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NATIONAL NEWS

Union Minister Annpurna Devi Inaugurates PANKHUDI Portal to Improve Services and Support for Women and Children

That is an excellent summary of a very significant milestone in India's social development journey. The **PANKHUDI** portal, launched on **January 8, 2026**, represents a shift toward "Jan Bhagidari" (people's participation) by using technology to bridge the gap between the government and private contributors.

To build on the points you mentioned, here is a more detailed look at how the portal functions and the specific impact it is designed to have:

Core Objectives & "Jan Bhagidari"

The portal is more than just a tracking tool; it is a **single-window digital platform** designed to institutionalize collaboration. It draws inspiration from the vision that technology should act as a transparent bridge, fostering trust between the state and its citizens.

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Key Features of PANKHUDI

- **Integrated CSR Interface:** It simplifies the "Ease of doing CSR" by allowing corporate entities, NRIs, and NGOs to register and identify priority areas directly.
- **Cashless Accountability:** To ensure 100% financial transparency, all contributions are accepted **only through non-cash modes**.
- **End-to-End Tracking:** Contributors can submit project proposals, get digital approvals, and monitor real-time outcomes of their social investments.
- **Targeted Infrastructure:** The initiative aims to upgrade and support:
  - **14 lakh+** Anganwadi Centres.
  - **5,000** Child Care Institutions.
  - **800** One Stop Centres (OSCs).

Strengthening Flagship Missions

PANKHUDI acts as a digital backbone for the Ministry's three primary missions:

1. **Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0:** Focusing on nutrition and early childhood education.
2. **Mission Vatsalya:** Dedicated to child welfare, protection, and rehabilitation.
3. **Mission Shakti:** Focused on women's safety, empowerment, and safety nets like *Shakhi Niwas* and *Shakti Sadan*.

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Which Ministry of the Government of India launched the PANKHUDI digital portal?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B) Ministry of Women and Child Development

C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

D) Ministry of Education

2. When was the PANKHUDI portal officially launched?

A) August 2025

B) January 2026

C) March 2024

D) December 2025

3. Who is the Union Minister credited with launching the PANKHUDI portal?

A) Smt. Smriti Irani

B) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

C) Smt. Annpurna Devi

D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu

4. Which of the following is NOT a primary stakeholder connected through the PANKHUDI portal?

A) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

B) Corporate contributors

C) Foreign Military Attachés

D) Government and Citizens

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5. What is the primary objective of the PANKHUDI portal?

A) To manage international trade agreements

B) To connect stakeholders for the welfare and empowerment of women and children

C) To provide digital banking services to rural areas

D) To track weather patterns for agricultural development

6. The PANKHUDI portal supports initiatives in which of the following areas?

A) Nutrition and health

B) Early childhood care and child welfare

C) Women's empowerment and protection

D) All of the above

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**B** (Ministry of Women and Child Development)
2	**B** (January 2026)
3	**C** (Smt. Annpurna Devi)
4	**C** (Foreign Military Attachés)
5	**B** (Connect stakeholders for women and children)
6	**D** (All of the above)

NATIONAL NEWS

New Delhi World Book Fair 2026

The **53rd New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026** is currently underway, serving as a massive celebration of literature and innovation. Organized by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**, India, it is being held from **January 10 to January 18, 2026**, at the state-of-the-art **Bharat Mandapam**, Pragati Maidan.

In a landmark move to promote reading culture among Gen Z and students, the organizers have made **entry free for all visitors** for the first time in the fair's history.

Central Theme: "Indian Military History"

The fair's theme this year is **"Indian Military History: Valour and Wisdom @75"**, a tribute to 75 years of the Indian Armed Forces' contribution to nation-building.

- **Theme Pavilion:** A 1,000-square-meter immersive space featuring replicas of the **Arjun Tank**, **INS Vikrant**, and **LCA Tejas**.
- **Tributes:** Special exhibits honoring 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees and over 500

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books dedicated to military history and strategic studies.

- **Events:** More than 100 sessions featuring war veterans, defense experts, and historians.

Global Participation & Partnerships

The 2026 edition has a strong international footprint with over **35 participating countries**.

- **Guest of Honour: Qatar** (highlighting deep cultural ties and shared heritage).
- **Focus Country: Spain** (celebrating the India-Spain Dual Year 2026).
- **Special Pavilion: France** (marking the **India–France Year of Innovation**).

Key Attractions for Visitors

Feature	Highlights
Kidz Express	A dedicated Children's Pavilion with storytelling, Vedic Math workshops, and "child-author" interactions.
Digital Reading	The **Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya (ReP)** offers over 6,000 free e-books via QR codes and digital kiosks.
Cultural Evenings	Performances by Grammy winner **Ricky Kej**, the Manganiyars, and bands from the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
B2B Platforms	**CEO Speak** and the **New Delhi Rights Table** for global publishing professionals to exchange translation rights.

Visitor Information

Dates: January 10 – 18, 2026

Timings: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Venue: Halls 2–6, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Nearest Metro: Supreme Court Station (Blue Line).

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Which edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) is scheduled for January 2026?

A) 50th

B) 51st

C) 53rd

D) 55th

2. What is a unique feature of the NDWBF 2026 compared to previous editions?

A) It will be held virtually

B) Entry will be free for all visitors

C) It will only feature digital books

D) It is restricted to students only

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3. Which organization is the primary organizer of the fair under the Ministry of Education?

A) Sahitya Akademi

B) National Book Trust (NBT)

C) NCERT

D) Indian Council of Cultural Relations

4. Which country has been designated as the 'Guest of Honour' for NDWBF 2026?

A) Spain

B) France

C) Qatar

D) Japan

5. Why will France have a special pavilion at the fair?

A) It is the Guest of Honour country

B) To celebrate the India–France Year of Innovation

C) It is the Focus Country of the fair

|D) To mark the 100th year of its publishing industry

6. Which country is the 'Focus Country' for the 2026 fair?

A) Spain

B) Russia

C) Abu Dhabi

D) Poland

7. Where is the venue for the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026?

A) Pragati Maidan

B) Bharat Mandapam

C) Yashobhoomi (IICC)

D) Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**C** (53rd)
2	**B** (Entry will be free for all visitors)
3	**B** (National Book Trust)
4	**C** (Qatar)
5	**B** (India–France Year of Innovation)
6	**A** (Spain)
7	**B** (Bharat Mandapam)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and Germany Various Pacts On German Chancellor Visit To India

The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on **January 12–13, 2026**, in Gandhinagar and

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Ahmedabad marks a transformative chapter in the India-Germany relationship.

This visit coincides with the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations** and the **25th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership**.

Here is a breakdown of the historic outcomes and the new "Visa-Free" facility:

The Visa-Free Transit Breakthrough

The most immediate benefit for Indian citizens is the abolition of the **Airport Transit Visa (Type A)** requirement.

- **What it means:** Indian passport holders can now transit through German international airports (like Frankfurt or Munich) to a non-Schengen destination without applying for a transit visa in advance.
- **Conditions:** This applies as long as the traveler remains within the international transit area and the stay is under 24 hours.
- **Impact:** This eliminates a significant hurdle involving fees (approx. €60), courier charges, and a 5–7 day processing wait, making Germany a more competitive hub for Indians flying to the Americas or Africa.

Migration and Mobility Partnership

The talks solidified a "Comprehensive Roadmap on Higher Education and Skill Mobility."

- **Healthcare & Skilled Labor:** Germany is actively seeking Indian professionals, particularly in healthcare and green tech, to address its labor shortages.
- **Education:** Prime Minister Modi invited German universities to set up campuses in India. Currently, there are over **50,000 Indian students** in Germany—the largest group of international students there.
- **Skilled Labor Strategy:** Chancellor Merz highlighted that Germany is simplifying the visa process to attract **30,000 skilled Indian workers** annually.

Strategic & Economic Highlights

Beyond mobility, the two nations signed **19 agreements** (MoUs) across various critical sectors:

- **Defence:** A new **Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap** was signed to move from a "buyer-seller" relationship to one of co-development and co-production (including advanced submarine technology).
- **Green Energy:** Germany announced fresh funding of **€1.24 billion** under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), with a major deal for the export of 500,000 tons of **Green Ammonia** from India to Germany.

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- **Technology:** New partnerships were established in **Semiconductors** and **Critical Minerals** to build resilient supply chains.

Symbolic Highlights

The visit began with a cultural immersion at the **Sabarmati Ashram** and the inauguration of the **International Kite Festival** in Ahmedabad, symbolizing the "uplifting" nature of the bilateral ties.

Here are the multiple-choice questions based on the recent strategic and economic agreements between India and Germany:

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Who represented Germany in the high-level bilateral talks held in Gandhinagar in January 2026?

A) Olaf Scholz

B) Friedrich Merz

C) Angela Merkel

D) Frank-Walter Steinmeier

2. Which significant travel-related facility was announced for Indian nationals during the bilateral talks?

A) E-visa on arrival

B) Permanent residency status

C) Visa-free transit facility

D) 10-year multiple-entry visa

3. The renewed emphasis on legal migration pathways and skills cooperation specifically highlighted professionals from which sector?

A) Information Technology (IT)

B) Healthcare sector

C) Civil Engineering

D) Renewable Energy

4. Where did the high-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the German Chancellor take place?

A) New Delhi

B) Berlin

C) Gandhinagar

D) Mumbai

5. What was the primary focus of the agreements signed between India and Germany during this visit?

A) Space exploration and deep-sea mining

B) Migration, security, and economic cooperation

C) Agricultural exports and irrigation

D) Cultural exchange and sports development

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**B** (Friedrich Merz)
2	**C** (Visa-free transit facility)
3	**B** (Healthcare sector)
4	**C** (Gandhinagar)
5	**B** (Migration, security, and economic cooperation)

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APPOINTMENTS

Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta Appointed Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court

In a significant move for the Himalayan state's judiciary, **Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta** was officially sworn in as the **15th Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court** on **January 10, 2026**.

His appointment ensures a seamless leadership transition following the retirement of the previous incumbent, Justice Guhanathan Narendar, on January 9, 2026.

Key Highlights of the Appointment

- **The Ceremony:** The oath of office was administered by the Governor of Uttarakhand, **Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh**, at Lok Bhawan in Dehradun.
- **The Mandate:** The warrant of appointment, issued by the **President of India**, was read out by the Chief Secretary, Shri Anand Bardhan.
- **Background:** Prior to this elevation, Justice Gupta served as the senior-most judge of the **Allahabad High Court**, where he had been serving since April 2013.
- **Timeline:** The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant**, recommended his name on December 18, 2025, and the Central Government issued the formal notification on January 8, 2026.

Judicial Profile of Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta

Justice Gupta brings nearly 13 years of experience as a High Court judge to his new role:

- **Education:** Graduated in Law from Lucknow University in 1987.
- **Expertise:** Extensive experience in **Civil Law, Rent Control, and Constitutional matters**.
- **Tenure:** He is expected to serve as the Chief Justice until his retirement on **October 8, 2026**.

The Appointment Process (Article 217)

The appointment of a High Court Chief Justice in India follows a structured constitutional path involving both the judiciary and the executive:

Step	Authority involved	Action
Recommendation	Supreme Court Collegium	Proposes a name based on seniority and merit.

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Step	Authority involved	Action
Clearance	Ministry of Law & Justice	Processes the file and conducts background checks.
Appointment	President of India	Formally issues the Warrant of Appointment.
Oath	Governor of the State	Administers the oath of office and secrecy.

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court?

A) Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta

B) Justice Pritinker Diwaker

C) Justice Rajesh Bindal

D) Justice Arun Bhansali

2. Before his appointment as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta was serving as a judge in which High Court?

A) Delhi High Court

B) Allahabad High Court

C) Rajasthan High Court

D) Bombay High Court

3. The appointment of a High Court Chief Justice is made following the recommendation of which body?

A) The Bar Council of India

B) The Union Cabinet

C) The Supreme Court Collegium

D) The Law Commission of India

4. Which of the following statements is true regarding the appointment of Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta?

A) He was appointed directly by the Governor of Uttarakhand without consultation.

B) He is currently the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

C) The official notification for his appointment was issued by the Government of India.

D) He was appointed to the Supreme Court of India.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**A** (Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta)
2	**B** (Allahabad High Court)
3	**C** (Supreme Court Collegium)
4	**C** (Official notification was issued by the government)

SPORTS

Usman Khawaja Announces Retirement from International Cricket

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The retirement of **Usman Khawaja** on **January 8, 2026**, marks the end of a truly historic chapter in Australian cricket. By bowing out at the **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**, his career came a full circle, finishing at the same venue where he made his debut 15 years prior.

As Australia clinched the **2025–26 Ashes series 4–1**, Khawaja's final walk to the pavilion was met with a standing ovation from the crowd and a guard of honor from the England team—a testament to his status as a statesman of the game.

A Career in Numbers

Khawaja retires as one of Australia's most technically accomplished batters, particularly noted for his late-career resurgence as an opener.

Format	Matches	Runs	Average	Centuries
Test	88	6,229	42.95	16
ODI	40	1,554	42.00	2
T20I	9	241	26.77	0

Defining Career Milestones

- **The Trailblazer:** In 2011, he became the **first Muslim and first Pakistan-born player** to represent Australia in Test cricket.
- **The Marathon Man:** His 141 against Pakistan in Dubai (2018), where he batted for over 500 minutes in extreme heat, is regarded as one of the greatest match-saving innings in modern Test history.
- **The SCG Specialist:** His "second coming" in 2022 saw him score twin centuries (137 and 101*) at the SCG after being out of the team for two years, cementing his place as a world-class opener.
- **World Champion:** He was a key member of the squad that won the **ICC World Test Championship** in 2023.

Legacy Beyond the Boundary

In his emotional retirement speech, Khawaja emphasized that he wanted the journey for the "next Usman Khawaja" to be easier. He has been a vocal advocate against racial stereotyping and a champion for diversity, famously stating:

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Usman Khawaja holds which significant distinction in the history of Australian cricket?

A) He was the first Australian to score a century at the SCG

B) He was Australia's first Muslim Test cricketer

C) He is the highest run-scorer in Ashes history

D) He was the youngest captain of the Australian Test team

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2. Where did Usman Khawaja play his final international Test match?

A) The Gabba, Brisbane

B) Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)

C) Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)

D) Adelaide Oval

3. Against which team did Usman Khawaja play his final Test series before retiring in January 2026?

A) India

B) England (The Ashes)

C) South Africa

D) Pakistan

4. How many Test matches did Usman Khawaja play during his 15-year international career?

A) 75

B) 88

C) 100

D) 92

5. Beyond his batting statistics, Usman Khawaja's career is widely recognized as a symbol of what in Australian sports?

A) Technological advancement in training

B) Religious and cultural diversity

C) Strict adherence to traditional coaching

D) Commercial success and branding

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**B** (Australia's first Muslim Test cricketer)
2	**C** (Sydney Cricket Ground)
3	**B** (The Ashes / England)
4	**B** (88 Test matches)
5	**B** (Religious and cultural diversity)

BANKING/ECONOMY

Skydo Gets RBI Approval for PA-CB Licence

This is a significant milestone for India's fintech sector. On **January 9, 2026**, Bengaluru-based **Skydo** became one of the first cross-border focused fintechs to receive final authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)**.

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This follows an in-principle approval granted in January 2025 and places Skydo alongside major players like Razorpay, Cashfree, and Amazon Pay in the regulated cross-border space.

Why This Matters for Indian MSMEs

For small businesses and freelancers, international payments have traditionally been plagued by high forex markups (often 3–5%) and complex paperwork. Skydo's regulated platform addresses these pain points specifically:

- **Cost Transparency:** The platform operates on a **flat-fee model** ($19 for payments under $2,000; $29 for $2,001–$10,000) with **zero markup** on live mid-market FX rates.
- **Automated Compliance:** It auto-generates digital **FIRA (Foreign Inward Remittance Advice)** certificates instantly, which are crucial for GST filing and proving that export earnings have entered India legally.
- **Local Experience for Clients:** It provides exporters with virtual local accounts in the US, UK, EU, and other regions, allowing international clients to pay via local bank transfers instead of expensive international wires.

Scaling India's Export Ambitions

The timing of this license is critical as India targets **$2 trillion in exports by 2030**.

- **Current Reach:** Skydo already serves over **30,000 MSMEs and freelancers** across 50+ cities.
- **Currency Support:** It supports collections in **32+ currencies**.
- **Future Growth:** Backed by a recent **$10 million Series A** funding round (led by Susquehanna Asia VC), the company aims to process **$5 billion** in annualized payment volumes by 2027.

Regulatory Rigor

By bringing these transactions under the PA-CB framework, the RBI has ensured tighter oversight on **Money Laundering and Financial Crime (AML/CFT)**. For businesses, this means their service provider now operates with a high bar of security, data localization, and capital adequacy.

Here are the multiple-choice questions

1. Which company recently received final authorization from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)?

A) Razorpay

B) Skydo

C) Pine Labs

D) Cashfree

2. Where is the fintech platform Skydo headquartered?

A) Mumbai

B) Hyderabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Gurugram

3. What is the primary significance of the PA-CB authorization for Skydo?

A) It allows them to issue credit cards to retail customers.

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B) It enables the expansion of regulated cross-border payment services for Indian exporters.

C) It authorizes the company to operate as a full-fledged commercial bank.

D) It provides a license to manage Cryptocurrency exchanges in India.

4. Skydo's services under the new authorization are specially focused on which sector?

A) Heavy Industrial Manufacturing

B) MSMEs and small businesses

C) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

D) Luxury Goods Importers

5. Which regulatory body granted the final authorization to Skydo for its cross-border operations?

A) SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)

B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

D) Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	**B** (Skydo)
2	**C** (Bengaluru)
3	**B** (Regulated cross-border payment services)
4	**B** (MSMEs and small businesses)
5	**C** (Reserve Bank of India)

STATE NEWS

Health Benefits of Fermented Rice

The traditional South Indian staple, **Pazhaiya Soru** (fermented rice), has officially received scientific validation from a long-term study conducted by the **Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital (SMCH)**, Chennai.

On **January 5, 2026**, Tamil Nadu Health Minister **Ma. Subramanian** unveiled the findings of this five-year research project, which confirms that this ancient dietary practice is a "potent preventive food" for modern lifestyle diseases.

Key Findings of the Study

The research, led by **Dr. S. Jeswanth** (Head of Surgical Gastroenterology at SMCH), analyzed various rice varieties including White Ponni, Raw Rice, and Mappillai Samba. The results

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revealed a dramatic transformation in nutritional profile after overnight fermentation:

- **Massive Iron Boost:** The study found that 100g of regular cooked rice contains about **3.4mg** of iron. After 12 hours of fermentation, this level skyrockets to **73.91mg**—a nearly **21-fold increase** that exceeds the daily requirement for pregnant women.
- **Enhanced Nutrition:** * **Dietary Fiber:** Increased by **631%**.
  - **Resistant Starch:** Increased by **270%**.
  - **Protein:** Increased by **24%**.
- **Micronutrients:** The process significantly boosts levels of **Zinc, Selenium, and B-complex vitamins** (especially B12 and B6).
- **Probiotic Powerhouse:** Fermentation fosters beneficial bacteria like *Lactobacillus* and *Lactococcus lactis*, which produce over **2,000 bioactive compounds** that strengthen the gut lining.

Therapeutic Benefits

The Tamil Nadu Health Department is now promoting the dish as a medical intervention for several conditions:

- **Gastrointestinal Health:** Highly effective in treating **Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)**, Ulcerative Colitis, and Crohn's disease.
- **Maternal Health:** Recommended for pregnant women to improve fetal growth and reduce the risk of gestational diabetes and anemia.
- **Lifestyle Diseases:** Helps in managing **Diabetes and Obesity** because resistant starch has a lower glycemic index than freshly cooked white rice.
- **Liver Health:** Assists the liver in flushing out harmful fats and toxic acids.

How to Prepare "Scientific" Pazhaiya Soru

Based on the doctors' recommendations:

1. **Preparation:** Soak cooked rice in potable water overnight (**8–10 hours** in summer; up to **14 hours** in winter).
2. **Container:** Use **clay pots (earthenware)** for the best microbial growth.
3. **Consumption:** Eat it on an **empty stomach** in the morning.
4. **Tip:** Adding a small amount of buttermilk and small onions (shallots) further enhances the probiotic and antimicrobial benefits.

Here are some multiple-choice questions

Section 1: General Research & Origins

1. Which institution conducted the five-year research study on the health benefits of fermented rice?

A) Madras Medical College

B) Government Stanley Medical College Hospital (SMCH)

C) Christian Medical College (CMC)

D) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

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2. The Tamil Nadu government is promoting public awareness of "Pazhaiya Soru." What does this term refer to?

A) Steamed idli

B) Fermented rice

C) Spiced lentil rice

D) Fried rice

Section 2: Nutritional Content

3. According to the SMCH study, which of the following is NOT a primary component found in fermented rice?

A) Resistant starch

B) Dietary fibre

C) High trans-fats

D) Protein

4. Fermented rice is identified as a rich source of which vitamin group?

A) Vitamin C

B) Vitamin D

C) B-complex vitamins

5. D) Vitamin K

5. Which specific minerals were highlighted in the research as being present in fermented rice?

A) Calcium, Sodium, and Magnesium

B) Iron, Zinc, and Selenium

C) Potassium, Lead, and Copper

D) Manganese, Iodine, and Phosphorus

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	**B** (Government Stanley Medical College Hospital)
2	**B** (Fermented rice)
3	**C** (High trans-fats)
4	**C** (B-complex vitamins)
5	**B** (Iron, Zinc, and Selenium)

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Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Which is the latest Indian airline to recently become a member of IATA?

A. Vistara

B. AirAsia India

C. Akasa Air

D. Alliance Air

1. C

India's newest airline, Akasa Air, formed in 2020, has now become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). IATA represents more than 360 airlines worldwide and handles over 80% of global air traffic. This membership is considered a major success for Akasa, a rapidly growing Indian airline.

Q.2. Which ministry launched the PANKHUDI digital portal?

A. Ministry of Health

B. Ministry of Social Justice

C. Ministry of Women and Child Development

D. Ministry of Education

2. C

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the portal. It is an integrated digital platform for CSR and partnerships, connecting the government, citizens, NRIs, NGOs, and corporations. It strengthens areas such as nutrition, health, ECCE, child protection, and women's empowerment, and reinforces Mission Saksham with initiatives such as Anganwadi, Poshan 2.0, Vatsalya, and Shakti.

Q.3. Which fintech company has received the final Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) license from the RBI?

A. Razorpay

B. Paytm

C. Skydo

D. PhonePe

3. C

In a significant regulatory milestone for India's fintech ecosystem, Skydo has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB). This approval is crucial as it will enable the Bengaluru-based platform to provide regular, secure, and fast cross-border payment services to Indian exporters. This initiative will help make international payment collection easier, compliance-friendly, and more efficient, especially for MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) and small businesses.

Q.4. A book on President Draupadi Murmu was released by a sanitation worker. Where was this event held?

A. Ranchi

B. Bhubaneswar

C. Visakhapatnam

D. Vijayawada

4. C

A heartwarming and socially significant event took place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh,

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when street sweeper Lakshmamma released a book on the life of President Draupadi Murmu at Andhra University. The book launch itself was no ordinary event, but carried a powerful message of equality, respect for work, and inclusion.

Q.5. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta has been appointed Chief Justice of which High Court?

A. Himachal Pradesh

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Uttarakhand

D. Jharkhand

5. C

In a significant development in the Indian judiciary, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta has been appointed Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. He currently serves as a judge of the Allahabad High Court. This appointment was made on the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium, and the Central Government has issued an official notification.

Q.6. In which state has the 'Asha One' mobile cancer screening unit been launched?

A. Maharashtra

B. Rajasthan

C. Gujarat

D. Madhya Pradesh

6. C

Gujarat has launched a mobile cancer screening unit called the "Asha Van," a major step toward strengthening preventive healthcare. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated this specialized medical van in Gandhinagar. The van is specifically designed to provide healthcare services in villages and remote areas where access to advanced medical facilities is limited. Its primary goal is to detect cancer at an early stage, provide timely treatment, and save lives.

Q.7. Who inaugurated the Third International Indian Language Conference 2026?

A. Prime Minister

B. Education Minister

C. Vice President

D. Culture Minister

7. C

India's Vice President, C.P. Radhakrishnan, recently inaugurated the Third International Indian Languages Conference in New Delhi. Scholars, linguists, and international delegates discussed the preservation, study, and global promotion of Indian languages. The Vice President emphasized that language is not just a means of communication, but also the foundation of culture, democracy, and knowledge.

Q.8. According to the United Nations report, what is India's projected GDP growth rate in 2026?

A. 5.8%

B. 6.1%

C. 6.6%

D. 7.2%

8. C

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According to a UN report, India's GDP growth rate is projected to be 6.6% in 2026. This estimate is in line with IMF projections. The report states that global growth may slow to 2.7%, but India will remain the only major economy to register growth of more than 6% in 2025-26.

Q.9. According to SBI, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for FY 2025-26?

A. 6.9%

B. 7.1%

C. 7.5%

D. 8.0%

9. C

India's economic growth prospects have received a positive signal. The State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department has projected India's GDP growth rate for fiscal year 2025–26 (FY26) to be 7.5%, with an upward bias.

Q.10. In which state has the Kamala Hydroelectric Project been approved?

A. Sikkim

B. Himachal Pradesh

C. Arunachal Pradesh

D. Uttarakhand

10. C

India is rapidly transitioning to clean energy, and the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh is a major step in that direction. Recently approved by the Public Investment Board, this large hydropower project will not only help generate renewable electricity, but also contribute to flood control, job creation, and India's net-zero emissions target by 2070.

Q.11. Who launched the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)?

A. Defense Minister

B. National Security Advisor

C. Home Minister

D. Army Chief

11. C

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the National Security Guard's (NSG) National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) via video conference in New Delhi. The event was also attended by the Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Director General of the NSG, Directors General of the Central Armed Police Forces, and Directors General of Police of the States.

Q.12. For what purpose is the MSTrIPES mobile app being used?

A. Forest monitoring

B. Tiger census and wildlife monitoring

C. Human-wildlife conflict reporting

D. Biodiversity Fund management

12. B

Wildlife tracking in India is entering a new phase. During the upcoming tiger and wildlife census in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, forest staff will use the advanced MSTrIPES mobile

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application. This digital approach will replace much of the manual work and allow officials to collect data directly in the field. This upgrade is expected to make the survey faster, more accurate, and better connected to the All India Tiger Estimation Survey 2026.

Q.13. Which MoU rating has IREDA received for the fifth consecutive time?

A. Very Good

B. Outstanding

C. Excellent

D. Best Performer

13. C

IREDA has once again demonstrated its consistent performance by achieving 'Excellent' rating in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the financial year 2024-25, securing an impressive score of 96.42 out of 100.

Q.14. How many Indian films have qualified for the Best Picture category of the Oscars 2026?

A. 3

B. 4

C. 5

D. 7

14. C

Five Indian films have been declared eligible for the prestigious Best Picture category at the 98th Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars 2026. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) released a list of 201 feature films eligible for Best Picture, with a total of 317 films eligible across all categories. This achievement reflects the growing recognition of Indian cinema worldwide and is a proud moment for both filmmakers and audiences.

Q.15. The 53rd New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 is historic for which feature?

A. First time online

B. First time not international

C. Free admission for all

D. Government publishers only

15. C

The 53rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi in 2026. For the first time, entry will be free for all visitors. The fair will feature over 1,000 publishers and over 600 events, including writers, speakers, and cultural programs from India and around the world.

FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

The origins of the name **Bengaluru** are a beautiful mix of hard historical evidence and charming local folklore. While the story of "boiled beans" is the most famous, archaeological findings show the name is much older than that legend suggests.

The Historical Fact: The Begur Inscription

The most authentic and earliest proof of the name comes from a **9th-century hero stone**

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(Viragallu) found in the **Nageshwara Temple** in **Begur**, a suburb of Bengaluru.

- **The Evidence:** Dated approximately **890 CE**, the inscription is written in **Hale Kannada** (Old Kannada).
- **The Story:** It records a "Battle of Bengaluru" (*Bengaluru Kadana*) and mentions the death of a warrior named Buttanashetty.
- **The Meaning:** Historians suggest that in Old Kannada, **Benga-val-ooru** likely meant the **"City of Guards"** or "Place of Bodyguards." This debunks the idea that the name was created in the 12th or 16th century, as a place called "Bengaluru" already existed over 1,100 years ago.

The Popular Legend: Benda-kaal-ooru

Despite the archaeological evidence, the "Town of Boiled Beans" story remains the most beloved piece of folklore among locals.

- **The Tale:** In the 12th century, **King Veera Ballala II** of the Hoysala Empire was hunting in a forest and lost his way.
- **The Encounter:** Exhausted and hungry, he stumbled upon a small hut where an old woman offered him a simple meal of **boiled beans** (*Benda kaalu* in Kannada).
- **The Naming:** Grateful for the humble meal that saved his life, the King named the area **Benda-kaal-ooru** (Town of Boiled Beans), which eventually evolved into Bengaluru.

Alternative Theories

- **The "Benga" Tree:** Some linguists believe the name comes from the **Benga** tree (*Pterocarpus marsupium* or Indian Kino Tree), which was once abundant in the region.
- **White Quartz:** Another theory suggests it was called **Biliya Kallina Ooru** (City of White Stones) due to the abundance of white quartz rocks found in the old areas of the city like Balepet.

Founding of the "Modern" City

While the name "Bengaluru" existed since at least 890 CE, the **modern city** as we know it was founded in **1537 CE** by **Kempe Gowda I**, a feudal ruler under the Vijayanagara Empire. He built a mud fort and established the *Pettahs* (market areas) that still form the heart of the city today.

Here are some multiple-choice questions

Section 1: Etymology and Folklore

1. The name "Bengaluru" is derived from which language?

A) Sanskrit

B) Old Kannada

C) Tamil

D) Telugu

2. According to Kannada folklore, what does the name "Benda-kaal-ooru" literally translate to?

A) City of Gardens

B) Town of Boiled Beans

C) Land of Gold

D) Valley of Flowers

3. In the context of the historical name "Benga-val-ooru," what is the most accurate translation?

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A) City of Lakes

B) City of Guards

C) Town of Merchants

D) Land of Soldiers

Section 2: Identification

4. Which modern Indian city is historically linked to the name "Beṅgaḷūru"?

A) Mangaluru

B) Mysuru

C) Bengaluru (Bangalore)

D) Hubballi

5. Which of the following pairs correctly matches the historical term with its meaning?

A) Benda-kaal-ooru : City of Stones

B) Benga-val-ooru : Town of Silk

C) Benda-kaal-ooru : Town of Boiled Beans

D) Benga-val-ooru : City of Temples

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	**B** (Old Kannada)
2	**B** (Town of Boiled Beans)
3	**B** (City of Guards)
4	**C** (Bengaluru)
5	**C** (Benda-kaal-ooru : Town of Boiled Beans)

Dear Aspirants,

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

We wish best for your studies & Exams

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