resources, including coal, iron ore, copper, and mica.

2. A Tribal Legacy

Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in 2000 specifically to preserve and empower its unique tribal (Adivasi) heritage.

- It is home to 32 different tribal groups, including the Santhals, Mundas, Oraons, and Hos.
- The legendary freedom fighter Birsa Munda, known as *Dharti Aba* (Father of the Earth), is a national hero who led the "Ulgulan" (Great Tumult) movement against British rule.

3. Spiritual Landmarks

- Deoghar: Home to the Baidyanath Jyotirlinga, one of the 12 most sacred Shiva

temples in India. Every year, millions of pilgrims perform the *Kanwar Yatra* here.

- Shikharji (Parasnath): The highest point in the state, it is the most sacred pilgrimage site for Jains, where 20 out of the 24 Tirthankaras are believed to have attained salvation.

Quick State Stats

Capital	Ranchi
Sub-Capital	Dumka
State Animal	Elephant
State Bird	Koel
State Tree	Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>)
Steel City	Jamshedpur (India's first planned industrial city)

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What does the word "Khand" mean in the context of the name "Jharkhand"?

- A) Mountain
- B) Land
- C) River
- D) Bush

2. Before the year 1765, by what name was the Jharkhand area known?

- A) Magadha
- B) Kalinga





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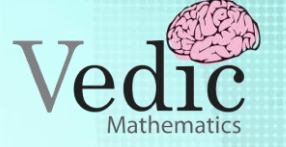
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C) Kukara

D) Pataliputra

3. Which empire took control of the region in 1765, leading to the formal use of the name "Jharkhand"?

A) Maratha Empire

B) Mughal Empire

C) British Empire

D) Maurya Empire

4. The literal translation of "Jharkhand" refers to it as the land of:

A) Gold and Minerals

B) Bush or Forest

C) High Peaks

D) Five Rivers

5. The name "Jharkhand" is derived from which language family?

A) Dravidian

B) Tibeto-Burman

C) Indo-Aryan

D) Austroasiatic

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Land
2	C) Kukara

Question	Correct Answer
3	C) British Empire
4	B) Bush or Forest
5	C) Indo-Aryan

Dear Aspirants,

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We wish best for your studies & Exams

Best Wishes

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