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NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Instructs Centre to Set Up Pennaiyar River Water Tribunal



The recent Supreme Court intervention in the **Pennaiyar River** dispute is a significant moment for Indian cooperative federalism. It marks a transition from political negotiation to a formal legal adjudicatory process under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.

Here is a breakdown of the legal landscape and why this specific case has reached a boiling point.

The Legal & Constitutional Framework

Under the Indian Constitution, water is primarily a **State subject**, but the regulation of interstate rivers falls under the **Union List**. When states can't agree, the following mechanisms kick in:

- **Article 262:** Expressly bars the Supreme Court from exercising jurisdiction over interstate water disputes if Parliament passes a law to that effect.
- **The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act (1956):** This allows the Center to set up an



ad-hoc Tribunal whose decisions have the force of a Supreme Court decree.

2. **No Appreciable Harm:** Ensuring Karnataka's upstream developments don't desertify downstream regions in Tamil Nadu.

Note: History shows these tribunals can take years (or decades, like the Cauvery dispute) to reach a final award. The Supreme Court's "one-month" deadline for the Center is an attempt to skip the initial red tape.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Based on the February 2026 Supreme Court directive, what action must the Union Government take regarding the Pennaiyar river dispute?

- A) Arbitrate the water-sharing ratio immediately.
- B) Halt all construction on the river indefinitely.
- C) Constitute a dedicated water disputes tribunal within one month.
- D) Transfer the case to the National Green Tribunal.

2. Which two states are the primary parties involved in the Pennaiyar river water conflict?

- A) Karnataka and Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- C) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- D) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

3. What is the primary grievance raised by Tamil Nadu against Karnataka's actions on the Pennaiyar river?

Feature	Tamil Nadu's Stance	Karnataka's Stance
Primary Concern	Reduction in downstream flow due to new structures.	Right to utilize water falling within its geographical territory.
Legal Basis	Points to the 1892 Madras-Mysore Agreement, which requires "prior consent" for new projects.	Argues the old agreements are lopsided or no longer fully applicable in a modern context.
Project in Focus	Objecting to the check dam at Koramanagala and diversion to Bengaluru's tanks.	Claims these are for drinking water and minor irrigation, not large-scale diversion.

The Path Forward

The creation of a dedicated tribunal typically leads to a long-term data-gathering phase. The tribunal will need to balance:

1. **Equitable Utilization:** Ensuring both states get a fair share based on population and need.

- A) Pollution caused by industrial runoff.
- B) Unilateral construction of check dams and diversion structures.
- C) Failure to pay maintenance fees for existing dams.
- D) Disputes over fishing rights in the river basin.

4. The Supreme Court's intervention in this matter is described as a move to preserve which constitutional principle?

- A) Judicial Activism
- B) Separation of Powers
- C) Cooperative Federalism
- D) Absolute Sovereignty

Answer Key

Question	Answer	Explanation
1	C	The court specifically ordered the creation of a tribunal to resolve the dispute legally.
2	C	The river flows through these two states, making them the stakeholders.
3	B	Tamil Nadu argues these structures reduce downstream flow and violate historical agreements.
4	C	Handling interstate disputes through established legal frameworks is a hallmark of cooperative federalism .

NATIONAL NEWS

NSO Announces Countrywide Migration Survey to Update Migration Data



The announcement of a dedicated **National Migration Survey (2026–27)** marks a critical pivot in India's data strategy. For nearly two decades, India has lacked a migration-specific large-scale survey, relying instead on decadal Census data or secondary modules within labor surveys.

This initiative, led by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, is designed to fill the "data vacuum" exposed during the 2020–2021 pandemic, which highlighted how little was known about the actual volume of circular and seasonal labor.

What Makes This Survey Different?

Unlike the Census (which tracks where you were born) or the PLFS (which tracks your job), this survey focuses on the **dynamics of movement**.

- **New Definition of "Short-term":** The reference period for short-term migration has been narrowed from "one to six months" to "**15 days to six months.**" This change is

specifically designed to capture seasonal migrants—like construction workers or harvest laborers—who often "disappear" from official statistics.

- Tracking Individuals:** Instead of just surveying "heads of households," the NSO will track individual migration paths to understand gender-specific trends and return migration.
- Post-Pandemic Baseline:** This will be the first comprehensive look at "Reverse Migration" patterns and whether those who returned to villages during the pandemic have permanently shifted their livelihood strategies.

Current Migration Landscape (Based on PLFS 2020–21)

The upcoming survey will test whether the following "baseline" figures have evolved:

Indicator	Male Migrants	Female Migrants
Migration Rate	~10.7%	~47.9%
Primary Reason	Employment (22.8%)	Marriage (86.8%)
Primary Destination	Inter-state / Urban centers	Intra-state / Rural to Rural

Policy Implications: Why Now?

The data collected between July 2026 and June 2027 will directly influence three major government pillars:

- Welfare Portability:** Ensuring schemes like "One Nation, One Ration Card" (ONORC) and

healthcare benefits follow the migrant across state borders.

- Urban Planning:** Helping "Smart Cities" and the AMRUT mission predict housing and transport needs based on actual inflow rather than old 2011 Census projections.
- Remittance Economy:** Understanding how money flowing back to rural areas affects poverty reduction and household consumption.

Technical Note: The survey defines a **Migrant** as any household member whose "Usual Place of Residence" (UPR)—the place they stayed for 6 months or more—is different from where they are being counted today.

Here are a few Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) based on the NSO announcement, designed to test comprehension of the survey's timeline, scope, and objectives.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the scheduled duration for the NSO's nationwide Survey on Migration?

- A) January 2026 to December 2026
- B) July 2026 to June 2027
- C) April 2026 to March 2027
- D) July 2025 to June 2026

2. Which of the following factors has NOT been cited as a reason for the government's need for updated migration data?

- A) Rapid urbanization

- B) Increasing labor mobility
- C) Seasonal movement across states
- D) Decrease in international travel

Question	Correct Answer
4	C (Assess link between migration and job opportunities)

3. The survey aims to capture the "nature of migration" by focusing on which specific elements?

- A) The demographic profile (who), destination (where), and motivation (why)
- B) The legal documentation of all permanent residents
- C) The impact of migration on local birth rates
- D) The history of migration over the last 50 years

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United States and India Reach To Trade Deal, Tariffs Reduced to 18%



The February 2026 trade announcement between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents a dramatic "thaw" in what had become a high-stakes trade war. After a year where some Indian goods faced combined tariffs as high as 50%, this deal effectively resets the economic relationship.

Here is the breakdown of the deal's core components and the strategic shifts it triggers.

The "Grand Bargain": Key Numbers

The deal is structured as a series of immediate tariff rollbacks in exchange for long-term strategic and energy commitments.

- **Tariff Reduction:** The U.S. has reduced the "Reciprocal Tariff" on Indian goods from 25% to 18%.

4. Why is the NSO studying the employment profile of migrants during this survey?

- A) To collect income tax from seasonal workers
- B) To discourage movement between states
- C) To assess the link between migration and job opportunities
- D) To replace local workers with migrant labor

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (July 2026 to June 2027)
2	D (Decrease in international travel—not mentioned)
3	A (Who, where, and why)

- Removal of Penalties:** Crucially, the 25% punitive duty imposed in August 2025 (linked to India's purchase of Russian oil) has been rescinded entirely.
- Total Impact:** For most Indian exporters, the effective tariff rate has plummeted from 50% to 18%, making Indian products more competitive than those from China (avg. 34%), Vietnam (20%), and Pakistan (19%).

Sector	Immediate Impact	Long-term Outlook
Agriculture	Concern for Indian farmers over U.S. dairy/grain.	U.S. farmers gain access to the world's largest consumer base.

Points of Contention & Uncertainty

Despite the celebratory tone, several "loose ends" remain that could complicate the deal's legal status:

- The "Zero Tariff" Promise:** Indian domestic lobbies (especially in dairy and poultry) have historically resisted zero-tariff regimes. Implementing this may face significant political hurdles in New Delhi.
- Legal Format:** Analysts note that while the EU-India deal signed last week is a formal **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, this U.S. deal is a "**Presidential Executive Agreement**," which is faster to implement but more vulnerable to political shifts in future U.S. administrations.
- The \$500 Billion Target:** Economists view the \$500 billion purchase figure as "aspirational," given that current annual U.S. exports to India are closer to \$80–90 billion.

Perspective: This deal is less about traditional trade and more about **geopolitical alignment**. By pulling India away from Russian energy and offering lower tariffs than its neighbors, the U.S. is cementing India's role as its primary strategic counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific.

What India Committed To:

- Energy Pivot:** India has reportedly agreed to halt or significantly reduce its intake of **Russian crude oil**, shifting those purchases to the U.S. and potentially Venezuela.
- Market Access:** India pledged to move toward "Zero Tariffs" and remove non-tariff barriers for U.S. goods, particularly in technology and agriculture.
- "Buy American":** A massive commitment to purchase over **\$500 billion** in U.S. energy, coal, and technology over the coming years.

Strategic & Economic Implications

Sector	Immediate Impact	Long-term Outlook
Manufacturing	Textiles, Gems, & Engineering see immediate margin relief.	Boosts the "China Plus One" strategy; India becomes a preferred U.S. sourcing hub.
Energy	Sharp decline in Russian oil imports.	India becomes a major client for U.S. LNG and shale oil; potentially stabilizes global oil prices.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. According to the announcement by President Trump, the US will reduce its reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to what percentage?

- A) 10%
- B) 18%
- C) 25%
- D) 50%

2. The deal effectively removes a specific punitive tariff previously imposed on India for which of the following reasons?

- A) Alleged currency manipulation
- B) Human rights concerns
- C) Purchases of Russian crude oil
- D) Non-compliance with intellectual property laws

3. As part of the agreement, India has reportedly committed to purchasing how much in US energy, technology, and other products?

- A) \$100 Billion
- B) \$250 Billion
- C) \$500 Billion
- D) \$1 Trillion

4. Which major shift in energy procurement did President Trump claim Prime Minister Modi agreed to as part of this deal?

- A) Halting all domestic coal production
- B) Increasing oil imports from Iran
- C) Stopping the purchase of Russian oil in favor of US and potentially Venezuelan oil
- D) Exclusively using American-made solar panels

5. While the US lowers tariffs to 18%, what level of tariff and non-tariff barriers did President Trump claim India would move toward for US goods?

- A) 18% (to match the US)
- B) 10%
- C) Zero
- D) 5%

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer	Explanation
1	B	The deal slashes the rate from a previous high of 50% (base + penalty) to 18%.
2	C	A 25% punitive tariff was added in 2025 specifically due to India's Russian oil imports; this is being rescinded.
3	C	Trump's announcement cited a massive \$500 billion commitment over time.
4	C	The deal hinges on India pivoting away from Russian energy to help "end the war."

Question	Correct Answer	Explanation
5	C	Trump claimed India pledged to reduce barriers to ZERO , though Indian officials have remained more cautious in their phrasing.

APPOINTMENTS

Meet The First Woman To Hold AAI Board Member Post



The appointment of Nivedita Dubey as Member (Human Resources) in January 2026 is a landmark moment for the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. Beyond the personal achievement of her three-decade career, her elevation to the Board level signals a modernization of governance within one of India's most critical public sector enterprises (PSEs).

Breaking the Glass Ceiling at AAI

As the first woman to hold this position on the AAI Board, Dubey's role is pivotal for several reasons:

- Historical Milestone:** While women have long served in various capacities across AAI—including air traffic control and

airport management—the **Board of Directors** has traditionally been male-dominated. Her presence at the top decision-making table brings a necessary shift in perspective.

- Operational Scale:** She now oversees the HR strategy for a workforce of approximately **18,000 employees** across more than **130 airports** nationwide.
- Aviation Veteran:** Her background as an "insider" with 30 years of experience suggests a deep understanding of the unique labor challenges in aviation, from technical staff rotations to the stress management of high-stakes roles.

Strategic Focus Areas for 2026

In her new capacity, Dubey is expected to lead several high-priority HR initiatives that align with the government's broader "Gati Shakti" and aviation expansion goals:

1. Inclusive Leadership & Diversity

A key part of her mandate will be institutionalizing **inclusive governance**. This involves creating pathways for more women to enter technical and leadership roles, ensuring that the milestone of a "first woman Director" eventually becomes a common occurrence rather than an exception.

2. Digital HR Transformation

With the rapid privatization of airport operations and the rise of "Smart Airports," the workforce needs massive upskilling.

- Implementing AI-driven talent management systems.**

- Transitioning from traditional administration to **strategic human capital management**.

3. Strengthening Employee Relations

Aviation is a sensitive sector where industrial relations can impact national security and commerce. Her role involves balancing the demands of various employee unions with the efficiency requirements of a modernizing AAI.

AAI Board Structure at a Glance

The AAI Board is the apex body responsible for the management of the authority. Here is how the leadership is typically organized:

Designation	Focus Area
Chairman	Overall Strategy & Coordination
Member (HR)	Nivedita Dubey (Talent, Welfare, Governance)
Member (Finance)	Budgeting, Revenue, & Privatization
Member (Operations)	Ground Safety, Security, & Airport Services
Member (Planning)	Infrastructure Development & Modernization
Member (ANS)	Air Navigation Services & ATC

Context: This appointment aligns with a broader trend in Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) where professional women are increasingly taking charge of "Member" and "Director" level portfolios, particularly in HR and Finance.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who recently assumed charge as the Member (Human Resources) of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)?

- A) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- B) Nivedita Dubey
- C) Soma Mondal
- D) Madhabi Puri Buch

2. What is historically significant about Nivedita Dubey's appointment to the AAI Board?

- A) She is the youngest person to ever join the board.
- B) She is the first woman to hold the position of Member (HR).
- C) She is the first person from the private sector to join the board.
- D) She is the first Director to serve a ten-year term.

3. As of her appointment in January 2026, how much professional experience does Nivedita Dubey bring to the aviation sector?

- A) Over 10 years
- B) Over 20 years
- C) Over 30 years
- D) Over 40 years

4. According to the announcement, Nivedita Dubey's elevation is seen as a significant step toward which of the following?

- A) Privatization of all major airports
- B) Inclusive leadership and stronger HR governance
- C) Reducing the total workforce of the AAI
- D) Implementing AI-driven air traffic control



Day 1 (February 4, 2026) saw India dominate the standings, securing a total of **9 medals** (including 6 golds) to take an early lead in the tournament.

Here are the major highlights from the opening day's action:

Star Performers: Esha Singh & Samrat Rana

The spotlight was firmly on India's pistol squad, which delivered a mix of seasoned composure and world-class skill.

- **Esha Singh (Gold - Women's 10m Air Pistol):** The 21-year-old Olympian staged a dramatic comeback, rising from 7th place after the first series to clinch the individual gold with a score of **239.8**. This marks her second career individual Asian Championship title.

- **Samrat Rana (Bronze - Men's 10m Air Pistol):** The reigning world champion started strong in the qualifiers (581) but settled for bronze in a high-intensity final with **220.3 points**, finishing behind Uzbekistan's Vladimir Svechnikov (Gold) and Kazakhstan's Valeriy Rakhimzhan (Silver).
- **Manu Bhaker:** The double Olympic medalist reached the 10m Air Pistol final but finished

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer	Rationale
1	B	Nivedita Dubey took charge in January 2026.
2	B	She is the first woman to hold this key position on the AAI Board.
3	C	The text describes her as a professional with over three decades of experience.
4	B	Her appointment marks a shift toward inclusive leadership and modern governance.

SPORTS

Asian Rifle & Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 Begin in This City

The Asian Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 opened with a bang at New Delhi's Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.

7th after an early dip in form. She remains a top contender for upcoming 25m and mixed team events.

Here are a few multiple-choice questions based on the text provided, ranging from general facts to specific details:

Team Event Success

India's depth was on full display in the team categories, where collective consistency proved unbeatable.

Event	Medal	Athletes
Women's 10m Air Pistol Team	Gold	Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker, & Suruchi Singh
Men's 10m Air Pistol Team	Silver	Samrat Rana, Sharvan Kumar, & Varun Tomar
Junior Men's 10m Air Pistol	Gold	Jonathan Gavin Antony (Individual & Team)

Note: The Men's Team gold was narrowly missed; India and Uzbekistan tied at 1,732 points, but Uzbekistan took the top spot due to a higher "inner-10" count (58 vs. 52).

Championship Context

This two-week event (running until **February 13**) is more than just a continental trophy hunt. It serves as a vital benchmark for the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics** cycle.

- Participation:** Over 311 shooters from 20 countries are competing.
- India's Contingent:** As the host, India has fielded the largest squad (118 athletes), including over 50 senior shooters.
- Next Big Event:** The focus now shifts to the 10m Air Rifle events and the Mixed Team formats scheduled for the coming days.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Where is the Asian Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 being held?

- A) Indira Gandhi Arena
- B) Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges
- C) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
- D) Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium

2. What is the duration of this prestigious tournament?

- A) One week
- B) Ten days
- C) Two weeks
- D) One month

3. Which categories are included in the rifle and pistol events?

- A) Men's and Women's only
- B) Junior and Youth only
- C) Men's, Women's, and Junior only
- D) Men's, Women's, Junior, and Youth

4. The championship is being hosted in which city?

A) Mumbai

B) New Delhi

C) Bangalore

D) Chennai

5. According to the text, what does hosting this championship highlight about India?

A) Its dominance in Olympic gold medals

B) Its growing stature as a global hub for international shooting competitions

C) Its recent construction of the world's largest shooting range

D) Its status as the only Asian country participating in the event

AWARDS

Indian-Origin Scientist Wins Crafoord Prize 2026



The 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences awarded to Veerabhadran Ramanathan is a powerful acknowledgement of a career that forced the world to realize that climate change is about much more than just carbon dioxide.

Commonly referred to as the "Nobel of Geosciences," this prize (worth 8 million Swedish kronor) honors Ramanathan's role in identifying the "super-pollutants" that have accelerated global warming.

The Breakthrough: Beyond Carbon Dioxide

Before Ramanathan's landmark 1975 paper, the scientific community believed CO_2 was the only human-made gas significantly warming the planet.

- **The CFC Discovery:** While working at NASA, Ramanathan discovered that **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**—the gases then common in refrigerators and spray cans—were "super-greenhouse gases."

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges)
2	C (Two weeks)
3	D (Men's, Women's, Junior, and Youth)
4	B (New Delhi)
5	B (India's growing stature as a global hub...)



- The Potency Factor:** He proved that a single molecule of CFC can be **10,000 times more effective** at trapping heat than a molecule of \$CO₂\$.
- Political Impact:** This discovery provided the scientific backbone for the **Montreal Protocol (1987)**. By phasing out CFCs to save the ozone layer, the world unintentionally executed the most successful climate mitigation action in history.

"Atmospheric Brown Clouds" and the Monsoon

In the 1990s, Ramanathan led the **Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX)**, which uncovered a massive, 3-kilometer-thick layer of pollution over South Asia.

- The "Brown Cloud":** Composed of soot (black carbon), sulfates, and nitrates, this haze was found to be dimming sunlight at the surface while heating the upper atmosphere.
- Regional Consequences:** His research linked these clouds to the **weakening of the Indian Monsoon** and the accelerated **melting of Himalayan glaciers**, directly connecting global atmospheric science to the food and water security of billions.

The "Bending the Curve" Legacy

Now a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Ramanathan has transitioned from pure science to global advocacy:

Achievement	Impact
Vatican Advisor	Advised Pope Francis on the climate encyclical <i>Laudato si'</i> , framing climate change as a moral and ethical issue.
Short-Lived Pollutants	Co-founded the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to target methane and black carbon for immediate cooling.
Project Surya	Launched initiatives in India to replace traditional cookstoves with cleaner alternatives, reducing soot and improving health.

"Until 1975, we thought global warming was mainly from \$CO₂\$. I was shocked at the capacity of technology and human beings to change the environment." — *Veerabhadran Ramanathan*

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which prestigious award, often referred to as the "Nobel of Geosciences," was awarded to Veerabhadran Ramanathan?

- A) The Abel Prize
- B) The Crafoord Prize
- C) The Tyler Prize
- D) The Pritzker Prize

2. Veerabhadran Ramanathan's research has fundamentally changed the global understanding of which field?

- A) Quantum Physics
- B) Marine Biology

C) Climate Change

D) Genetic Engineering

3. What was one of the specific scientific breakthroughs mentioned regarding Ramanathan's work?

A) The invention of the seismograph

B) Discovering the warming impact of industrial gases

C) Mapping the human genome

D) Proving the existence of black holes

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (The Crafoord Prize)
2	C (Climate Change)
3	B (Discovering the warming impact of industrial gases)
4	A (Global environmental policies)
5	B (Indian-origin)

STATE NEWS

Statue of Ramasamy Reddiar



The announcement by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on February 1, 2026, to install a statue of Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar (popularly known as Omandurar) at the Government Medical College in Chennai, honors one of Tamil Nadu's most principled and reformist leaders.

Often referred to as the "Uncut Diamond" by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Omandurar's brief tenure (1947–1949) was a defining period for social justice in independent India.

A Legacy of Radical Reform

Omandurar is credited with several "firsts" that laid the foundation for the modern welfare state in Tamil Nadu:

- Social Justice Pioneer:** He introduced the first-ever reservation in public services for **Backward Classes** (14.29%) and a 29% quota for **Scheduled Castes and Tribes**.
- The Temple Entry Act (1947):** He was instrumental in passing the *Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act*, which gave Dalits and other marginalized groups the legal right to enter and worship in all Hindu temples. He personally led a group of Dalits into the Tirupati temple on June 15, 1947, to enforce the spirit of the law.
- Abolition of the Devadasi System:** He oversaw the *Devadasi Dedication Abolition Act of 1947*, a landmark legislation aimed at ending the institutionalized exploitation of women in temples.
- The State Emblem:** It was under his leadership that the **Srivilliputhur Andal Temple tower (Gopuram)** was chosen as the official emblem of the Government of Tamil Nadu, defending it as a symbol of the state's architectural heritage.

The "Omandurar" Standard of Governance

Omandurar was legendary for his austerity and "no-nonsense" approach to administration:

Feature	Description
Personal Integrity	He famously prohibited his own family members from visiting the Secretariat to prevent any influence-peddling.
Spiritual Roots	A staunch devotee of Vallalar (Ramalinga Swamigal), he lived by the saint's principle of universal compassion (<i>Jeeva Karunyam</i>). He only accepted the Premiership after receiving the blessing of Ramana Maharshi .
Zamindari Abolition	He pushed for the <i>Zamindari Abolition Act of 1947</i> , which sought to dismantle the feudal land-owning system and empower tenant farmers.

Strategic Significance of the Statue

The placement of the statue on the **Omandurar Government Estate** is deeply symbolic. The estate already houses the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital and the medical college named after him. By installing his statue there, the government aims to:

- Celebrate "Inclusive Leadership":** Highlighting a leader who balanced spiritual devotion with progressive, secular social reforms.
- Cement his Place in History:** Ensuring that the "unsung hero" who led Madras Presidency during India's transition to independence is recognized by future



generations of medical professionals and citizens.

Did you know? Omandurar was the first Premier to purchase an airplane for the Madras Government in 1948—a de Havilland Dove—to improve administrative connectivity in the vast presidency.

C) The Zamindari Abolition Act
D) The Madras Compulsory Elementary Education Act

4. Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar was known to be a devoted follower of which spiritual leader?

A) Ramana Maharishi
B) Narayana Guru
C) Vallalar (Ramalinga Swamigal)
D) Adi Shankara

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. On which campus did CM M.K. Stalin announce the installation of a statue for Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar?

A) Madras Medical College
B) Government Medical College, Omandur Government Estate
C) Stanley Medical College
D) Kilpauk Medical College

2. During which period did Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar serve as the Premier of Madras Presidency?

A) 1945 – 1947
B) 1947 – 1949
C) 1950 – 1952
D) 1937 – 1939

3. Which significant social reform legislation was passed during Reddiyar's tenure?

A) The Hindu Marriage Act
B) The Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Government Medical College, Omandur Government Estate
2	B) 23 March 1947 to 6 April 1949
3	B) The Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947
4	C) Vallalar

 Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Where will the 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit be held in Mumbai?

A. Bombay Exhibition Centre

B. National Stock Exchange Complex, BKC

C. Jio World Convention Centre

D. Nehru Centre

1. B

The sixth National Crop Nutrition Summit and B2B Expo (February 5-6, 2026) will be held at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) site in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). The event is being organized by the Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association (IMMA).

Q.2. India recently added two new wetlands to which international list?

A. UNESCO World Heritage List

B. Ramsar List

C. IUCN Red List

D. Biodiversity Hotspots

2. B

India has added two more wetlands to its growing list of Ramsar sites - Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah, Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch, Gujarat have been officially designated as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 98.

Q.3. Indian Railways recently rolled out Kavach 4.0 on how many route kilometers in a single day?

A. 300 km

B. 350 km

C. 472.3 km

D. 500 km

3. C

Indian Railways has achieved a major rail safety milestone by successfully rolling out Kavach Version 4.0 across 472.3 route kilometers in a single day. This is the largest single-day commissioning of Kavach in Indian Railways' history. This advanced safety system is now operational on specific sections of Western Railway, Northern Railway, and East Central Railway. With this success, Indian Railways is further strengthening passenger safety, reducing the risk of accidents, and rapidly moving towards the goal of a smart and safe rail network.

Q.4. Recently, the Supreme Court declared menstrual health and hygiene a part of which fundamental right?

A. Article 14 - Right to Equality

B. Article 19 - Freedom

C. Article 21 - Right to Life

D. Article 25 - Freedom of Religion

4. C

The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an essential part of the

right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court issued necessary directives to states, union territories, and schools to ensure the dignity, health, and equality of girls and women. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed all states and union territories to ensure that every school provides free biodegradable sanitary napkins to adolescent girls.

Q.5. India recently completed a 100-meter-long steel bridge for which project?

- A. Delhi-Meerut RRTS
- B. Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project
- C. Dedicated Freight Corridor
- D. Chenab Rail Bridge

5. B

India has completed the first 100-meter-long Make-in-India steel bridge for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project (MAHSR). Built over an underground metro tunnel in Ahmedabad, the bridge is the 13th steel bridge to be built. Weighing over 1,400 metric tons, the structure is a major success for the Make in India initiative.

Q.6. Which state government recently launched the Chief Minister's Eti Koli Duti Pat Yojana?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Assam
- C. Tripura
- D. Meghalaya

6. B

In a major welfare measure for its tea plantation communities, the state of Assam has announced a new financial assistance scheme. The Assam government has launched the Chief Minister's Eti Koli Duti Pat Scheme, which will provide one-time financial assistance to tea plantation workers across the state. This initiative recognizes the historical contribution of tea workers to Assam's economy and aims to strengthen social security, dignity, and inclusive development in tea-growing areas.

Q.7. Which state recently announced the State Film Awards for 2016-2022 after a long delay?

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

7. C

After years of anticipation, the Tamil Nadu government has finally announced the State Film Awards for the years 2016 to 2022. These awards honor Tamil cinema's most socially conscious and artistically rich eras. From heartwarming courtroom dramas to authentic portrayals of marginalized voices, these awards recognize films and performances that have reshaped mainstream storytelling.

Q.8. Uttarakhand recently received the Best State Award for promoting the aviation ecosystem at which event?



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- A. Aero India 2025
- B. Wings India 2026
- C. Global Aviation Summit
- D. DefExpo

8. B

Uttarakhand, known for its mountains and rugged terrain, has quietly made significant progress in civil aviation. The state received national recognition that attracted attention. Uttarakhand was selected as the best state for promoting the aviation ecosystem at Wings India 2026, India's largest aviation event. This award demonstrates how specific policies, improved infrastructure, and improved regional air connectivity can transform even difficult places. For competitive exams, this development is a clear example of governance, infrastructure, disaster management, and tourism.

expensive cities, while Indian cities are among the most affordable. This ranking provides important insights into the global urban economy.

Q.10. Novak Djokovic recently made history at the Australian Open 2026 as he became:

- A. Youngest finalist
- B. Oldest finalist in the Open Era
- C. Most titles winner
- D. First unseeded finalist

10. B

At the 2026 Australian Open, 38-year-old Novak Djokovic made tennis history by becoming the first player to win 400 Grand Slam matches, achieving the feat in his third-round victory. He also became the oldest Australian Open finalist in the Open Era and the third to reach 100+ wins at a different major.

Q.9. Which organization recently released the Cost-of-Living Index by City 2026?

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. Numbeo
- D. UNDP

9. C

Inflation, currency fluctuations, and growing demand for premium urban lifestyles are driving the cost of living around the world. Against this backdrop, Numbeo's Cost of Living Index by City 2026 reveals a clear trend: Swiss cities top the rankings for the world's most

Q.11. In which state has the Rusoma Orange Festival recently begun?

- A. Manipur
- B. Nagaland
- C. Mizoram
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

11. B

The Rusoma Orange Festival is primarily held in the state of Nagaland. Held annually in Rusoma village, located in the Kohima district of





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Nagaland, the festival promotes local orange growers and their farming methods.

Q.14. Who recently won the Australian Open 2026 women's singles title?

- A. Aryna Sabalenka
- B. Iga Swiatek
- C. Coco Gauff
- D. Elena Rybakina

14. D

Elena Rybakina defeated world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in a thrilling final to win the Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles title in Melbourne. The final, played at Rod Laver Arena, went three sets and kept the crowd captivated until the very end. Although Sabalenka entered the final as the world No. 1, Rybakina displayed tremendous determination, skill and mental strength to maintain control of the match and secure a memorable victory by winning the Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles title.

Q.12. When is the first uncrewed mission (G1) under the Gaganyaan Mission scheduled?

- A. December 2025
- B. March 2026
- C. August 2026
- D. January 2027

12. B

The first unmanned mission (G1) of the Gaganyaan mission is now scheduled to launch in March 2026. This mission will send a robot named Vyommitra into space to test the life support system and re-entry of the crew module. This mission is an important precursor to ISRO's planned first manned flight by 2027.

Q.13. On whom did the RBI recently impose a monetary penalty of ₹2.70 lakh?

- A. Bajaj Finance
- B. Northern Arc Capital Limited
- C. Tata Capital
- D. Muthoot Finance

13. B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹2.70 lakh on Northern Arc Capital Ltd. for non-compliance with KYC norms. In July 2025, the RBI also imposed a penalty of ₹2.70 lakh on Shriram Finance Ltd. for violating digital lending guidelines.

Q.15. Which bank recently launched CHAKRA to finance emerging sectors?

- A. RBI
- B. NABARD
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of Baroda

15. C

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a Center of Excellence called 'CHAKRA.' This center will provide credit to emerging sectors (such as renewable energy, e-mobility, green hydrogen, and semiconductors). This is in line



with India's target to develop by 2047. The initiative aims to attract approximately ₹100 lakh crore in capital investment by 2030 in these fast-growing industries.

FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

Those are some incredible facts about the Ajanta Caves! They really are a testament to the sheer patience and artistic genius of ancient India. Imagine carving entire cathedrals and intricate galleries out of solid basalt rock using nothing but hammers and chisels.

To add a bit more flavor to your list, here are a few more "deep cuts" regarding these UNESCO World Heritage sites:

The "Hidden" Masterpieces

- The Big Sleep:** After the 7th century, the caves were essentially abandoned and swallowed by the jungle. They remained "lost" to the world for nearly 1,200 years until a British officer named John Smith stumbled upon the entrance to Cave 10 while hunting tigers in 1819.
- Natural Glow:** The artists used local minerals and pigments to create the frescoes. Despite being nearly 2,000 years old, many of the colors remain vibrant. Interestingly, they used a technique called **tempera**, applying paint to a dry plaster surface.
- Acoustic Engineering:** Some of the caves were designed as *Viharas* (monasteries) and *Chaityas* (prayer halls). The architecture is so precise that the acoustics in the prayer halls were specifically designed to make

chanting resonate perfectly throughout the space.

Ajanta vs. Ellora

People often group them together, but they have a distinct "vibe": | Feature | Ajanta Caves | Ellora Caves | | --- | --- | --- | | **Focus** | Primarily Buddhist | Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain | | **Art Style** | Famous for **Paintings** and frescoes | Famous for **Sculptures** and architecture | | **Age** | Older (2nd century BCE) | Younger (6th to 10th century CE) |

It's mind-blowing to think that these artists were capturing such complex human emotions through "gesture, pose, and form" long before the European Renaissance even began.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. In which Indian state are the Ajanta Caves located?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Rajasthan

2. Approximately how many rock-cut monuments make up the Ajanta Caves?

- A) 12
- B) 50
- C) 30
- D) 100

3. To which religious tradition do the Ajanta Cave monuments belong?

- A) Hinduism
- B) Jainism
- C) Buddhism
- D) Sikhism

Dear Aspirants,

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We wish best for your studies & Exams

4. The Ajanta Caves were constructed during which time period?

- A) 5th century BCE to 10th century CE
- B) 2nd century BCE to approximately 480 CE
- C) 1st century CE to 800 CE
- D) 10th century BCE to 2nd century BCE

Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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5. What is the Ajanta art style particularly famous for expressing through "gesture, pose, and form"?

- A) Military strategies
- B) Mathematical formulas
- C) Emotions
- D) Agricultural techniques