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## NATIONAL NEWS

### NHAI Sets Four Guinness World Records on Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Corridor



In early January 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) achieved a historic milestone by setting **four Guinness World Records** during the construction of the **Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada (BKV) Economic Corridor** (NH-544G).

This feat, executed in collaboration with concessionaire **Rajpath Infracon Private Limited**, was centered in Andhra Pradesh near Puttaparthi. These records underscore India's shift toward high-speed, technology-driven infrastructure development.

**Impact of the BKV Economic Corridor:** The 343 km long, access-controlled six-lane corridor is designed to revolutionize travel in Southern India:

- Distance Reduction:** Shortens the route between Bengaluru and Vijayawada by **100 km** (from 635 km to 535 km).
- Time Savings:** Reduces travel time from **12 hours** to roughly **8 hours**.

- Engineering Highlights:** Includes 17 interchanges, 10 wayside amenities, and a 5.3 km long tunnel.
- Eco-Friendly Innovation:** India also utilized this project to showcase the commercial production of **bio-bitumen** from agricultural waste, supporting sustainable "Aatmnirbhar" goals.
- The Four Guinness World Records (January 2026):** The achievements were recorded in two phases, utilizing a massive fleet of 70 tippers, five hot mix plants, and advanced paving machinery, all monitored by IIT Bombay for quality assurance.

does not compromise the 15-to-20-year durability of the pavement.

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

1. Which organization is responsible for the development, maintenance, and management of National Highways in India?
  - A) Border Roads Organization (BRO)
  - B) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
  - C) Public Works Department (PWD)
  - D) NITI Aayog
2. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) functions under the administrative control of which Ministry?
  - A) Ministry of Urban Development
  - B) Ministry of Rural Development
  - C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
  - D) Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
3. According to the text, NHAI has recently set multiple Guinness World Records during the construction of what?
  - A) A mountain tunnel in Northern India
  - B) A major economic corridor in Southern India
  - C) A coastal highway in Western India
  - D) A bridge over the Brahmaputra River

Record Achievement	Milestone Details	Date Achieved
Longest Continuous Paving	156 lane km (surpassing the previous 84.4 lane km)	Jan 11, 2026
Highest Bituminous Quantity	57,500 metric tons laid continuously	Jan 11, 2026
Longest Bituminous Lane (24 hrs)	28.89 lane km (approx. 9.63 km of 3-lane road)	Jan 6, 2026
Max Bituminous Quantity (24 hrs)	10,655 metric tons laid in a single day	Jan 6, 2026

### Role of NHAI in Modern Infrastructure:

Under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, NHAI has moved beyond simple road building to developing complex "Greenfield Expressways." These projects bypass congested towns, utilize **real-time quality monitoring**, and employ **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)** to ensure that record-breaking speed

4. To meet India's infrastructure ambitions, NHAI has shifted its focus towards which of the following?

- A) Traditional single-lane rural roads
- B) Only maintenance of existing British-era bridges
- C) Expressways, economic corridors, and access-controlled highways
- D) Urban pedestrian walkways only

5. What do the recent Guinness World Records achieved by NHAI primarily highlight?

- A) India's growing engineering capacity and efficiency in execution
- B) A decrease in the cost of raw materials
- C) The completion of all pending projects from the 1990s
- D) The transition to entirely wooden road structures

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (National Highways Authority of India)
2	C (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)
3	B (A major economic corridor in Southern India)
4	C (Expressways, economic corridors, and access-controlled highways)
5	A (India's growing engineering capacity and efficiency)

## NATIONAL NEWS

**India's Fish Production Doubles in a Decade, Employment Sees Massive Boost**



In early 2026, India's fisheries and aquaculture sector continues its trajectory as a global powerhouse, having recently hit a major milestone by doubling its production over the last decade. As of the current **2024-25** fiscal cycle, India has solidified its position as the **world's second-largest aquaculture producer** and the **third-largest fish producer**, contributing approximately **8%** of global output.

The sector is no longer just a traditional occupation but a high-tech "Blue Economy" driver, sustaining over **30 million livelihoods** and attracting significant foreign investment.

**Strategic Drivers: PMMSY and Technology:** The **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, with an investment of over **₹20,000 crore**, has been the primary engine for this growth.

- **Infrastructure Boom:** Since its inception, the scheme has funded **730 cold storages**, over **26,000 fish transport units**, and **11 Integrated Aquaparks** across India.



- Empowering Women:** Under PMMSY, women receive **60% financial assistance** for projects, leading to a surge in women-led fish processing and retail startups.
- Technological Shift:** The adoption of **Biofloc technology, Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)**, and cage culture in reservoirs has allowed for higher yields in smaller areas with less water usage.

### Key Performance Indicators (2024-25)

The sector has shown remarkable resilience even amidst global trade shifts and tariff challenges.

Metric	2013-14 (Base)	2024-25 (Current)	Growth %
Total Fish Production	96 Lakh Tonnes	197.75 Lakh Tonnes	~106 %
Seafood Export Value	₹30,213 Crore	₹62,408 Crore	~107 %
Aquaculture Productivity	3 Tonnes/Hectare	4.7 Tonnes/Hectare	~57%
Per Capita Consumption	5 kg	12-13 kg	~140 %

### Export Resilience & The "Shrimp Pivot"

While the **United States** remains a top destination, India has successfully diversified its market due to recent tariff pressures.

- Frozen Shrimp:** Remains the "crown jewel," accounting for roughly **66% of export value**.

- Market Diversification:** In late 2025, exports to **Vietnam** grew by over 100%, and shipments to **China** and the **European Union** (specifically Belgium and Germany) saw double-digit growth.
- Value Addition:** India is moving away from bulk frozen exports to high-margin **ready-to-cook** and breaded products, which are less susceptible to raw commodity price swings.

**Current Trend:** To boost the premium value of Indian seafood, the government is currently pursuing **global eco-labelling** for **Lakshadweep Tuna**, highlighting traditional, sustainable pole-and-line fishing methods.

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

- Which segment of the rural economy has emerged as one of the fastest-growing in India over the last decade?
  - Traditional Handicrafts
  - Fisheries and Aquaculture
  - Textile Manufacturing
  - Dairy Processing
- In the global market, India has established itself as a leading exporter of which specific seafood commodity?
  - Canned Tuna
  - Seaweed
  - Shrimp
  - Salmon



3. According to the data for 2023-24, what was the approximate total value of India's seafood exports?

- A) ₹45,200 crore
- B) ₹58,000 crore
- C) ₹62,408 crore
- D) ₹70,150 crore

Question	Answer
4	B (16.98 lakh tonnes)
5	B (Food and nutritional security)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Unveils Logo and Website for BRICS Presidency 2026



On January 13, 2026, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar formally launched India's BRICS Presidency 2026 in New Delhi. This year is a historic landmark for the grouping, as it celebrates its **20th anniversary** since its inception in 2006.

India's chairship is guided by a "Humanity-First" and "People-Centric" vision, aiming to position the now 10-member bloc as a constructive force for global stability and inclusive growth.

### The BRICS India 2026 Logo & Website

The visual identity of the presidency was selected through a nationwide open contest and reflects a blend of Indian tradition and modern global unity.

5. Besides economic growth and employment, what is a primary benefit of the fisheries sector mentioned in the text?

- A) Reduction in soil erosion
- B) Food and nutritional security
- C) Improvement in forest cover
- D) Reduction in urban migration

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Fisheries and Aquaculture)
2	C (Shrimp)
3	C (₹62,408 crore)

- The Symbolism:** The logo features the Lotus (India's national flower), where the five main petals are colored to represent the founding members, symbolizing unity in diversity. At the heart of the design is the "Namaste" gesture, representing India's spirit of respect, warmth, and harmonious collaboration.
- The Digital Hub:** The official website ([brics2026.gov.in](http://brics2026.gov.in)) was launched to serve as a transparent platform for tracking over 100 meetings planned across 60 Indian cities.

### Key Theme: "Building for R.I.C.S."

India's presidency is centered on a four-pillar tagline designed to address contemporary global challenges:

Pillar	Focus Areas
Resilience	Strengthening supply chains, food security, and disaster risk reduction.
Innovation	Cooperation in startups, MSMEs, and emerging technologies (AI/Digital Public Infrastructure).
Cooperation	Deepening the three foundational pillars: Political/Security, Economic/Financial, and Cultural.
Sustainability	Ensuring sustainable development and environmental responsibility (Mission LiFE).

- Reformed Multilateralism:** Advocating for more inclusive and representative global institutions (UN, WTO, IMF).
- Global South Leadership:** Acting as a bridge between the G7 and the developing world to ensure that the concerns of the "Global South" are not sidelined by geopolitical tensions.
- Economic Integration:** Exploring local currency settlements and interoperable payment systems (like linking India's UPI with other member systems) to facilitate smoother intra-bloc trade.
- Counter-Terrorism:** Pushing for a unified stance on security and the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

1. In which year is India officially set to assume the BRICS Presidency?

- A) 2024
- B) 2025
- C) 2026
- D) 2027

2. What milestone anniversary will the BRICS grouping celebrate during India's 2026 chairship?

- A) 10 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 20 years
- D) 25 years

### Strategic Objectives for 2026

Under India's leadership, the grouping—which now includes new members like Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE—will focus on several high-priority goals:

3. According to the announcement, what is the core vision behind India's presidency?

- A) Military expansion and dominance
- B) A people-centric and inclusive chairship
- C) Establishing a single global currency
- D) Limiting the membership of the grouping

Question	Answer
4	C) Unveiling a dedicated logo and website
5	C) It marks two decades of the grouping's existence

## APPOINTMENTS

Meta Names Former Trump Adviser Dina Powell McCormick as President and Vice Chairman



In a significant strategic move on January 12, 2026, Meta appointed Dina Powell McCormick as its **President and Vice Chairman**. This high-profile hire signals Meta's intent to bridge the gap between Silicon Valley, Wall Street, and Washington as it enters a capital-intensive era dominated by artificial intelligence. Reporting directly to CEO Mark Zuckerberg, McCormick's role is uniquely designed to manage the massive financial and geopolitical requirements of Meta's current "compute" ambitions.

## Strategic Objectives & Responsibilities

McCormick will oversee Meta's broader corporate strategy, specifically focusing on the

5. According to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the 2026 presidency occurs at a "significant moment" because:

- A) It is the first time India is hosting.
- B) BRICS will be adding ten new members.
- C) It marks two decades of the grouping's existence.
- D) Global uncertainty has been completely resolved.

## Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) 2026
2	C) 20 years
3	B) A people-centric and inclusive chairship

transition from a social media giant to a global AI infrastructure leader.

- Capital Partnerships:** She is tasked with building new "strategic capital partnerships" and sovereign wealth relationships to fund Meta's **multi-billion dollar** data center expansions.
- Infrastructure Execution:** Working alongside the technical teams, she will ensure that investments in energy systems and connectivity drive long-term economic impact.
- Global Diplomacy:** Leveraging her background in national security, she will help navigate the increasingly complex global regulatory landscape for AI and digital platforms.

### A Career at the Intersection of Power

McCormick's appointment is viewed as a "mature" hire for Meta, bringing 25 years of experience across three critical sectors:

Sector	Key Roles
Government	Deputy National Security Advisor (Trump Administration); Assistant Secretary of State (Bush Administration).
Finance	16 years at <b>Goldman Sachs</b> (Partner and Member of Management Committee); President at <b>BDT &amp; MSD Partners</b> .
Corporate	Former Member of Meta's Board of Directors (resigned Dec 2025 to join the executive team); Board member at Exxon Mobil.

### Context: The "Meta Compute" Initiative

The appointment coincides with Zuckerberg's recent announcement of "**Meta Compute**," a top-level initiative to build gigawatt-scale AI infrastructure.

- Spending Goals:** Meta has signaled plans to spend upwards of **\$600 billion** through 2028 on data centers and energy, including recent deals for nuclear power.
- Political Recalibration:** Analysts note that McCormick (whose husband is US Senator David McCormick) helps Meta strengthen ties with the current US administration and Republican leadership, especially following other "Trump-aligned" appointments like Chief Legal Officer CJ Mahoney.

"Dina's experience at the highest levels of global finance, combined with her deep relationships around the world, makes her uniquely suited to help Meta manage this next phase of growth." — **Mark Zuckerberg**

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

1. Who has been appointed as the President and Vice Chairman of Meta in January 2026?

- A) Sheryl Sandberg
- B) Dina Powell McCormick
- C) Nick Clegg
- D) Dana White

2. Before becoming President and Vice Chairman, what was Dina Powell McCormick's relationship with Meta?

- A) She was the Chief Financial Officer.

B) She was a member of the Board of Directors.  
C) She was the head of the AI research division.  
D) She had no prior connection to the company.

6. Which specific area of Meta's infrastructure will McCormick help oversee to support the company's "Superintelligence" goals?

A) Content moderation algorithms  
B) Data centers and energy systems  
C) Virtual reality headset manufacturing  
D) Advertising sales for WhatsApp

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Dina Powell McCormick
2	B) She was a member of the Board of Directors
3	B) Global Finance (Goldman Sachs)
4	B) Accelerating multi-billion dollar investments in AI
5	B) George W. Bush and Donald Trump
6	B) Data centers and energy systems

## SPORTS

### Virat Kohli Becomes Second-Highest Run-Scorer in International Cricket

It has been a historic week for Virat Kohli in 2026. The 37-year-old batting icon has not only reinforced his legendary status but has systematically rewritten the record books during the ongoing series against New Zealand.

5. Dina Powell McCormick has experience serving in the administrations of which two U.S. Presidents?

A) Barack Obama and Joe Biden  
B) George W. Bush and Donald Trump  
C) Bill Clinton and George W. Bush  
D) Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush



Here is a breakdown of the major milestones Kohli achieved:

### 1. Fastest to 28,000 International Runs

During the first ODI in Vadodara on **January 11, 2026**, Kohli became the fastest player in the history of the game to reach **28,000 international runs**.

- His Pace:** 624 innings
- Previous Record:** Sachin Tendulkar (644 innings)
- Exclusive Club:** He is one of only three players to reach this mark, joining Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara.

### 2. Second-Highest Run-Scorer of All Time

With that same innings (93 off 91 balls), Kohli surpassed **Kumar Sangakkara (28,016 runs)** to become the **second-highest run-scorer** in the history of international cricket. He now trails only Sachin Tendulkar, who sits at the top with 34,357 runs.

### 3. India's Top Scorer vs New Zealand (ODIs)

On **January 14, 2026**, during the second ODI in Rajkot, Kohli surpassed **Sachin Tendulkar's**

record for the most ODI runs by an Indian against New Zealand.

- The Moment:** He needed just one run to break the record and achieved it by hitting a boundary on the very first ball he faced.
- The Tally:** Kohli now has **1,773+** runs against the Black Caps, moving past Tendulkar's 1,750. He is now second only to Ricky Ponting (1,971) on the global list.

### 4. Reclaimed ICC No. 1 Ranking

Coinciding with these on-field records, the ICC confirmed on January 14 that Kohli has officially reclaimed the **No. 1 spot in the Men's ODI Batting Rankings**. This marks his 11th distinct stint at the top, dethroning teammate Rohit Sharma and returning to the summit for the first time since July 2021.

### Key Stats at a Glance (as of Jan 2026)

Milestone	Detail
Total International Runs	28,068+
Fastest to 28k	624 Innings (World Record)
ODI Ranking	1st
Consecutive Scores	50+ 5 (Current Streak)

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

- Against which team did Virat Kohli reach this major milestone during a match-winning innings?

A) Australia

D) Different batting stances

B) South Africa

Answer Key

C) New Zealand

Question	Answer
1	C) New Zealand
2	B) Consistency, longevity, and dominance
3	C) One of the greatest batters in the history of the game
4	C) Different versions of the game

D) England

2. According to the text, which qualities of Kohli's career does this achievement specifically highlight?

A) Power hitting and speed

1	C) New Zealand
2	B) Consistency, longevity, and dominance
3	C) One of the greatest batters in the history of the game
4	C) Different versions of the game

B) Consistency, longevity, and dominance

C) Captaincy and tactical skills

D) Fielding and athleticism

3. What does the passage suggest about Virat Kohli's standing in the history of cricket?

A) He is primarily a T20 specialist.

## BANKING/ECONOMY

SBI Research Projects India's FY26 GDP Growth at 7.5%

B) He is a rising star in international cricket.

C) He is one of the greatest batters in the history of the game.

D) He is a specialist at playing against New Zealand.



The SBI Ecowrap report, released on January 7, 2026, indeed paints a bullish picture of India's economic trajectory. By projecting a growth rate of 7.5%, SBI Research signals that India is not just maintaining its momentum but likely outperforming earlier official expectations.

The report highlights that this "upward bias" is largely driven by a significant base year revision

4. The text mentions that Kohli's achievement reinforces his dominance across "formats." In cricket, what does "formats" typically refer to?

A) Different types of bats used

B) Various stadium designs

C) Different versions of the game (Test, ODI, T20)

(shifting to 2022–23) and a surge in the services sector.

### Comparative Growth Projections (FY26)

The SBI projection is notably the most optimistic among major domestic institutions:

Institution	GDP Growth Projection
SBI (Ecowrap)	7.5% (with upward bias)
NSO (1st Advance Estimate)	7.4%
RBI	7.3%

### Key Drivers of Growth in FY26

According to the Ecowrap analysis, several sectoral and macroeconomic factors are fueling this 7.5% outlook:

- Service Sector Dominance:** The primary engine of growth, estimated to expand by 9.1%, significantly higher than the 7.2% recorded in the previous fiscal year.
- Manufacturing Revival:** Expected to grow at 7.0%, helping push the overall industrial sector growth to 6.0%.
- Investment Recovery:** Real growth in capital formation is estimated at 7.8%, indicating a healthy revival in investment demand.
- Per Capita Income:** National per capita income is expected to rise by approximately ₹16,025, reaching a total of ₹2,47,487 in FY26.

### Fiscal Stability

Despite some concerns over tax revenue, the report suggests that **non-tax revenue** will

compensate for the shortfall. Consequently, the fiscal deficit is projected to remain stable at **4.4% of GDP**, aligning with the government's fiscal consolidation roadmap

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

- According to the SBI Ecowrap report released in January 2026, what is the projected GDP growth for India in FY 2025–26?
  - 7.3%
  - 7.4%
  - 7.5% (with an upward bias)
  - 7.8%
- Which organization provided a "First Advance Estimate" of 7.4% for India's GDP growth in FY26?
  - Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
  - National Statistical Office (NSO)
  - State Bank of India (SBI)
  - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- How does the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) projection for FY26 compare to the SBI Economic Research Department's projection?
  - The RBI projection is higher at 7.6%
  - The RBI projection is lower at 7.3%
  - Both projections are identical at 7.5%
  - The RBI has not yet released a projection

4. What is the name of the official report published by SBI's Economic Research Department that contained these growth projections?

Question	Answer	Explanation
		publication of the State Bank of India.

- A) EconWatch
- B) India Outlook 2026
- C) Ecowrap
- D) Fiscal Monitor

### Quick Reference Table

Organization	FY26 GDP Projection
SBI (Ecowrap)	7.5% (with upward bias)
NSO (Advance Estimate)	7.4%
RBI	7.3%

### Answer Key

Question	Answer	Explanation
1	C) 7.5% (with an upward bias)	The SBI Ecowrap report specifically projected 7.5% with a positive outlook for the fiscal year.
2	B) National Statistical Office (NSO)	The NSO is the official government body responsible for releasing the "First Advance Estimates."
3	B) The RBI projection is lower at 7.3%	According to the report, the RBI's forecast of 7.3% is slightly more conservative than SBI's 7.5%.
4	C) Ecowrap	Ecowrap is the flagship economic research

### STATE NEWS

#### Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26



The launch of the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy (TNDTSP) 2025-2026 at UmagineTN 2026 marks a significant milestone in India's technology landscape. By becoming the first state to introduce a dedicated framework for "Deep Tech," Tamil Nadu is moving beyond the standard software-as-a-service (SaaS) model to focus on high-risk, high-impact science and IP-led innovation.

The policy is designed to bridge the **"lab-to-market"** gap, ensuring that breakthrough research from academic institutions actually reaches the commercial world.

#### Core Objectives & Targets

The policy sets clear, measurable goals to be achieved over the next five years:



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- Support 100 Startups:** Providing a structured lifecycle path for at least 100 deep tech ventures.
- ₹100 Crore Investment:** Mobilizing this amount through a mix of public grants and private venture capital.
- Intellectual Property:** Targeting a **25% annual growth** in patent filings by deep tech startups in the state.
- Tech Transfer:** Facilitating at least **10 licensing deals** from research labs to startups for commercial use.
- Talent Pipeline:** Training over **10,000 students and professionals** in AI, robotics, biotech, and semiconductors.

### Strategic Impact

Sector	Goal
Emerging Tech	Focus on AI, Semiconductors, SpaceTech, and Biotech.
Market Access	Help <b>50 startups</b> expand into global markets (e.g., Singapore, UAE).
Skilling	Award <b>10 research fellowships</b> to PhD students transitioning to entrepreneurship.

**Interesting Highlight:** Along with the policy, the state signed a pact with Germany's **XeedQ GmbH** to launch a quantum computing program, potentially making Tamil Nadu the first state to house a physical quantum computer for its startup ecosystem.

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

- Staged Funding (TRL-Based):** Grants are calibrated to **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)**. Early-stage R&D (TRL 1–4) receives research grants, while higher levels get commercialization and scale-up support.
- "Government as Early Adopter":** A unique program with an annual budget of **₹25 crore** across five state departments to pilot startup solutions in public health, clean energy, and social protection.
- iTNT Hub as Nodal Agency:** The **Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub** will coordinate all initiatives, manage funds, and offer a single-window platform for startups to access infrastructure and R&D labs.
- Deep Tech Research Parks:** The state plans to establish cluster-specific parks and provide "vouchers" for startups to use expensive shared testing facilities.

- Where was India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy officially unveiled?

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Which event served as the platform for the launch of the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–2026?

- A) Global Investors Meet 2026
- B) UmagineTN 2026
- C) TechSummit TN
- D) Chennai Startup Expo





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3. Which organization has been designated as the nodal implementing agency for the TNDTSP?

A) TANSIM (StartupTN)

B) TIDCO

C) iTNT Hub

D) ELCOT

Question	Answer
3	C) iTNT Hub
4	B) 100
5	C) ₹100 crore

4. What is the specific target number of deep tech start-ups the policy aims to support?

A) 50

B) 100

C) 200

D) 500

5. What is the total investment (public and private) that the policy aims to mobilise?

A) ₹50 crore

B) ₹75 crore

C) ₹100 crore

D) ₹250 crore

### Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Projects worth ₹235 crore were recently launched in which state to strengthen port infrastructure and digital maritime governance?

A. Gujarat

B. Maharashtra

C. Tamil Nadu

D. Andhra Pradesh

1. C

These ₹235 crore port infrastructure and digital maritime governance projects have been launched in the state of Tamil Nadu, aimed at strengthening maritime capacity and digital governance at Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port Limited, and were launched by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Q.2. The recently launched Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026 strengthens ties between:

A. Defense and Trade

B. Science, Technology and Diplomacy

C. Education and Culture

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2	B) UmagineTN 2026



D. Health and Environment

2. B

The Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026 strengthens the linkages between science, technology, and diplomacy. It aims to promote the strategic convergence of science and foreign policy to adopt a science-based approach to address global challenges and enhance India's strategic autonomy. The initiative was launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) of India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) during the Raisina Dialogue, which brings together scientists, diplomats, and policymakers.

A. Uttarakhand

B. Sikkim

C. Himachal Pradesh

D. Arunachal Pradesh

4. D

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.3. Where did the first phase of the All India Tiger Estimation 2026 recently begin?

A. Mudumalai

B. Anamalai

C. Thanthai Periyar

D. Satyamangalam

3. C

The first phase of the All India Tiger Estimation 2026 (AITE-26), a scientific assessment of tiger numbers and habitats in India, has begun. This phase is being conducted at the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary under the Erode Forest Division in Tamil Nadu as part of India's four-year tiger census cycle.

Q.5. Who recently inaugurated the National Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Data Management System?

A. Prime Minister

B. Defense Minister

C. Home Minister Amit Shah

D. National Security Advisor

5. C

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah virtually launched the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS). He described the system as an important step towards strengthening counter-IED and internal security systems.

Q.4. The Kamala Hydroelectric Project, recently approved by the Public Investment Board, is located in which state?

**Q.6. Who has recently been appointed as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board?**

- A. AK Balasubramanian
- B. Aakash Tripathi
- C. Vaibhav Arora
- D. Mohit Mishra

6. A

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appointed renowned scientist A.K. Balasubramanian as chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in January 2026. He has been appointed head of India's top nuclear safety regulator for a three-year term.

**Q.7. In which country is the Will for Peace 2026 military exercise being held recently?**

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. Brazil
- D. South Africa

7. D

The "Will for Peace 2026" military exercise is taking place in South Africa. The naval drill is taking place both underwater and in the air near Simon's Town Port, near Cape Town. The exercise is a joint maritime drill involving the navies of BRICS member states and "BRICS Plus" countries, including:

**Q.8. Which city was recently ranked as the best city for women in the National Urban Inclusion Study (2025)?**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

8. D

Bengaluru and Chennai have emerged as the best cities in the country for women's safety, according to a report by workplace culture consulting firm Avatar Group. The fourth edition of the "Top Cities for Women in India" (TCWI) survey, which included feedback from women across 125 cities on safety and career growth, saw Bengaluru take the top spot with a score of 53.29.

**Q.9. What is the limit of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) set by the RBI for the Delhi government recently?**

- A. ₹750 crore
- B. ₹800 crore
- C. ₹890 crore
- D. ₹1,000 crore

9. C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fixed the Ways and Means Advance (WMA) limit for the Delhi government at Rs 890 crore, which will help bridge any temporary gap between the amount received and the payment.

Q.10. Which city recently became the first in India to provide potable water through taps?

- A. Rajgir
- B. Gurugram
- C. Bhopal
- D. Puri

10. D

Puri in Odisha is the first city in India to provide drinking water directly from the tap, achieved this feat under the 'Sujal - Drink from Tap' project, where people can drink water directly from the tap without any water purifier. It is the first city in the country to ensure 24x7 good quality water supply, where the water is treated in multiple stages and is equipped with modern pipelines and sensors.

Q.11. Who recently wrote the book "Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Draupadi Murmu," based on the life of President Draupadi Murmu? A. Adithan Iyengar

- B. Arushi Reddy
- C. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad
- D. Lakshmi Iyer

11. C

A heartwarming and socially significant event took place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, 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.12. Which state recently became the first in India to launch a deeptech startup policy?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bihar

12. B

Tamil Nadu has become the first state in India to launch a deep tech startup policy. It recently unveiled its signature Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26. Its goal is to promote science-based innovation and position the state as a leading deep-tech hub.

Q.13. Which state recently ranked first in the second edition of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System released by the National Crime Records Bureau?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Bihar
- D. Uttarakhand

13. D

Uttarakhand Police has secured the first position with 93.46 points in the second edition of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0) released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and has also performed well in digital platform adoption and data management.

**Q.14. In which city was the Women's Premier League 2026 recently inaugurated?**

- A. Patna
- B. Kolkata
- C. Mumbai
- D. Dharamshala

14. C

The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 season has gotten off to a great start. The opening ceremony took place in Navi Mumbai just before the first match between defending champions Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), featuring performances by renowned actress and Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu, Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, and renowned rapper Honey Singh.

campaign, with the ultimate goal of making India child marriage free by 2030.

## FACTS ABOUT BHARAT: LOHRI 2026

Lohri, celebrated on **January 13, 2026**, remains one of India's most spirited harvest festivals. While it is widely known for its warmth and bonfires, here are the deeper cultural and historical layers that make this festival a cornerstone of North Indian heritage:

### The Legend of Dulla Bhatti

No Lohri celebration is complete without singing the tale of Dulla Bhatti, the "Robin Hood of Punjab." During the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar, Dulla Bhatti was a legendary hero who rescued young girls from being sold into slavery. He would arrange their marriages and provide them with dowries (often just a kilo of sugar).

- The famous song "**Sunder Mundriye**" is a direct tribute to him, celebrating his bravery and protection of the vulnerable.

### Scientific & Spiritual Significance

- **The Winter Solstice Transition:** Lohri marks the end of the peak winter and the Sun's northward journey (**Uttarayan**). It is believed that after Lohri, the days gradually become longer and the sun's rays become warmer.
- **Tribute to the Fire God:** The bonfire is a representation of **Lord Agni**. People offer part of their new harvest (til, gajak, and

**Q.15. By the end of which year has the Government of India recently set a target of reducing the rate of child marriage by 10 percent under the Child Marriage Free India Campaign?**

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2029

15. A

The Government of India aims to reduce the rate of child marriage by 10 percent by the end of 2026 under the Child Marriage Free India

peanuts) to the fire to seek blessings for prosperity and to burn away the "gloom" of the previous year.

### Special Celebrations in 2026

In 2026, Lohri is particularly significant for:

- Newlyweds:** The "First Lohri" after marriage is a major milestone where the bride is often gifted traditional Phulkari shawls and jewelry.
- Newborns:** Families with a new baby host grand feasts, as Lohri is considered a symbol of fertility and new beginnings.

### Traditional Lohri Palette

Item	Symbolic Meaning
Til (Sesame)	Energy and purification
Gur (Jaggery)	Sweetness and health
Peanuts/Popcorn	The bounty of the earth
Sarson da Saag	The essence of the winter harvest

### Knowledge Check for proficiency

1. Which astronomical event does Lohri celebrate the arrival of?

- A) The arrival of shorter days after the summer solstice
- B) The arrival of longer days after the winter solstice
- C) The occurrence of a lunar eclipse
- D) The beginning of the monsoon season

2. In which regions of India is Lohri celebrated with the most enthusiasm?

- A) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- B) Gujarat and Rajasthan
- C) Punjab and Haryana
- D) West Bengal and Odisha

3. On which date is the Lohri festival typically celebrated?

- A) 1st January
- B) 13th January
- C) 14th January
- D) 15th August

4. Which of the following items are traditionally offered to the bonfire during Lohri?

- A) Fruits and vegetables
- B) Flowers and incense sticks
- C) Wheat stalk, rice, rewari, jaggery, and popcorn
- D) Clay lamps and oil

5. What does Lohri mark in the agricultural calendar?

- A) The end of the harvest season
- B) The beginning of the monsoon
- C) The beginning of the harvest season
- D) The time for sowing seeds for winter



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## Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) The arrival of longer days after the winter solstice
2	C) Punjab and Haryana
3	B) 13th January
4	C) Wheat stalk, rice, rewari, jaggery, and popcorn
5	C) The beginning of the harvest season

"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

### Best Wishes

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