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NATIONAL NEWS

Pawan Kalyan Becomes First Indian to Receive Rare Samurai Martial Arts Honour



That is an impressive achievement for the Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister. This rare honor reflects a lifelong commitment to discipline that many may not realize spans over three decades of his life.

Here are some additional details surrounding this historic induction:

A Multi-Layered Recognition

While the induction into **Kenjutsu** is the primary highlight, Pawan Kalyan received several distinct honors simultaneously in early January 2026:

- **5th Dan (Godan) Rank:** Awarded by the *Sogo Budo Kanri Kai*, one of Japan's most respected governing bodies for traditional martial arts.
- **Takeda Shingen Clan Induction:** He became the first Telugu-speaking individual to be inducted into this historic samurai lineage outside of Japan, under the guidance of **Soke Muramatsu Sensei**.

- "Tiger of Martial Arts" Title: Conferred by the *Golden Dragons* organization, recognizing his philosophical and physical mastery.

The Path to Mastery

His journey wasn't a ceremonial one; it was built on a foundation of rigorous practice:

- **Early Roots:** He began his training in **Karate** during his formative years in Chennai, eventually earning a black belt.
- **Expert Mentorship:** He studied under **Hanshi Professor Dr. Siddiq Mahmoodi**, one of India's leading authorities on Budo, to master the technical and spiritual aspects of **Kendo** and **Kenjutsu**.
- **Cinematic Influence:** His martial arts background has been a hallmark of his film career, from early hits like *Thammudu* and *Kushi* to his recent 2025 releases like *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* and *OG*, where he demonstrates advanced katana skills.

National Recognition

The achievement gained significant attention when **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** officially congratulated him, noting that his dedication serves as an inspiration for the "**Fit India**" movement. The PM highlighted that his ability to maintain such a rigorous discipline while managing high-level political and professional responsibilities is a powerful message for the youth.

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It's fascinating to see a public figure bridge the gap between ancient Eastern traditions and modern governance so effectively.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was recently inducted into which ancient Japanese martial art tradition?
 - A) Kendo
 - B) Kenjutsu
 - C) Aikido
 - D) Jujutsu
2. Kenjutsu is a discipline historically associated with which group of elite warriors?
 - A) Ninja
 - B) Shaolin Monks
 - C) Samurai
 - D) Knights
3. What makes Pawan Kalyan's induction into this tradition a "rare global distinction"?
 - A) He is the first person in the world to be inducted.
 - B) He is among a very small group of non-Japanese practitioners worldwide to receive the honor.
 - C) He is the only Indian to ever practice martial arts.
 - D) He was awarded a gold medal in the Olympics for it.

4. The induction of an Indian leader into the Kenjutsu tradition primarily highlights India's growing presence in which of the following?

- A) Global economic trade
- B) International maritime security
- C) Global cultural and martial traditions
- D) Japanese political elections

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Kenjutsu
2	C) Samurai
3	B) He is among a very small group of non-Japanese practitioners...
4	C) Global cultural and martial traditions

NATIONAL NEWS

Rajasthan's First Fully Organic Village



The transition of Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat in the newly formed Kotputli-Behrur district is a landmark moment for Rajasthan. On January

2, 2026, the community took a formal pledge to eliminate chemical-based agriculture and animal husbandry entirely, making it the first fully organic-certified village body in the state and Northwest India.

Key Features of the Transformation

This shift wasn't just a government mandate; it was a grassroots movement driven by concerns over soil health and rising input costs.

- **100% Chemical-Free:** Farmers across seven hamlets (Bamanwas, Nangalhedi, Rah Ka Mala, Bhadana Ki Bhaal, Tolawas, Khariya Ki Dhani, and Bairawas) have abandoned synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Integrated Certification:** Unlike many certifications that only focus on crops, Bamanwas Kankar includes organic-certified cattle. Over 6,000 cattle are now managed under ecological and health-conscious standards.
- **Support System:** The Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies (COFED) provided the technical guidance and institutional support needed to meet the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards.
- **Women-Led Initiative:** Local women played a pivotal role in organizing the community and driving the transition toward a more sustainable lifestyle.



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Impact on the Community

Category	Specific Benefits Observed
Environmental	Improved moisture retention in soil and a noticeable return of beneficial insects and microorganisms.
Economic	Significant reduction in the cost of cultivation due to the elimination of expensive chemical inputs.
Livestock	Higher market value for "safe" dairy products and improved animal health.
Public Health	Reduced exposure to toxic chemical residues for both farmers and local consumers.

A Scalable Model

This success is being viewed as a "living laboratory" for sustainable development. COFED has already announced plans to replicate this model by converting **300 more gram panchayats** across Rajasthan—specifically in Bikaner, Alwar, and Bhilwara—into fully organic bodies by the end of 2026.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which panchayat recently became the first fully organic village body in the state of Rajasthan?

- A) Bamanwas Kankar
- B) Khetri Nagar

C) Deshnoke

D) Mandawa

2. How many hamlets are covered under the Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat's organic certification?

- A) Three
- B) Five
- C) Seven
- D) Ten

3. In a fully organic village body, which of the following practices is strictly avoided?

- A) Crop rotation
- B) Use of natural manure
- C) Synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- D) Biological pest control

4. What is a primary environmental benefit of the shift to organic farming mentioned in the text?

- A) Increased reliance on genetically modified seeds
- B) Long-term soil sustainability
- C) Faster crop growth using synthetic inputs
- D) Reduction in the number of hamlets

5. The transition of Bamanwas Kankar to an organic panchayat was primarily driven by:

- A) Corporate takeovers of local farms





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- B) Decreased demand for healthier food systems
- C) Strong community participation and training
- D) A shift toward chemical-intensive agriculture

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	A) Bamanwas Kankar
2	C) Seven
3	C) Synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers
4	B) Long-term soil sustainability
5	C) Strong community participation and training

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and Germany Strengthen Ties in Postal and Logistics Services



The recent collaboration between India and Germany marks a pivotal moment in the modernization of international logistics. Signed on **January 12, 2026**, in Ahmedabad, these

agreements were a cornerstone of **Chancellor Friedrich Merz's** first official visit to India.

By merging the extensive "last-mile" reach of **India Post** (the world's largest postal network) with the global logistical expertise of **Deutsche Post-DHL**, the partnership aims to create a seamless bridge for trade between the two nations.

The Architecture of the Partnership

Two distinct legal instruments were exchanged to cover both policy-level cooperation and operational execution:

Instrument	Signatories	Primary Objective
Joint Declaration of Intent (JDol)	Dept. of Posts (India) & Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (Germany)	Formalizing a government-to-government framework for logistics and e-commerce policy.
Letter of Intent (LoI)	Dept. of Posts (India) & Deutsche Post AG / DHL	Developing joint "premium" international express products and time-definite delivery services.

Strategic Impact and Key Outcomes

The collaboration is designed to move beyond simple mail exchange into high-tech, integrated logistics:

- **Time-Definite International (TDI) Services:** A new suite of premium products will be launched, offering end-to-end tracking and faster transit times for shipments leaving India for European markets.



- Empowering MSMEs and Artisans:** By providing affordable, reliable global shipping, the partnership specifically targets small producers and startups, allowing them to bypass traditional, expensive freight hurdles.
- Digitalization & Green Logistics:** Both nations committed to sharing best practices in **green logistics** (carbon-neutral delivery) and the digitalization of postal operations to improve efficiency and transparency.
- Bilateral Rate Arrangements:** The entities will explore specialized pricing for letters and parcels to make cross-border trade more cost-effective for individual consumers and businesses alike.

The Broader Context

This agreement was part of a larger set of **19 MoUs** signed during Chancellor Merz's visit, which also included a landmark **Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap** and a **Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership**. It highlights Germany's role as India's top trading partner in the EU, with bilateral trade having recently surpassed **\$50 billion**.

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The timing is also significant as 2026 marks **75 years of diplomatic relations** between India and Germany, signaling a shift toward deeper technological and infrastructural interdependence.

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

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

- Which two countries recently signed agreements to enhance collaboration in postal, express, and logistics services?
 - India and France
 - India and Germany
 - India and Japan
 - Germany and Brazil
- During whose visit were the "Joint Declaration of Intent" (JDol) and "Letter of Intent" (LoI) exchanged?
 - Olaf Scholz
 - Frank-Walter Steinmeier
 - Friedrich Merz
 - Angela Merkel
- The Joint Declaration of Intent (JDol) was signed between India's Department of Posts and which German entity?
 - Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Deutsche Bahn
 - Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

4. What is the primary objective of the partnership between the Indian Department of Posts and Deutsche Post AG?

- A) To establish a new airline for passenger travel
- B) To formalize a structured partnership in logistics services
- C) To reduce the cost of telecommunications
- D) To build a high-speed rail network

APPOINTMENTS

Nissan Strengthens India Leadership, Appoints Thierry Sabbagh as President



The appointment of Thierry Sabbagh as the President for India, effective January 1, 2026, signals a critical shift in Nissan's strategy to treat India not just as a regional market, but as a central pillar of its global recovery.

By expanding Sabbagh's remit to include India alongside the Middle East, Saudi Arabia (KSA), and the CIS, Nissan is streamlining its leadership to ensure that the "India comeback" is driven by a proven turnaround expert.

Leadership & Strategic Context

Sabbagh's appointment is a key component of the **Re:Nissan** transformation plan—a rigorous global recovery strategy aimed at returning the company to profitability by FY2026.

- **Dual Leadership:** Sabbagh will work closely with Saurabh Vatsa, who was recently elevated to Managing Director of Nissan Motor India.¹ This creates a bridge between local operational execution and broader regional governance.

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) India and Germany
2	C) Friedrich Merz
3	A) Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
4	B) To formalize a structured partnership in logistics services
5	D) Regulating international maritime boundaries

- Agility and Speed:** The AMIEO (Africa, Middle East, India, Europe, and Oceania) region is being restructured to bring decision-making closer to the markets, reducing the "lag" often found in massive global corporations.

- Customer-Centricity:** Integrating marketing and product planning into a single unit to respond faster to Indian consumer preferences (such as the demand for feature-rich, connected SUVs).

This move effectively places India in the same "high-priority" bracket as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, where Sabbagh has already achieved a **38% growth in volume** over the last four years.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who has been appointed as the President for India at Nissan as part of the 2026 leadership expansion?

- A) Saurabh Vatsa
- B) Massimiliano Messina
- C) Thierry Sabbagh
- D) Guillaume Cartier

2. Thierry Sabbagh's new role as President for India is in addition to his existing regional leadership over which markets?

- A) Japan and ASEAN
- B) Middle East, Saudi Arabia (KSA), and CIS
- C) North America and Mexico
- D) Western Europe and Africa

3. What is the name of Nissan's global transformation plan that this leadership reshuffle aims to accelerate?

- A) Nissan Next

The "India Product Offensive" (2026-2027)

The leadership change coincides with Nissan's most aggressive product roadmap for India in years. Over the next 14 to 16 months, the company plans to launch three major new vehicles:

Model	Segment	Strategic Goal
GRAVITE	Compact SUV	Aimed at the high-volume urban youth market.
TEKTON	SUV / Crossover	Designed to showcase Nissan's new design language and tech.
7-Seater C-SUV	Family SUV	A direct competitor in the growing mid-size family segment.

Key Pillars of the Re:Nissan Plan in India

- Network Expansion:** Aiming to reach **250 customer touchpoints** nationwide to ensure that the new products have the necessary service and sales support.
- Execution over Transformation:** The company has officially moved from the "planning" phase to the "execution" phase, focusing on sustainable growth rather than just volume.

B) Ambition 2030

C) Re:Nissan

D) Drive to 2030

Question	Answer
4	C) AMIEO
5	B) To strengthen execution, governance, and speed...

4. In which specific Nissan administrative region did this leadership reshuffle occur?

A) APAC (Asia-Pacific)

B) LATAM (Latin America)

C) AMIEO (Africa, Middle East, India, Europe, and Oceania)

D) MENA (Middle East and North Africa)

SPORTS

**National Sports Governance Rules 2026
Notified to Reform Sports
Administration**



The notification of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, on January 12, 2026, marks a transformative era for Indian sports. Stemming from the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, these rules move beyond advisory guidelines to provide a legally enforceable framework that aligns India with the Olympic Charter and international standards.

Here is a breakdown of the key reforms introduced:

1. Athlete-Centric Governance

The rules ensure that those who have played the game have a direct say in how it is run:

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) Thierry Sabbagh
2	B) Middle East, Saudi Arabia (KSA), and CIS
3	C) Re:Nissan

- Mandatory Inclusion:** Every National Sports Body (NSB) must include at least **four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs)** as voting members in their General Body.
- Tiered Eligibility:** A **10-tier classification** system has been established to identify SOMs, ranging from Olympic/Paralympic medalists (Tier 1) to National Championship medalists (Tier 10).
- Retirement Norms:** To qualify as an SOM, an athlete must be at least **25 years old**, retired from active play, and have a "cooling-off" period of at least one year from competitive selection events.
- Term & Age Limits:** Executive Committee terms are capped at **four years**, with specific age limits (generally 25 to 70 years) to ensure a regular renewal of leadership.
- Independent Oversight:** A **National Sports Election Panel** (consisting of at least 20 members) will oversee elections to ensure they are fair, transparent, and follow a standardized timeline.

Implementation Timeline

The government has set clear deadlines to ensure these reforms don't remain on paper:

Milestone	Timeline
Bye-law Amendments	NSBs must align their internal rules with the new Act within 6 months .
Roster Preparation	Athlete rosters must be prepared 90 days before EC term expiry.
Electoral Officer	Appointment must happen 60 days before the term ends.
Appeals	A National Sports Tribunal has been established for specialized, faster adjudication of disputes.

Why This Matters

For decades, Indian sports bodies often faced criticism for lack of transparency and the concentration of power among non-athletes. By giving statutory force to these rules, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, led by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, aims to create a "pollution-free" governance environment that prioritizes athlete welfare and high-performance results.

3. Integrity and Accountability

To professionalize administration and curb "politicization," several strict measures have been enacted:

- Disqualification Criteria:** Individuals convicted by a court and sentenced to imprisonment are barred from contesting elections or holding any committee positions.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) What is the primary objective of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026?

- A) To privatize all national sports federations.
- B) To ensure transparency, athlete-centric governance, and gender representation.
- C) To limit India's participation in international sports events.
- D) To reduce the funding provided to national sports bodies.

4) Under the 2026 Rules, what specific reform is introduced to improve the diversity of sports boards?

- A) Age-based quotas only.
- B) Mandatory representation for regional languages.
- C) Gender representation and athlete-centric governance.
- D) Lifetime appointments for administrative heads.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (Transparency, athlete-centricity, and gender representation)
2	D (Coaching techniques are technical/sport-specific, not administrative)
3	A (Global best practices)
4	C (Gender representation and athlete-centric governance)

BANKING/ECONOMY

Tripura Gramin Bank Launches India's First Solar-Powered ATM Van

The launch of 'TGB on Wheels' by Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) in January 2026 is a landmark moment for financial inclusion in Northeast India. By deploying the country's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van, TGB has created a sustainable solution for the "last-mile" banking challenge in geographically difficult terrains.

3) The National Sports Governance Rules, 2026, aim to align Indian sports administration with:

- A) Global best practices.
- B) Historical 19th-century mandates.
- C) Local club-level regulations only.
- D) The administrative rules of the film industry.



Here are the key details and the impact of this initiative:

Technology and Features

- Energy Independence:** Unlike traditional mobile ATMs that rely on the vehicle's engine or noisy diesel generators, this van is equipped with high-efficiency roof-mounted solar panels and a dedicated battery storage system. This allows the ATM and internal banking systems to operate for hours even when the vehicle is stationary or in areas with zero grid connectivity.
- Comprehensive Service Suite:** Beyond simple cash withdrawals, the van functions as a "micro-branch," offering:
 - Account opening and E-KYC services.
 - Cash deposit and fund transfers.
 - Passbook printing and mini-statements.
 - Enrolment for social security schemes like Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and PMJJBY.
- Expert On-Board:** Each van is staffed by a **Business Correspondent (BC)** who assists rural customers, many of whom may be using digital banking interfaces for the first time.

Institutional Recognition

The success of this project has earned Tripura Gramin Bank the prestigious **SKOCH Silver Award 2026** for excellence in governance and innovation. The initiative was praised for bridging infrastructural gaps while maintaining a carbon-neutral footprint.

Strategic Support and Scale

Feature	Details
Supporting Partner	NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) provided financial and technical backing.
Fleet Size	Following the successful pilot, TGB currently operates three solar-powered vans across the state.
Target Reach	Specifically designed to serve the 150 remote blocks where TGB has a presence but physical infrastructure is limited.
National First	Recognized as the first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) in India to adopt 100% solar energy for mobile banking.

The "Green Banking" Vision

This initiative is part of a broader transformation within Tripura Gramin Bank. Alongside the mobile vans, the bank has started unveiling **Solar-Powered E-Lobbies** (such as the one at the Abhoynagar branch), ensuring that 24/7 banking remains uninterrupted even during the frequent power fluctuations common in hilly regions.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) Which bank launched India's first fully solar-powered ATM van in January 2026?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Tripura Gramin Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) NABARD

2) What is the name given to this innovative mobile banking solution?

- A) Solar Bank Express
- B) Gramin Seva Van
- C) TGB on Wheels
- D) Tripura Digital Rath

3) What is the primary objective of the 'TGB on Wheels' initiative?

- A) To provide luxury banking services to urban elites.
- B) To replace all physical bank branches in Tripura.
- C) To provide banking services in rural and remote areas with unreliable electricity.
- D) To transport physical cash between major city chests.

4) The use of solar power for this ATM van is a significant step towards:

- A) Reducing the bank's interest rates.

B) Sustainable and inclusive banking.

C) Eliminating the need for internet connectivity.

D) Making banking services completely free of charge.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (Tripura Gramin Bank)
2	C (TGB on Wheels)
3	C (Services in remote areas with poor electricity)
4	B (Sustainable and inclusive banking)

STATE NEWS

Coromandel to set up corporate research centre at IIT Madras Research Park



The strategic partnership between Coromandel International and IIT Madras, formalized in early January 2026, marks a major step in



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bridging high-level academic research with field-level agricultural applications.

The MoU was exchanged during a high-profile ceremony at the inauguration of the **IITM Global Research Foundation**, presided over by the Union Minister of External Affairs, **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, highlighting the national and international significance of this industry-academia tie-up.

The Corporate Research Centre (CRC)

The centre, located at the **IIT Madras Research Park** in Chennai, is designed to be much more than a laboratory. It will serve as a multidisciplinary hub focused on:

- Translational Research:** Converting theoretical scientific breakthroughs into scalable, commercial technologies that farmers can use.
- Technology Incubation:** Providing a sandbox for developing next-generation agri-inputs and specialty nutrients.
- Talent Development:** Creating a pipeline of skilled professionals who understand both the science of agriculture and the realities of the market.
- Global Collaboration:** Leveraging IIT Madras' international network—which includes partners in the USA, UK, Germany, and Singapore—to bring global best practices to Indian soil.

Strategic Research Priorities

The partnership will specifically focus on addressing modern agricultural challenges through "science-led" growth:

Research Area	Focus & Objectives
Nano-Fertilizers	Developing high-efficiency nutrients that reduce wastage and environmental impact.
Crop Nutrition	Advanced specialty nutrients designed for climate-resilient farming.
Sustainable Inputs	Biological and eco-friendly alternatives to traditional chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
Emerging Tech	Exploring the use of AI, IoT, and precision engineering in the agricultural value chain.

Why IIT Madras Research Park?

The IIT Madras Research Park is renowned for its "**Innovation Ecosystem**," which allows corporate entities to co-locate with faculty and student startups. For Coromandel International—a flagship of the **Murugappa Group**—this move facilitates a direct "brain trust" access to some of the world's leading researchers in chemical engineering, biotechnology, and data science.

As **Narayanan Vellayan** (Whole-time Director, Coromandel) noted, this platform is essential for translating "cutting-edge science" into "scalable technologies" that can help India achieve its goal of becoming a global hub for sustainable agriculture.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

- Coromandel International has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which premier institute to establish a corporate research centre?



A) IIT Bombay
 B) IIT Madras
 C) IISc Bangalore
 D) IIT Delhi

B) Aerospace engineering and satellite communication
 C) Pharmaceutical manufacturing and retail
 D) Civil infrastructure and urban planning

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) IIT Madras
2	B) IIT Madras Research Park
3	B) To leverage research and technology infrastructure
4	A) Agriculture, sustainability, and emerging technologies

2. Where will the new corporate research centre be physically established?

A) Coromandel Headquarters, Hyderabad
 B) IIT Madras Research Park
 C) India's National Institute of Agricultural Sciences
 D) A dedicated facility in New Delhi

3. What is the primary objective of Coromandel International in partnering with the IIT Madras ecosystem?

A) To acquire land for new manufacturing plants
 B) To leverage world-class research, innovation, and technology infrastructure
 C) To outsource their entire human resources department
 D) To focus exclusively on international export logistics

4. The collaboration between Coromandel and IIT Madras will focus on which of the following strategic areas?

A) Agriculture, sustainability, and emerging technologies

Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. What did the Kerala government recently rename the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary to?

- A. Silent Valley Butterfly Sanctuary
- B. Aralam Biodiversity Sanctuary
- C. Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary
- D. Periyar Butterfly Reserve

1. C

In a significant decision, the Kerala government has renamed the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary as the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it Kerala's first dedicated butterfly sanctuary. This initiative aims to promote the conservation of important species and preserve the unique ecology of the Aralam area.

Q.2. Which organization recently set four Guinness World Records during the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor project?

- A. L&T
- B. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Road Transport

2. B

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has created a total of 4 Guinness World Records during the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor project, including the longest and highest bituminous

concrete laid in 24 hours, highlighting the speed and quality of construction on the route.

Q.3. Which ministry recently launched the 'PARAM SHAKTI' supercomputing facility at IIT Madras?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Science & Technology
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- D. DRDO

3. C

The 'PARAM SHAKTI' supercomputing facility at IIT Madras has been launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). This is a major step towards making India self-reliant in technology and has been designed and developed by C-DAC.

Q.4. Which new district of Arunachal Pradesh will be declared India's first bio-happy district?

- A. Dibang Valley
- B. Shi Yomi
- C. Keyi Panyor
- D. Lower Subansiri

4. C

Kei Panyor, a newly created district in Arunachal Pradesh, is set to become India's first "Bio-Happy District." This initiative is a novel attempt to connect biodiversity conservation

and human health, demonstrating India's commitment to sustainable development. The project revives the concept of "Bio-Happiness" championed by renowned agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan and promotes a development model based on the integration of ecology, livelihoods, and public health.

Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the Third International Conference on Indian Languages in New Delhi. The conference was organized by the Global Hindi Parivar, the International Cooperation Council, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and the Department of Indian Languages, University of Delhi.

Q.5. What is the name of the new Aadhaar mascot recently launched by UIDAI?

- A. Aadhaar Mitra
- B. Udal
- C. Pehchaan
- D. Aadhaar Sathi
- 5. B

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched an Aadhaar mascot named Uday to make Aadhaar services easier and more accessible to more people. The mascot is intended as a communication companion to make Aadhaar-related information easier for people.

Q.6. Who recently inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Indian Languages in New Delhi?

- A. Prime Minister of India
- B. Education Minister
- C. President of India
- D. Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
- 6. D

Q.7. Who recently inaugurated Gujarat's mobile cancer screening unit, 'Asha One'?

- A. Health Minister
- B. Governor of Gujarat
- C. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel
- D. Prime Minister of India
- 7. 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.8. Which Indian Army officer recently received the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 (Gender Category)?

- A. Major Leena Nair
- B. Captain Shalini
- C. Major Swathi Shantha Kumar

D. Colonel Anjali

8. C

Indian Army officer Major Swati Shanta Kumar has brought India international recognition for her outstanding contributions to gender-inclusive peacebuilding. She has been honored with the United Nations Secretary-General's Award 2025. She is currently serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Her work demonstrates how inclusive leadership can strengthen community trust, women's participation, and long-term peace in conflict areas.

Q.9. What is Morgan Stanley's recent GDP growth estimate for India for FY26?

- A. 7.2%
- B. 7.4%
- C. 7.6%
- D. 7.8%

9. C

India's economic growth is expected to be higher than the National Statistical Office's (NSO) first advance estimate, which reflects "continuous high-frequency data from September 2025, due to policy acceleration." A Morgan Stanley report estimates real GDP growth for FY26 at 7.6 percent year-on-year -- higher than the NSO's first advance estimate, which had projected real GDP growth at 7.4 percent year-on-year.

Q.10. The recently launched 'PhonePe PG Bolt' belongs to which sector?

- A. Insurance
- B. Digital Lending
- C. Payment Gateway for Card Transactions
- D. Cryptocurrency

10. C

PhonePe payment gateway has launched 'PhonePe PG Bolt' for Visa and Mastercard credit and debit card transactions. The solution uses device tokenisation to deliver a secure and efficient in-app checkout experience for PhonePe platform users and merchant partners, the company said in a statement.

Q.11. Recently, PayG received approval from the RBI to operate as what?

- A. PA - Online only
- B. PA - Physical and PA - Cross Border
- C. NBFC
- D. Small Finance Bank

11. B

PayG, a leading domestic payment gateway, is proud to announce that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an offline and cross-border payment aggregator. With this approval, PayG has completed its full suite of Payment Aggregator (PA) licenses, enabling it to facilitate digital payments across online, offline (in-person) and international use cases under the RBI's regulatory framework.

Q12. Who was recently sworn in as the 40th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court?

- A. Justice Sanjay Karol
- B. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer
- C. Justice Soumen Sen
- D. Justice Ritu Bahri

12. C

Justice Soumen Sen was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to him at a ceremony held at Kerala Lok Bhavan. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Assembly Speaker A.N. Shamsheer, Thiruvananthapuram Mayor V.V. Rajesh, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Justice Soumen Sen assumed the post following the retirement of Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar. Prior to this, Justice Sen had served as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Technologies (NRT), an Indian startup under the Ministry of Defence's iDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence) initiative. It is the first solar-powered surveillance drone designed for long-range, non-stop surveillance.

Q14. Who recently launched the 'DIME' digital logistics platform?

- A. DRDO
- B. MoD
- C. Indian Army
- D. Indian Navy

14. C

The Indian Army has launched a new all-India digital platform, "DIME" (Depot Integration Management Edition), to modernize and technology-enable its logistics system. This initiative is a major step towards making the Army's supply chain data-driven and efficient, enabling real-time monitoring of resource status.

Q13. Which company developed the MAPSS UAV system recently ordered by the Indian Army?

- A. HAL
- B. DRDO
- C. NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)
- D. Bharat Electronics

13. C

The Indian Army has ordered the MAPSS (Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System) UAV system. It was developed by Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research and

Q15. In which Indian state were two new slender-armed frog species recently discovered?

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim

15. C

India's herpetology field has achieved a major breakthrough. The discovery of two new frog species in the eastern Himalayan region of Arunachal Pradesh has once again highlighted the importance of this biodiversity hotspot.

FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

The **Charminar** is truly the beating heart of Hyderabad's history and culture. Beyond its stunning architecture, it represents a pivotal moment in the city's urban planning and spiritual life.

Here are a few deeper insights into this iconic "Four Towers" structure:

Architectural Brilliance

The Charminar is a perfect example of the **Indo-Islamic** architectural style, specifically the **Qutb Shahi** school of design.

- The Structure:** It is a square structure, with each side measuring 20 meters. The four grand arches face the four cardinal points (North, South, East, and West).
- The Minarets:** Each of the four minarets stands approximately **56 meters** high. They are four-storied, and unlike many other monuments, the minarets are actually built into the main structure, providing both aesthetic beauty and structural support.
- The Upper Floor:** While many see it only from the ground, the upper floor of the Charminar houses a **mosque**—the oldest in the city—and 45 prayer spaces.

The Legend of the Plague

As you mentioned, it was built by **Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah** in 1591. Historical records suggest that the Sultan prayed for the end of a devastating plague that was ravaging his new city. He vowed to build a mosque on the very spot where he prayed if the plague ended. The Charminar was the fulfillment of that vow.

A Center of Trade and Faith

The location of the Charminar was not accidental; it was designed to be the center of the grid-planned city of Hyderabad.

Nearby Landmark	Significance
Makkah Masjid	One of the largest mosques in India; its central arch bricks were reportedly made from soil brought from Mecca.
Laad Bazaar	Famous for its traditional "bangles," this market has operated in the shadow of the Charminar for centuries.
The Unfinished Arch	To the north lies the <i>Char Kaman</i> (Four Arches), which served as the gateway to the royal palaces.

Did You Know?

- A Secret Tunnel?** Local folklore suggests there is a secret underground tunnel connecting the Charminar to **Golconda Fort**, designed as an escape route for the royal family during a siege. While many believe it exists, its exact location remains a mystery!
- Symbol of a State:** The Charminar is so central to the identity of the region that it is featured in the official **Emblem of Telangana**.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

D) River Godavari

1. In which year was the Charminar monument and mosque built?

- A) 1526 AD
- B) 1591 AD
- C) 1648 AD
- D) 1724 AD

5. Which of these famous landmarks is located close to the Charminar?

- A) India Gate
- B) Gateway of India
- C) Makkah Masjid
- D) Victoria Memorial

2. Who was the ruler responsible for the construction of the Charminar?

- A) Akbar the Great
- B) Nizam-ul-Mulk
- C) Muhammad Quli Qutb Shahi
- D) Shah Jahan

6. The name "Charminar" is derived from two words which translate to:

- A) Four Arches
- B) Four Gates
- C) Four Towers
- D) Four Streets

3. What was the primary reason for building the Charminar?

- A) To commemorate a military victory
- B) To serve as a summer palace
- C) To celebrate the end of a deadly plague
- D) To mark the birth of a royal prince

7. Which city is the Charminar located in?

- A) Aurangabad
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Lucknow
- D) Bijapur

Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) 1591 AD
2	C) Muhammad Quli Qutb Shahi



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Question	Correct Answer
3	C) To celebrate the end of a deadly plague
4	B) River Musi
5	C) Makkah Masjid
6	C) Four Towers
7	B) Hyderabad

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

Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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