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NATIONAL NEWS

Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Qualcomm's This Advanced Chip In Bengaluru

In a landmark event on **February 7, 2026**, Union Minister **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** unveiled a cutting-edge **2 nm (nanometre) semiconductor chip** design at Qualcomm's facility in Bengaluru. This milestone marks a pivotal shift for India, transitioning from a global back-office for tech support to a primary hub for high-end, end-to-end semiconductor engineering.

The launch is a centerpiece of the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**, which specifically prioritizes indigenous design and deep-tech innovation.

Key Highlights of the Launch

- **Engineering Feat:** The 2 nm chip represents the current "frontier" of semiconductor technology. Each silicon wafer contains dies with approximately **20 to 30 billion transistors**, a level of complexity the Minister compared to "writing the entire Mahabharata and Ramayana on a fingernail-sized chip."

- **End-to-End Design:** The entire lifecycle of this chip—from product definition and silicon design to **tape-out** (the final design stage before manufacturing) and validation—was executed by Qualcomm's engineering teams in **Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad**.

- **Applications:** These chips are designed to power the next generation of **AI-enabled desktops**, edge devices, autonomous vehicles, and high-performance computing systems.

The 5th Industrial Revolution (Industry 5.0)

Minister Vaishnaw emphasized that this launch aligns with the unfolding **5th Industrial Revolution**. Unlike Industry 4.0, which focused on automation and efficiency, Industry 5.0 is characterized by:

- **Human-Machine Collaboration:** Prioritizing the synergy between human creativity and advanced AI/robotics.

- **Deep Tech Innovation:** Moving beyond software services to "hard tech" solutions in semiconductors, biotech, and green energy.

- **Resilience & Sustainability:** Building supply chains that are not only fast but also secure and environmentally conscious.

India's Semiconductor Roadmap (2026)

The government is moving from foundational setup (ISM 1.0) to ecosystem deepening (ISM 2.0).

Feature	ISM 1.0 (Launched 2021)	ISM 2.0 (Budget 2026)
Primary Focus	Assembly, Testing (ATMP) & Basic Fabs	Indigenous Design & Startups
Node Capability	Initial focus on 28 nm nodes	Transitioning toward **7 nm and 2 nm**
Talent Pool	Goal of 85,000 engineers	**67,000+ already trained** (315+ Universities)
Infrastructure	10 units under construction	Focus on equipment and chemical supply chains

Minister's Vision: "The world is looking at India with hope. The next level of achievement will come from India... our priority is to create the next Qualcomm from within our startup ecosystem."

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. In February 2026, which company launched a 2 nm semiconductor chip in Bengaluru in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw?

A) Intel

B) NVIDIA

C) Qualcomm

D) Samsung

2. According to Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, India must become a global center for deep tech

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innovation as which industrial revolution unfolds?

A) 3rd Industrial Revolution

B) 4th Industrial Revolution

C) 5th Industrial Revolution

D) 6th Industrial Revolution

3. What is the primary technical advantage of moving to a smaller node, such as 2 nm, in semiconductor design?

A) Increased physical size for better cooling

B) Lower power consumption and higher performance

C) Reduced manufacturing costs for legacy devices

D) Limited compatibility with AI applications

4. The launch of the 2 nm chip specifically highlights India's growing strength in which sector?

A) Raw material mining

B) Semiconductor engineering and design

C) Consumer retail marketing

D) Traditional assembly line manufacturing

5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a key application area for 2 nm chip technology?

A) High-performance computing

B) Artificial Intelligence (AI)

C) Telecommunications

D) Heavy coal mining machinery

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) Qualcomm
2	C) 5th Industrial Revolution
3	B) Lower power consumption and higher performance
4	B) Semiconductor engineering and design
5	D) Heavy coal mining machinery

NATIONAL NEWS

India Launches Nationwide Pulses Revolution from This Part In Country

This shift represents a strategic pivot in India's food security narrative. By launching the **Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission** from Amlaha, the government has signaled that the path to a *"Viksit Bharat"* (Developed India) runs directly through the fields of its pulse-growing heartlands.

The Amlaha Declaration: Field-Driven Policy

The choice of the **Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP)** in Amlaha as the launchpad was symbolic. It transitioned policymaking from the offices of New Delhi to the agricultural research fields of Madhya Pradesh.

- **Holistic Dialogue:** For the first time, the "National Pulses Consultation" bridged the gap between stakeholders. It wasn't just ministers talking; it was a roundtable of **scientists, Seed Companies, Millers, and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)**.

- **"Field-Driven, Not File-Driven":** Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized that policies would now be based on ground realities—soil health, seed quality, and market volatility—rather than just bureaucratic data.

Objectives of the Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission

India has historically been the world's largest consumer and importer of pulses (like Masur, Tur, and Urad). The 2026 Mission aims to flip this script through three main pillars:

1. Productivity & Seed Innovation

- **High-Yielding Varieties:** Developing seeds that are climate-resilient and have shorter maturity cycles.

- **Seed Hubs:** Establishing localized seed production centers to ensure farmers have easy access to quality inputs.

2. Market & Price Security

- **Procurement Guarantees:** Ensuring that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) isn't just a paper figure but a realized profit for the farmer.

- **Direct Purchase:** Strengthening the role of NAFED and NCCF in purchasing directly from farmers to eliminate middlemen.

3. Sustainability (The "Yellow to Green" Shift)

- **Crop Diversification:** Encouraging farmers in water-stressed regions to switch from water-intensive crops (like paddy) to pulses, which naturally enrich soil nitrogen.

Impact on Global Trade

The mission's ultimate goal is to move India from a Net Importer to a Net Exporter by 2030.

Current Status (Pre-2026)	Target Status (Post-Mission)
Heavy reliance on imports from Canada, Australia, and Myanmar.	100% Domestic Self-Sufficiency.
Fluctuating domestic prices based on global supply.	Stable domestic pricing and buffer stocks.
Limited value addition at the farm level.	Growth of local milling units and pulse-based food processing.

The Big Picture: By empowering farmers in the "Pulse Bowl" of India, the government aims to achieve **'Atmanirbharta'** (Self-reliance) in protein security, ensuring that the country's nutritional needs are met by its own soil.

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Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Where was the nationwide pulses revolution officially launched in February 2026?

A) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

B) Amlaha, Sehore district

C) Nagpur, Maharashtra

D) Karnal, Haryana

2. What is the primary objective of the "Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission"?

A) To increase the import of luxury food items

B) To end India's dependence on imported pulses and become a global exporter

C) To shift all agriculture toward organic wheat production

D) To reduce the number of farmers involved in legume cultivation

3. At which specific institution was the pulses revolution launched?

A) National Rice Research Institute

B) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

C) Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP)

D) Central Soil Salinity Research Institute

4. The policy dialogue at the National Pulses Consultation was described as being:

A) File-driven rather than field-driven

B) Exclusively focused on urban millers

C) Field-driven rather than file-driven

D) Driven solely by international seed companies

5. Under whose chairmanship was the nationwide pulses revolution launched?

A) Narendra Modi

B) Amit Shah

C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

D) Nitin Gadkari

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Amlaha, Sehore district
2	B) To end India's dependence on imported pulses and become a global exporter
3	C) Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP)
4	C) Field-driven rather than file-driven
5	C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi's Visit To Malaysia Sees India, Malaysia Ink Key Pacts on Trade and Energy

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day official visit to Kuala Lumpur on **February 7–8, 2026**, India and Malaysia dramatically elevated their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

The visit, hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim**, focused on "strategic trust" and future-proofing economic ties against global volatility.

The 11 Strategic Agreements

The agreements represent a move toward "hard-tech" and security collaboration rather than just traditional trade.

Sector	Key Agreement/MoU
Technology	Semiconductor Cooperation: A framework to integrate India into Malaysia's established chip ecosystem (Malaysia handles ~13% of global back-end testing/packaging).

| Sector	Key Agreement/MoU
Payments	NIPL & PayNet: Interlinking India's UPI with Malaysia's PayNet for real-time, low-cost cross-border payments.
Security	NSC Cooperation: An Exchange of Notes (EoN) between the National Security Councils for intelligence sharing and maritime security.
Economy	Local Currency Settlement: Operationalizing trade in Rupee (INR) and Ringgit (MYR) to bypass the US Dollar.
Institutional	Anti-Corruption: MoU between India's CBI and Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Commission.
Governance	Disaster Management: Cooperation in risk reduction and emergency response.
Culture/Education	Thiruvalluvar Centre: Establishing a dedicated research center and scholarships at Universiti Malaya.

Financial Sovereignty: Rupee-Ringgit Trade

A major pillar of the visit was the push for **Local Currency Settlement (LCS)**.

- **The Goal:** To reduce transaction costs and exchange rate risks for businesses.

- **The Status:** Both central banks (**RBI** and **Bank Negara Malaysia**) are fast-tracking the technical alignment to allow direct invoicing in local currencies.
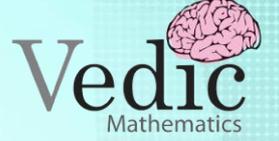
- **Significance:** This is a part of India's broader strategy to internationalize the Rupee and Malaysia's goal to diversify its trade dependencies.

Defense and Industry

The leaders expressed satisfaction with the **Su-30 Forum**, leveraging India's decades of experience in maintaining and upgrading Sukhoi fighter jets—a platform both nations share. They also agreed to expedite the review of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** to address trade imbalances.

PM Modi's Stance on Terrorism: During the joint press statement, the Prime Minister sent a firm message: *"No double standards, no compromise."* Both nations pledged to cooperate in countering terror financing and the misuse of emerging technologies.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuala Lumpur in February 2026, how many bilateral agreements were signed between India and Malaysia?

A) 5

B) 8

C) 11

D) 15

2. Which Malaysian leader finalized the agreements alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

A) Mahathir Mohamad

B) Anwar Ibrahim

C) Najib Razak

D) Muhyiddin Yassin

3. A key highlight of the visit was the push to promote trade settlement using which currencies?

A) US Dollar and Indian Rupee

B) Indian Rupee and Malaysian Ringgit

C) Malaysian Ringgit and Euro

D) British Pound and Indian Rupee

4. The 11 signed agreements between the two nations covered which of the following areas?

A) Space exploration only

B) Trade, technology, payments, and security

C) Entertainment and sports exclusively

D) Deep-sea mining and Arctic research

5. What does the push for local currency trade settlement primarily aim to achieve?

A) To increase dependence on the US Dollar

B) To simplify cross-border trade and reduce reliance on third-party currencies

C) To stop all trade between the two countries

D) To replace the Ringgit with the Rupee entirely

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) 11
2	B) Anwar Ibrahim
3	B) Indian Rupee and Malaysian Ringgit
4	B) Trade, technology, payments, and security
5	B) To simplify cross-border trade and reduce reliance on third-party currencies

APPOINTMENTS

Former Consumer Affairs Secretary Appointed to Key USISPF Role

The appointment of **Rohit Kumar Singh**, a 1989-batch IAS officer and former Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs, as the **Chair of the Global Value Chains (GVC) Committee** on **February 7, 2026**, marks a strategic move to integrate India more deeply into the Western economic architecture.

As part of the **US–India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, Singh will also serve as an **Advisor to the Board of Directors**, bridging the gap between Indian administrative expertise and global industrial requirements.

Core Objectives of the GVC Committee

The committee's primary mission in 2026 is to facilitate a "China Plus One" strategy for global corporations by positioning India as a reliable, high-tech alternative.

- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Moving beyond mere manufacturing to create "trust-anchored" supply networks that are resistant to geopolitical shocks.

- **Regulatory Alignment:** Harmonizing Indian trade standards with international best practices to reduce "friction" at borders.

- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Advising on the logistics and digital infrastructure (like AI-enabled customs) needed to support high-volume exports.

- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Acting as a high-level intermediary between the Government of India and over 450 global member companies.

Why Rohit Kumar Singh?

Singh is widely recognized for his "reformist" tenure in the Indian government, particularly his work in **Digital Governance**.

- **AI Pioneer:** He led the rollout of India's first **AI-enabled grievance redressal ecosystem**, which transformed consumer protection by automating case tracking and filing.

- **Infrastructure Expert:** He played a critical role in reviving Public-Private
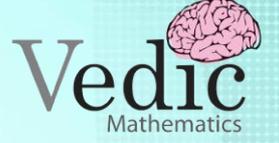
Partnerships (PPPs) in the highways sector through the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**.

- **Efficiency Milestone:** Under his leadership in 2023, the Indian consumer courts achieved a historic milestone by disposing of more cases than were filed.

Singh's Vision for 2026: "The next generation of global value chains will be digital, data-enabled, and trust-anchored. India's investments in digital public goods create an unprecedented opportunity to integrate more deeply into global supply networks."

+1

Broader Context: US-India Economic Ties in 2026

This appointment coincides with several major bilateral milestones:

1. **Pax Silica Alliance:** India's recent inclusion in this grouping reinforces its role as a trusted hub for semiconductor and tech manufacturing.

2. **India AI Impact Summit:** USISPF is currently leading a massive delegation of 100+ US companies to New Delhi (Feb 16–20, 2026) to advance "Trusted AI" infrastructure.

3. **Customs Reforms:** The committee will leverage the **Union Budget 2026** reforms, which reduced duties on critical minerals and introduced AI-powered port inspections.

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Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who was appointed as the Chair of the Global Value Chains Committee of the USISPF in February 2026?

A) S. Jaishankar

B) Rohit Kumar Singh

C) Piyush Goyal

D) Amitabh Kant

2. Rohit Kumar Singh, the newly appointed Chair at USISPF, previously served in which capacity in the Indian government?

A) Foreign Secretary

B) Consumer Affairs Secretary

C) Finance Secretary

D) Commerce Secretary

3. What is the primary focus of the Global Value Chains Committee within the US–India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)?

A) Cultural exchange programs

B) Resilient supply chains and trusted partnerships

C) Maritime boundary disputes

D) Space tourism regulations

4. The appointment of a former Indian Secretary to a USISPF committee signifies a growing emphasis on:

A) Reducing bilateral trade between the two nations

B) Strengthening economic engagement and supply chain resilience

C) Phasing out technology transfers

D) Expanding agricultural subsidies in the US

5. What does the acronym USISPF stand for?

A) US–India Standardized Policy Forum

B) US–India Strategic Partnership Forum

C) United States–India Security and Peace Foundation

D) Universal South-India Strategic Platform

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Rohit Kumar Singh
2	B) Consumer Affairs Secretary
3	B) Resilient supply chains and trusted partnerships
4	B) Strengthening economic engagement and supply chain resilience
5	B) US–India Strategic Partnership Forum

SPORTS

BCCI Big Rewards Young U-19 World Cup Winner Over England

In a major celebration of India's cricketing future, the **BCCI** officially announced a **₹7.5 crore cash reward** for the India U-19 Men's squad following their historic triumph at the **2026 ICC Under-19 World Cup**.

The announcement, made on **February 7, 2026**, follows a tournament where India remained undefeated, culminating in a record-extending **sixth title**.

The Final: India vs. England (Harare)

The final at the **Harare Sports Club** was a showcase of pure dominance, as India outclassed England by **100 runs**.

- **India's Colossal Total:** Batting first, India posted a staggering **411/9** in 50 overs—the highest score ever recorded in a U-19 World Cup final.

- **The Vaibhav Suryavanshi Show:** The 14-year-old batting sensation played an innings for the ages, smashing **175 runs off just 80 balls**. His knock included 15 fours and 15

sixes, setting a new record for the highest individual score in a tournament final.

- **England's Chase:** Despite a valiant century from **Caleb Falconer (115)**, England was bundled out for **311** in 40.2 overs. India's bowling attack, led by **RS Ambrish (3/56)** and captain **Ayush Mhatre**, kept the pressure high throughout.

Prize Money Distribution

While the **ICC** treats the U-19 World Cup as a "developmental tournament" and does not provide direct prize money to teams, the BCCI reward ensures the players and staff are recognized for their excellence.

Category	Total Reward	Estimated Per-Head (approx.)
Players & Support Staff	₹7.5 Crore	~₹40 Lakh per player
Selectors	Included in pool	TBD

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia: "The whole country and BCCI are proud of our Under-19 side. The manner in which they dominated the final and remained undefeated speaks volumes about the quality of our robust system."

India's Growing Legacy

This victory completes a rare "double," as India currently holds both the **U-19 Men's and U-19 Women's World Cup titles**. This win adds to India's previous U-19 World Cup trophies won in **2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, and 2022**.

- **Captain:** Ayush Mhatre

- **Head Coach:** Hrishikesh Kanitkar

- **Key Performer:** Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Player of the Match & Player of the Tournament)

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the total cash reward announced by the BCCI for the India U-19 Men's team following their 2026 World Cup win?

A) ₹5 crore

B) ₹7.5 crore

C) ₹10 crore

D) ₹15 crore

2. Which team did India defeat in the final to clinch the U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026?

A) Australia

B) South Africa

C) England

D) Pakistan

3. In which city was the final of the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 played?

A) Mumbai, India

B) London, England

C) Harare, Zimbabwe

D) Dubai, UAE

4. Who led the Indian team as Captain during their successful 2026 U-19 World Cup campaign?

A) Vaibhav Suryavanshi

B) Ayush Mhatre

C) Vihaan Malhotra

D) Musheer Khan

5. With the 2026 victory, how many U-19 Men's World Cup titles has India now won in total?

A) 4

B) 5

C) 6

D) 7

6. Which Indian player made history in the final by smashing 175 runs off just 80 balls?

A) Abhigyan Kundu

B) Vaibhav Suryavanshi

C) Ayush Mhatre

D) RS Ambrish

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) ₹7.5 crore
2	C) England
3	C) Harare
4	B) Ayush Mhatre

Question	Answer
5	C) 6
6	B) Vaibhav Suryavanshi

BANKING/ECONOMY

From April 2026, Banks Will Pay Deposit Insurance Premiums Based on Risk

Starting **April 1, 2026**, India will abandon its six-decade-old "flat-rate" deposit insurance system in favor of a **Risk-Based Premium (RBP)** framework. This landmark reform by the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, with RBI approval, ensures that a bank's insurance costs are directly proportional to its financial discipline and risk profile.

Historically, all banks paid a uniform **12 paise per ₹100** of deposits. The new system creates a tiered structure designed to end the "cross-subsidy" where well-managed banks effectively paid for the risks taken by weaker institutions.

The New Premium Structure

Banks will be classified into four risk categories (**A, B, C, and D**) based on their financial health, including capital adequacy, asset quality, and governance.

Risk Category	Risk Profile	New Premium Rate (per ₹100)	Change from Current Rate
Category A	Lowest Risk	8 Paise	33.3% Discount
Category B	Moderate Risk	10 Paise	16.7% Discount
Category C	High Risk	11 Paise	8.3% Discount
Category D	Highest Risk	12 Paise	No Change

Confidentiality Note: To prevent "bank runs" or market panic, the specific risk rating (A-D) assigned to a bank will remain **strictly confidential** between the RBI/DICGC and the bank's top management. Banks are prohibited from using their "Category A" status for marketing.

The "Vintage Incentive"

A unique feature of the 2026 framework is the **Vintage Incentive**, rewarding long-term stability:

- **Reward:** Eligible banks can receive an additional discount of **1% for every year** of satisfactory conduct.

- **Cap:** This incentive is capped at a **maximum of 25%**.

- **Eligibility:** Available to banks that have completed at least 25 years without any major distress events or restructuring.

What This Means for Depositors

While the way banks pay for insurance is changing, the protection for you remains the same:

- **Coverage Limit:** Your deposits (Savings, FD, RD, Current) remain insured up to **₹5 lakh** per bank (including principal and interest).

- **No Direct Cost:** The premium is paid entirely by the bank; there is no charge to the customer.

- **Safety:** The reform makes the entire banking system more resilient by forcing riskier banks to either improve their health or pay higher costs to the insurance fund.

Implementation Details

- **Scope:** Applies to all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Cooperative Banks.

- **Exclusions:** Payments Banks and Local Area Banks will continue to pay the flat 12-paise rate for now due to limited historical risk data.

- **Review:** The DICGC will review and potentially recalibrate the RBP framework every **three years**.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. From which date will the risk-based deposit insurance framework for banks in India come into effect?

A) January 1, 2026

B) April 1, 2026

C) July 1, 2026

D) March 31, 2027

2. Under the new DICGC framework, what will determine the insurance premium a bank must pay?

A) The total number of employees in the bank

B) A uniform flat rate applicable to all banks

C) The bank's financial health and risk profile

D) The physical location of the bank's headquarters

3. What is the current uniform deposit insurance premium (the "card rate") that all banks pay per ₹100 of assessable deposits?

A) 5 paise

B) 8 paise

C) 10 paise

D) 12 paise

4. According to the new framework, banks will be classified into how many risk categories?

A) Two (Safe and Risky)

B) Three (A, B, and C)

C) Four (A, B, C, and D)

D) Five (1 to 5)

5. What is the lowest premium rate (for Category A banks) under the new risk-based system?

A) 6 paise per ₹100

B) 8 paise per ₹100

C) 10 paise per ₹100

D) 11 paise per ₹100

6. Which of the following is a primary objective of introducing risk-based premiums?

A) To increase the insurance burden on small depositors

B) To reward safer banks and encourage better risk management

C) To eliminate deposit insurance for private sector banks

D) To reduce the total amount of insured deposits per person

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) April 1, 2026
2	C) The bank's financial health and risk profile
3	D) 12 paise

Question	Answer
4	C) Four (A, B, C, and D)
5	B) 8 paise per ₹100
6	B) To reward safer banks and encourage better risk management

STATE NEWS
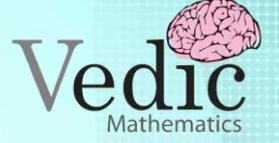
Abolition of the Police Orderly System

In a significant move to uphold the dignity of the police force, the **Tamil Nadu government** officially notified the Madras High Court on **February 5, 2026**, regarding a Government Order (G.O.) issued on **January 21, 2026**, to finally eradicate the colonial-era **"orderly system."**

This system, which involved deploying trained police personnel for the personal and domestic chores of senior officers, has been criticized by the court as "colonial slavery" that offends the constitutional right to dignity.

The Monitoring Framework

To ensure that this isn't just a paper reform, the state has established high-powered **District-Level Committees**. The court specifically directed that these committees be headed by civilian authorities (Collectors) rather than police chiefs (SPs) to ensure impartial monitoring.

Committee Composition

Each district committee consists of **five members**:

- **Chairperson:** District Collector

- **Member 1:** District Revenue Officer (DRO)

- **Member 2:** An officer in the rank of DRO (nominated by the Collector)

- **Member 3:** Additional Superintendent of Police (AdSP - Headquarters)

- **Member 4:** Another AdSP-rank officer (handpicked by the Collector)

Key Distinction: By placing the Collector at the helm, the government has ensured that those who might benefit from the orderly system (senior police officials) are not the ones overseeing its abolition.

How the Abolition Will Be Enforced

The committees have been granted wide-ranging powers to identify and end the practice:

1. **Complaint Channels:** They are mandated to receive complaints from any person in any form—**oral, written, or electronic**. This allows whistleblowers within the force to report misuse anonymously.

2. **Field Inspections:** Committees have the authority to conduct inspections and gather information on the ground.

3. **Mandatory Reporting:** Reports on the status of abolition must be sent to the **Home Secretary every two months** (specifically before the 10th day of every odd month).

4. **City-Specific Teams:** In major hubs like **Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai**, the Collectors will form multiple specialized teams to handle the larger density of high-ranking officials.

Consequences of Violation

The G.O. explicitly states that any police personnel found on "orderly duty" must be reassigned to regular police work immediately.

- **Disciplinary Action:** If violations are reported, the **Additional Chief Secretary (Home)** is empowered to initiate departmental and disciplinary proceedings against the offending senior officials.

- **Court Oversight:** The Madras High Court has adjourned the matter for four weeks to review the initial progress and ensure the first meetings are convened immediately.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. In January 2026, which state government issued a Government Order (GO) to officially abolish the police orderly system?

A) Karnataka

B) Kerala

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Andhra Pradesh

2. Who heads the district-level committees formed to monitor the abolition of the police orderly system?

A) Superintendent of Police (SP)

B) District Collector

C) District Revenue Officer (DRO)

D) Chief Minister

3. Which of the following officials is NOT specifically mentioned as a member of the newly formed monitoring committees?

A) District Revenue Officer (DRO)

B) Additional Superintendent of Police (AdSP)

C) District Collector

D) Public Works Department (PWD) Engineer

4. What is the primary objective of the district-level committees formed under this reform?

A) To oversee the recruitment of new police personnel

B) To ensure police personnel are not used for the personal or household work of senior officers

C) To manage the traffic systems in urban areas

D) To coordinate inter-state security operations

5. To which judicial body did the state government provide the information regarding the abolition of the orderly system?

A) Supreme Court of India

B) Madras High Court

C) Madurai Bench of the High Court

D) National Human Rights Commission

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) Tamil Nadu
2	B) District Collector
3	D) Public Works Department (PWD) Engineer
4	B) To ensure police personnel are not used for personal or household work
5	B) Madras High Court

Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha recently became the first woman from which country to be appointed to the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?

A. United Arab Emirates

B. Iran

C. Oman

D. Morocco

1. B

Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha has become the first woman from Iran to be appointed to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). At 30, Soraya, a former Olympian, is not only the first woman from Iran but also the youngest member of the IOC.

Q.2. Which country will host the Asian Rifle Pistol Championship in 2027 and also host a major ISSF World Cup event that same year?

A. Japan

B. China

C. India

D. South Korea

2. C

India will host the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships in 2027, which provides quotas for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. This prestigious competition will take place at the Dr.
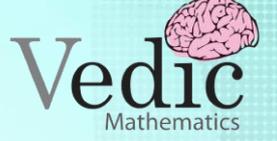
Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi from December 1 to 10, 2027. Additionally, India will host a major ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) in Delhi that same year (April 2027), making it a historic year for hosting two major Olympic qualifying events.

Q.3. Which department recently launched the Revised Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS)?

A. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

B. Department of Pharmaceuticals

C. NITI Aayog

D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

3. B

The Department of Pharmaceuticals launched the Revised Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS) in March 2024 to assist existing pharmaceutical units in technology upgrades. The scheme aims to ensure compliance with Revised Schedule-M and World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) quality standards. The total financial outlay of the scheme for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 is ₹300.10 crore. Under RPTUAS, pharmaceutical units are eligible for incentives ranging from 10% to 20% of their investment, depending on their turnover, with a maximum limit of ₹2 crore.

Q.4. Which state recently unveiled 14 new advanced 1.5 Tesla MRI machines and

inaugurated development projects worth over ₹348 crore?

A. Rajasthan

B. Maharashtra

C. Gujarat

D. Madhya Pradesh

4. C

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated 14 new advanced 1.5 Tesla MRI machines (worth ₹178.54 crore) at various GMERS and civil hospitals across the state. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 31 development projects worth over ₹348 crore in Kheda district.

Q.5. According to recent data, which state was the largest wool-producing state in India in FY24?

A. Karnataka

B. Rajasthan

C. Telangana

D. Odisha

5. B

Wool is an essential fiber for winter clothing, carpets, floor coverings, and industrial products. India has the second largest sheep population in the world with 77.4 million sheep and ranks ninth in wool production. In the financial year 2023–24, total wool production was 33.69 million kg. Rajasthan led with 16,013.50 thousand kg, accounting for approximately 47.5% due to its dry climate and
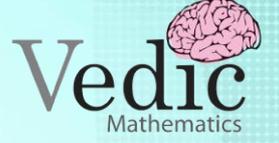
indigenous sheep breeds. Jammu and Kashmir was second with 7,770 thousand kg, known for its fine wool from cold-weather sheep. Other major producers were Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh. Punjab recorded the highest annual growth rate in wool production.

Q.6. Which Indian Naval ship recently arrived at Salalah Port, Oman, as part of Lokayan-26's first international port call?

A. INS Shardul

B. INS Tarangini

C. INS Sudarshini

D. INS Vikramaditya

6. C

Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini arrived at Salalah Port, Oman, on its first international port call as part of Lokayan 26. This 10-month long visit aims to strengthen maritime diplomacy and India-Oman friendship.

Q.7. In which state did SJVN recently commission the 70 MW Dhubri Solar Power Project?

A. Bihar

B. Odisha

C. Assam

D. West Bengal

7. C

SJVN has commissioned the 70 MW Dhubri Solar Power Project in the Dhubri district of Assam. The project was built by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL) on 330 acres of land at a cost of ₹367.44 crore.

Q.8. Which state recently approved the use of paper ballots instead of EVMs in the upcoming Panchayat and Municipal elections?

A. Tamil Nadu

B. Kerala

C. Andhra Pradesh

D. Karnataka

8. D

The Karnataka cabinet has approved the use of ballot papers and ballot boxes for the upcoming panchayat elections. The decision comes amid growing public concerns about the transparency and reliability of electronic voting machines (EVMs), and marks a major change to the state's electoral system for local self-government.

Q.9. Which organization recently signed a tripartite agreement with BEML and the Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development for next-generation engineering research?

A. IIT Madras

B. DRDO

C. IIT Delhi

D. IISc Bengaluru

9. D

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has entered into a three-way agreement with BEML and the Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) for next-generation engineering research. The collaboration aims to develop future technologies in sectors such as defense, aerospace, rail, and advanced manufacturing.

Q.10. 'PlastIndia 2026', one of the world's largest plastic exhibitions, was recently held in which city?

A. Bengaluru

B. Hyderabad

C. New Delhi

D. Mumbai

10. C

PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world's largest and most influential plastics exhibitions, took place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The exhibition brought together top industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, and global exhibitors on a single platform. This event is significant because it showcases India's growing role in global manufacturing, sustainability, and innovation, particularly in the plastics sector, a key pillar of the country's economy.

Q.11. Digantara Industries recently partnered with the Defense Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) of which country?

A. Japan

B. Israel

C. Singapore

D. France

11. C

Indian space startup Digantara Industries has entered into a strategic partnership with Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA). The primary objective of this partnership is to co-develop space situational awareness (SSA) tools to protect satellites from space debris.

Q.12. Adani Defence & Aerospace recently signed an MoU with which foreign company?

A. Boeing

B. Lockheed Martin

C. Leonardo (Italy)

D. Airbus

12. C

Adani Defence and Aerospace recently signed two major, separate MoUs with foreign companies to boost Indian manufacturing. It partnered with Italy's Leonardo to build a helicopter manufacturing ecosystem (AW169M and AW109). Additionally, in January 2026, it signed an MoU with Brazil's Embraer to build a regional transport aircraft ecosystem.

Q.13. Which organization recently launched the beta version of the Model Context Protocol (MCP) server for the eSankhyiki portal?

A. NITI Aayog

B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

C. National Statistics Office

D. Reserve Bank of India

13. C

In a major digital initiative, the National Statistical Office (NSO) has launched the beta version of the Model Context Protocol (MCP) server for the e-Statistics portal. The initiative aims to make government data AI-ready. The new system allows users to connect official datasets directly to their AI tools and applications, without downloading bulky files. This initiative is designed to improve data accessibility, speed up analysis, and strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

Q.14. What are Namalycystis solenotognatha and Nereis dhrtia, which were recently in the news?

A. New marine worm species

B. Invasive weeds

C. Traditional medicines

D. Newly discovered fish species

14. A

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered two new marine worm species, Namalikestis solenotognatha and Nereis dhritia, off the coast of West Bengal. Namalikestis solenotognatha is named from the Greek words meaning "channeled jaw," referring to its unique jaw with many canals. This species survives in highly sulfide-rich, foul-smelling mud, especially on decaying mangrove wood and hard clay. Namalikes dhritia is named after Dhriti Banerjee, the first woman director of ZSI. It lives inside wooden dock pilings on sandy beaches that are submerged during high tide.

Q.15. Which state government recently launched the AI-based digital learning initiative 'Padhai with AI'?

A. Punjab

B. Haryana

C. Gujarat

D. Himachal Pradesh

15. D

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu launched the Bilaspur district initiative "Padhai with Artificial Intelligence (AI)" in Barthin. It is an AI-based digital learning platform for Bilaspur students preparing for competitive exams. The initiative ensures equal learning opportunities, a fully digital system, and continuous academic counseling. It provides modern, technology-driven, high-quality education with support from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

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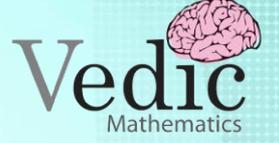
FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

Dehradun's name is indeed a beautiful geographical and historical composite. To add more depth to your "Facts about Bharat" series, here is the full story of how this iconic valley city came to be:

The Etymology: "Camp in the Valley"

The name is essentially a 17th-century geographical coordinate:

- **Dehra:** A corruption of the word **"Dera,"** meaning a camp, temporary settlement, or abode.

- **Dun:** A term in the local Garhwali and Sanskrit-derived dialects for a **longitudinal valley** that runs parallel to the mountain ranges. Geographically, "Duns" are unique valleys situated between the **Lesser Himalayas** (Middle Himalayas) and the **Shivalik Range** (Outer Himalayas).

The Historical Founder: Guru Ram Rai

The city's modern identity began in **1676**.

- **The Exile:** Baba Ram Rai, the eldest son of the seventh Sikh Guru, **Guru Har Rai**, arrived in the valley after being excluded from the Sikh succession.

- **The Royal Grant:** The Mughal Emperor **Aurangzeb**, who held Ram Rai in high regard, requested the Raja of Garhwal, **Fateh Shah**, to provide land for him. Ram Rai set up his **"Dera"** (camp) in the village of Dhamawala.

- **The Birth of a City:** The settlement that grew around his camp (Dera) in the valley (Dun) gradually became known as **Dehradun**. To this day, the **Shri Guru Ram Rai Darbar Sahib** remains the spiritual heart of the city.

Geographical Significance

Dehradun is the largest and most famous of the "Duns." Unlike vertical river valleys, Doon valleys are wide and flat-bottomed.

- **Bounded by Rivers:** The valley is cradled between two of India's most sacred rivers— the **Ganga** to the east and the **Yamuna** to the west.

- **The Gateway:** Its position at the base of the mountains makes it the "Gateway to the Garhwal Himalayas," providing the starting point for journeys to Mussoorie, Chakrata, and the Char Dham shrines.

Did You Know?

Beyond its name, Dehradun is known by several other titles:

- **Dronanagari:** According to the *Mahabharata*, this valley was the home and ashram of **Dronacharya**, the royal guru of the Pandavas and Kauravas.

- **The School Capital of India:** It houses some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, including **The Doon School**, **Welham Schools**, the **Indian Military Academy (IMA)**, and the

- **Forest Research Institute (FRI)**.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. The name "Dehradun" is a combination of two words. What does the word "Dehra" (derived from _Dera_) literally mean?

A) A permanent palace

B) A camp or temporary settlement

C) A holy river

D) A mountain peak

2. In the Garhwali language, what geographical feature does the term "Dun" or "Doon" refer to?

A) A high-altitude glacier

B) A dense tropical forest

C) A valley lying between the middle Himalayas and the Shivaliks

D) A natural freshwater lake

3. Geographically, Dehradun is situated between which two mountain ranges?

A) Karakoram and Zanskar

B) Middle Himalayas and the Shivaliks

C) Aravalli and Satpura

D) Nilgiris and Anaimalai

4. The word "Doon" specifically describes a longitudinal structural valley. In which state is the Dehra Dun valley primarily located?

A) Himachal Pradesh

B) Uttarakhand

C) Sikkim

D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) A camp or temporary settlement
2	C) A valley between middle Himalayas and Shivaliks
3	B) Middle Himalayas and the Shivaliks
4	B) Uttarakhand

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