

1. National News

Tamil Nadu Assembly Passes Resolution to Freeze Lok Sabha Seats at 543

- **Key Update:** The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution requesting the Central Government to freeze the total number of Lok Sabha seats at the existing **543** and maintain the inter-state distribution ratio based on the 1971 census proportion.
- **Core Context:** The resolution highlights concerns regarding the upcoming national delimitation exercise, arguing that states that successfully implemented family planning and population control measures should not lose parliamentary representation.
- **Key Demands:**
 - Retain the **2.2 : 1** ratio between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats.
 - Implement the **33% Women's Reservation** in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections using the current 543-seat framework without delay.

FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 Referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

- **Key Update:** The Lok Sabha approved a motion to refer the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** to a 31-member Joint Committee of Parliament.
- **Composition:** The committee consists of **21 members** from the Lok Sabha and **10 members** from the Rajya Sabha.
- **Exam Relevance:** Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) are ad-hoc committees set up by Parliament for a specific purpose and duration to examine detailed legislation or major issues.

Panel Finds Charges Proved Against High Court Judge

- **Key Update:** A three-member inquiry committee constituted under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar, submitted its report finding charges of financial misconduct against High Court Justice Yashwant Varma "proved".
- **Constitutional Background:** Article 124(4) and Article 217 of the Indian Constitution govern the removal process of judges on grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity."

2. International News

Russian Drone & Missile Strikes Target Ukraine's Izmail Port

- **Key Update:** Russian forces launched targeted strikes against infrastructure at the **Izmail Port** along the Danube River in Ukraine's Odesa region, causing damage to grain storage facilities.
- **Geographic Significance:** Izmail is Ukraine's largest river port on the Danube, located near the border with Romania (a NATO member state), serving as a crucial commercial route for Ukrainian agricultural exports following Black Sea trade disruptions.

3. Economics & Banking

Major Commercial Banks Revise Fixed Deposit (FD) Rates

- **Key Update:** Major public and private sector lenders—including **Indian Bank, Union Bank of India, and DCB Bank**—revised interest rates on retail domestic term deposits.
- **Key Offerings by Indian Bank:**

- **IND Supreme 2.0 (300 Days):** Offers 6.20% p.a. for general public, 6.70% for senior citizens, and 6.95% for super senior citizens.
- **IND GROW (500 Days):** Offers 6.65% p.a. for general public, 7.15% for senior citizens, and 7.40% for super senior citizens.
- **IND Prosper (777 Days):** Offers 6.60% p.a. for general public.

Oracle Financial Services Software (OFSS) Reports Strong Q1 Performance

- **Key Update:** OFSS recorded a **69% YoY increase in revenue** to ₹3,125 crore for Q1 FY27, with net profit doubling to ₹1,416 crore, driven by a 75% rise in software licensing revenue for its **FLEXCUBE** core banking platform.

4. Defense News & Military Exercises

Independence Day 2026 Themes Announced

- **Key Update:** The Ministry of Defence announced the dual themes for the 2026 Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort:
 1. "150 Years of Vande Mataram"
 2. "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047"
- **Static Context:** The national song Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and later included in his 1882 novel Anandamath.

India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise

- **Key Update:** The Indian Navy and United States Navy commenced the **IN-USN EOD Exercise 2026** at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.
- **Objective:** Enhancing interoperability, tactical skills, and operational procedures in

bomb disposal, underwater demolition, and mine countermeasures.

Ballistic Missile Launch & Naval Additions

- **Agni-4 IRBM:** Successful user training launch of the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) **Agni-4** carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **DSC A24 (Yard 329):** The 5th ship of the Diving Support Craft (DSC) project was officially launched for the Indian Navy.

5. Government Schemes & MoUs

India & Nepal Sign MoUs for 8 High Impact Community Projects (HICDP)

- **Key Update:** The Embassy of India in Kathmandu signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Nepali authorities for **8 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs)** valued at **NPR 803 million (~INR 50 crore)**.

Sector	Major Projects Covered
Health	Digitalization of B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (Sunsari); 10-bed hospital in Dailekh; 15-bed hospital in Sunsari.
Agriculture	Cold storage facility in Syangja district; Agricultural promotion & collection centers in Bhojpur, Dhading, and Humla.
Education	Construction of new academic block for Belbari Multiple Campus in Morang.



6. Sports News

Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026 (Lagos, Nigeria)

- **Key Update:** The Indian fencing contingent delivered a dominant performance at the U-23 and Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship in Lagos, Nigeria.
- **Tally:** India bagged **17 medals** (4 Gold, 4 Silver, 9 Bronze) on Day 1 of the U-23 event and **3 Gold medals** in the senior individual division.

World Athletics U20 Championships (Eugene, USA)

- **Key Update:** Basant Kumar Meghwal (High Jump) and Shahnavaz Khan (Long Jump) won medals at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon.
- **Significance:** Marks India's first-ever medals in high jump and long jump at the World U20 Athletics level.

Other Sports Highlights

- **Chess:** Indian GM R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in Round 2 of the **Sinquefield Cup 2026** in St. Louis, USA.
- **Cricket:** BCCI confirmed a 3-match T20I series between **India and Afghanistan** to be hosted at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi in September 2026.
- **Governance:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports suspended recognition of the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** due to election non-compliance, directing the IOA to form an ad-hoc committee.

7. Appointments & Resignations

Position / Designation	Appointed Official
Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS)	Air Marshal Tejpal Singh
Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)	Vice Admiral Manish Chadha
Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (DCNS)	Vice Admiral AN Pramod
Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)	Smt. Alka Nangia Arora
Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS)	Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

8. Important Days & Themes

12 August: International Youth Day

- **Theme 2026:** "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"
- **Focus:** Highlighting youth living in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with an emphasis on acquiring critical AI and digital skills.

12 August: World Elephant Day

- **Objective:** Raising global awareness regarding threats faced by Asian and African elephants (habitat loss, poaching, human-elephant conflict).
- **IUCN Status:** Asian Elephant (Endangered), African Forest Elephant

(Critically Endangered), African Savanna Elephant (Endangered).

13 August: World Organ Donation Day

- **Key Message:** "One Donor Can Save Up to 8 Lives".
- **National Mechanism:** Led in India by NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, linking pledges to ABHA IDs.

13 August: International Left-Handers Day

- **Objective:** Raising awareness about the advantages and challenges faced by left-handed individuals in a predominantly right-handed world.

Daily Practice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly recently passed a resolution demanding the freeze of Lok Sabha seats at which existing figure?

The Hindu

(A) 520

(B) 543

(C) 552

(D) 545

Tamil Nadu Assembly urged freezing Lok Sabha seats at 543 based on 1971 census proportions.

Q2. What is the official theme for the Independence Day Celebrations 2026 announced by the Ministry of Defence?

(A) Viksit Bharat @ 2047

(B) 150 Years of Vande Mataram & Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047

(C) Nation First, Always First

(D) Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

150 Years of Vande Mataram & Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047 — MoD announced these dual themes for 2026 Independence Day celebrations.

Q3. Under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) framework, India signed MoUs for 8 development projects in August 2026 with which neighboring country?

Utkarsh Classes

(A) Sri Lanka

(B) Bhutan

(C) Nepal

(D) Bangladesh

Nepal — Embassy of India in Kathmandu signed 8 HICDP MoUs worth NPR 803 million across education, health, and agriculture.

Q4. What is the UN theme for International Youth Day 2026 observed on August 12?

ANI News

(A) Green Skills for Youth

(B) Intergenerational Solidarity

(C) Different Contexts, Common Aspirations

(D) Youth Engagement for Global Action

Different Contexts, Common Aspirations — UN's theme for International Youth Day 2026.

Q5. Who has recently taken charge as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS)?

(A) Air Marshal Tejpal Singh

(B) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

(C) Vice Admiral Manish Chadha

(D) Smt. Alka Nangia Arora

Air Marshal Tejpal Singh — Assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Q1. [National News] The President of India recently gave assent to a Bill that criminalises intentional disruption or disrespect to which national symbol?

- (A) National Anthem (*Jana Gana Mana*)
- (B) National Song (*Vande Mataram*)
- (C) National Flag (*Tiranga*)
- (D) State Emblem of India

Answer: (B) National Song (*Vande Mataram*)

Explanation: President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to legislation that criminalises intentional disruption or prevention of the singing of the national song *Vande Mataram*. The law grants *Vande Mataram* legal protection on par with the National Anthem under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour framework.

Q2. [National News & Polity] Parliament passed a Constitution Amendment Bill to officially rename the state of 'Kerala' to which native Malayalam name?

- (A) Keralam
- (B) Keraleeyam
- (C) Cheralam
- (D) Malayalanadu

Answer: (A) Keralam

Explanation: Both Houses of Parliament approved the bill to rename Kerala as '**Keralam**' in the First Schedule of the Constitution. This follows a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala State Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to restore the native Malayalam name.

Q3. [National News & Governance] The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was recently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). What is the total strength of this committee?

- (A) 15 Members
- (B) 21 Members
- (C) 31 Members
- (D) 45 Members

Answer: (C) 31 Members

Explanation: The Lok Sabha approved a motion referring the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) comprising **21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha.**

Q4. [State Regulations] Which state government issued a statewide notification banning the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of tobacco and nicotine products under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006?

- (A) Maharashtra
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (B) Karnataka

Explanation: The Karnataka government prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation, and sale of products containing tobacco and nicotine (including gutkha and pan masala) for a period of one year in the interest of public health.

Q5. [Environment & Science] The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari in which state?

- (A) Rajasthan (Jaisalmer)
- (B) Gujarat (Banaskantha)
- (C) Ladakh (Leh)
- (D) Haryana (Bhiwani)

Answer: (B) Gujarat (Banaskantha)

Explanation: Gujarat received approval for a Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at **Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district**. Planned over 103 hectares at an estimated cost of ₹542.14 crore, it will be Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari.

Q6. [Critical Minerals & Geology] CSIR-NGRI and the Geological Survey initiated a joint exploration project in the Kadapa Basin of Andhra Pradesh for which two strategic critical minerals?

- (A) Cobalt and Nickel
- (B) Lithium and Gallium
- (C) Platinum and Titanium
- (D) Rare Earth Elements and Copper

Answer: (B) Lithium and Gallium

Explanation: Geological surveys in the Vempalle and Thummalapalle areas of the Kadapa Basin (Andhra Pradesh) are focusing on **Lithium** (up to 1,000 ppm) and **Gallium** (up to 250 ppm). The ₹140-crore exploration project is funded by the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

Q7. [International News] Who was elected by the Hungarian Parliament as the new President of Hungary?

- (A) Péter Magyar
- (B) Tamás Sulyok
- (C) András Baka
- (D) Viktor Orbán

Answer: (C) András Baka

Explanation: The Hungarian Parliament elected **András Baka**, former head of the Supreme Court of Hungary, as the country's new President.

Q8. [International Geography] Izmail Port, which was targeted in recent military strikes, is a vital river port located along which river?

- (A) Dnieper River
- (B) Danube River
- (C) Volga River
- (D) Rhine River

Answer: (B) Danube River

Explanation: Izmail Port is Ukraine's largest river port located on the **Danube River** near the Romanian border, serving as a critical hub for agricultural exports.

Q9. [Economics & Banking] According to the 3rd edition of the "2026 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List", which family ranked as India's richest business family for the third consecutive year?

- (A) Birla Family
- (B) Jindal Family
- (C) Ambani Family
- (D) Bajaj Family

Answer: (C) Ambani Family

Explanation: The Ambani family (Reliance Industries), led by Mukesh Ambani, emerged as India's richest business family for the 3rd consecutive year with a net worth of **₹25.8 lakh crore**. The Birla family ranked second (₹8.14 lakh crore), followed by the Jindal family (₹8.02 lakh crore).

Q10. [Banking & Financial Systems] As the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years, Parliament amended which Act to review the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) regulations?

- (A) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- (B) Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007
- (C) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- (D) Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

Answer: (B) Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007

Explanation: Parliament passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which amended **Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007** regarding Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) provisions for zero-charge payment platforms.

Q11. [Economics & Business] PMS Bazaar signed a strategic partnership with which agency at its Bengaluru Conclave to streamline alternative investment data accreditation?

- (A) SEBI Data Center
- (B) NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML)
- (C) CSDL Accreditation Cell
- (D) NSE Data & Analytics

Answer: (B) NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML)

Explanation: Alternative investment platform **PMS Bazaar** partnered with **NDML Accreditation Agency** (a subsidiary of NSDL) to simplify investor onboarding and accreditation processes.

Q12. [Defense News] Indian Navy launched 'Shruti' (Yard 3037), the 2nd vessel under the Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) project, at which shipbuilding facility?

- (A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai
- (B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- (C) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi
- (D) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa

Answer: (B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

Explanation: **Shruti (Yard 3037)**, the 2nd of 4 NGOPVs being constructed for the Indian Navy, was launched at **GRSE Kolkata**. The 1st NGOPV, *Sanghmitra*, was launched in May 2026.

Q13. [Defense Exercises] The IN-USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 between the Indian Navy and US Navy was held at which location?

- (A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- (B) Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala
- (C) Karwar, Karnataka
- (D) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar

Answer: (B) Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala

Explanation: The Indian Navy and US Navy held their annual **IN-USN EOD Exercise** at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi to enhance underwater mine countermeasure tactics and bomb disposal cooperation.

Q14. [Defense Technology] India successfully conducted a user training launch of which Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha?

- (A) Agni-3
- (B) Agni-4
- (C) Agni-P
- (D) Prithvi-II

Answer: (B) Agni-4

Explanation: A successful user training launch of the nuclear-capable **Agni-4** Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) was executed from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the Odisha coast.

Q15. [Govt Schemes & Technology] Which division under MeitY signed a Statement of Intent with NITI Aayog to deploy multilingual,

voice-first AI across government service delivery platforms?

- (A) Digital India Bhasha Cell
- (B) BHASHINI Division
- (C) IndiaAI Mission Secretariat
- (D) CDAC Language Tech Group

Answer: (B) BHASHINI Division

Explanation: The BHASHINI Division (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) partnered with NITI Aayog to integrate voice-first, multi-dialect translation tools (*BHASHINI Mitra, Udyat, Pravakta*) across governance initiatives.

Q16. [International MoUs] India signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for 8 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) worth NPR 803 million (~₹50 crore) with which neighboring country?

- (A) Sri Lanka
- (B) Bhutan
- (C) Nepal
- (D) Maldives

Answer: (C) Nepal

Explanation: The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu signed 8 MoUs with Nepal for infrastructure, health (B.P. Koirala Institute), education, and cold storage facilities under the HICDP framework.

Q17. [Govt Schemes & Health] The 'One Herb, One Standard' (OHOS) initiative was established to harmonize quality standards between which two organizations?

- (A) FSSAI and ICMR
- (B) PCIM&H and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

(C) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and CSIR

(D) NITI Aayog and Ministry of Ayush

Answer: (B) PCIM&H and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

Explanation: The One Herb, One Standard (OHOS) initiative brings the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H, Ayush Ministry) and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC, Health Ministry) together to publish single, universally recognized standard monographs for herbal drugs.

Q18. [Art & Culture] 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom' is a special national program launched to empower and showcase artisans in which traditional Indian sector?

- (A) Terracotta Pottery
- (B) Handloom & Weaving Sector
- (C) Brassware & Metalcraft
- (D) Bamboo & Cane Handicrafts

Answer: (B) Handloom & Weaving Sector

Explanation: Srijan: Voices from the Loom recognizes the creativity, traditional knowledge, and financial independence of women weavers engaged in India's handloom sector.

Q19. [Books & Authors / History] The national song 'Vande Mataram', whose 150th anniversary is a national theme for Independence Day 2026, was originally published in which famous novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay?

- (A) *Durgeshnandini*
- (B) *Anandamath*
- (C) *Kapalkundala*
- (D) *Devi Chaudhurani*

Answer: (B) Anandamath

Explanation: Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, *Vande Mataram* was later incorporated into his 1882 political novel *Anandamath*, which depicts the Sannyasi Rebellion.

Q20. [Appointments] Air Marshal Tejpal Singh recently assumed charge as which key operational head in the Armed Forces?

- (A) Vice Chief of the Air Staff
- (B) Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS)
- (C) Chief of Integrated Defence Staff
- (D) Director General Air Operations

Answer: (B) Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS)

Explanation: Air Marshal Tejpal Singh took charge as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) at Air Headquarters, New Delhi.

Q21. [Sports] Basant Kumar Meghwal and Shahnava Khan made sports history by winning India's first-ever field event medals at the World Athletics U20 Championships held in:

- (A) Lima, Peru
- (B) Eugene, Oregon, USA
- (C) Tokyo, Japan
- (D) Nairobi, Kenya

Answer: (B) Eugene, Oregon, USA

Explanation: At the World Athletics U20 Championships in **Eugene, USA**, Basant Kumar Meghwal won a medal in High Jump while Shahnava Khan won in Long Jump—India's first U20 field event medals in these categories.

Q22. [Sports] India won 17 medals on Day 1 of the U-23 Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026. Which country hosted this tournament?

- (A) South Africa
- (B) Nigeria (Lagos)

(C) Ghana

(D) Kenya

Answer: (B) Nigeria (Lagos)

Explanation: The Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026 took place in **Lagos, Nigeria**, where Indian fencers secured 17 medals (including 4 Golds) on the opening day.

Q23. [Sports Governance] Which three continental football governing bodies jointly issued a formal protest accusing FIFA President Gianni Infantino of a 'fundamental breach of trust'?

- (A) UEFA, CONMEBOL, and CAF
- (B) UEFA, CONCACAF, and AFC
- (C) CONMEBOL, CAF, and OFC
- (D) UEFA, AFC, and CAF

Answer: (B) UEFA, CONCACAF, and AFC

Explanation: UEFA (Europe), CONCACAF (North & Central America), and AFC (Asia) issued a joint letter strongly opposing FIFA's proposal to sell private equity stakes in future World Cup commercial returns.

Q24. [Important Days] World Organ Donation Day is observed annually on 13 August. Which landmark surgical feat in 1954 laid the foundation for modern organ transplantation history?

- (A) First successful heart transplant by Dr. Christiaan Barnard
- (B) First successful kidney transplant by Dr. Joseph Murray
- (C) First successful liver transplant by Dr. Thomas Starzl
- (D) First successful lung transplant by Dr. James Hardy

Answer: (B) First successful kidney transplant by Dr. Joseph Murray

Explanation: The history of World Organ Donation Day (13 August) commemorates the 1954 kidney transplant performed by Dr. Joseph Murray between identical twin brothers Ronald and Richard Herrick. Dr. Murray received the Nobel Prize in 1990.

Q25. [Important Days & Environment] World Elephant Day is celebrated on August 12. What is the IUCN Red List conservation status of the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)?

- (A) Vulnerable
- (B) Endangered
- (C) Critically Endangered
- (D) Least Concern

Answer: (B) Endangered

Explanation: The Asian Elephant is listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List. In contrast, the African Forest Elephant is *Critically Endangered* and the African Savanna Elephant is *Endangered*.

Q26. [Important Days] What is the United Nations theme for International Youth Day observed on 12 August 2026?

- (A) "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World"
- (B) "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"
- (C) "Youth Engagement for Global Action"
- (D) "Transforming Education"

Answer: (B) "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"

Explanation: UN International Youth Day 2026 focused on the theme **"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"**, highlighting youth development in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS regions.

Q27. [Important Days] International Left-Handers Day is observed globally on which date?

- (A) 10 August
- (B) 12 August
- (C) 13 August
- (D) 15 August

Answer: (C) 13 August

Explanation: 13 August is designated as International Left-Handers Day to raise awareness about the experiences, design needs, and challenges of left-handed people.

Q28. [Environment & Fauna] Depicted in prehistoric Indonesian cave art, the 'Babirusa' (wild pig genus) recently gained global conservation focus as a key indicator species for:

- (A) Mangrove carbon sequestration
- (B) Tropical forest seed dispersal & ecosystem health
- (C) High-altitude grassland stability
- (D) Coral reef biodiversity

Answer: (B) Tropical forest seed dispersal & ecosystem health

Explanation: Endemic to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the **Babirusa** is an ancient swine lineage featured in prehistoric cave art that serves as a vital seed disperser and ecological health indicator in tropical forests.

Q29. [Technology & Education] Tech giant IBM collaborated with which two Indian institutions to set up specialized Generative AI and Agentic AI innovation centers?

- (A) IIT Bombay and BITS Pilani
- (B) MIT-Bengaluru and CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
- (C) IISc Bengaluru and IIIT Hyderabad
- (D) SRM Institute and VIT Vellore

Answer: (B) MIT-Bengaluru and CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

Explanation: IBM partnered with **Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Bengaluru** and **CHRIST University** to build AI-focused research centers covering LLMs, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), and Agentic AI.

Q30. [Awards & Honors / History of Medicine]
Dr. Joseph E. Murray was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for which medical breakthrough?

- (A) Discovery of ABO Blood Group systems
- (B) Development of Organ & Cell Transplantation techniques
- (C) Discovery of Penicillin and Antibiotics
- (D) Invention of the Dialysis Machine

Answer: (B) Development of Organ & Cell Transplantation techniques

Explanation: Dr. Joseph E. Murray received the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his pioneering work in organ transplantation, including performing the world's first successful human kidney transplant in 1954.

