

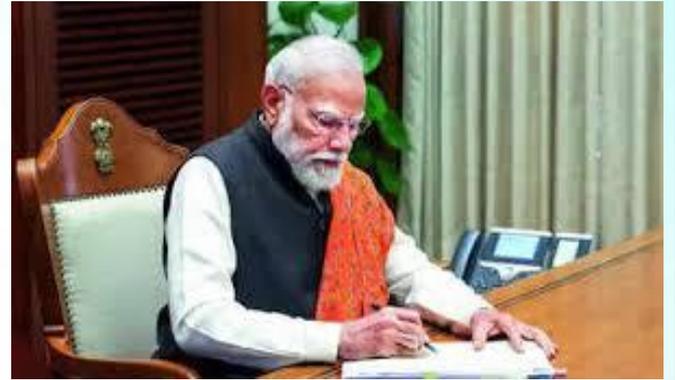
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## NATIONAL NEWS

### PM Modi Launches Seva Teerth



The inauguration of **Seva Teerth** on **February 13, 2026**, represents a historic shift in India's administrative landscape. By consolidating the country's most critical decision-making bodies into one state-of-the-art facility, the government aims to replace colonial-era fragmentation with modern, integrated efficiency.

### The New Power Center: Seva Teerth

Located on **Kartavya Path**, the complex consists of three interconnected wings designed to foster seamless collaboration:

- **Seva Teerth-1:** The Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- **Seva Teerth-2:** The Cabinet Secretariat.
- **Seva Teerth-3:** The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the Office of the National Security Advisor (NSA).

### Key Features and Strategic Impact

The move from the century-old South Block to Seva Teerth is not just a change of address but a reimagining of how the Indian government functions:

Feature	Description
Consolidated Governance	Houses the PMO, NSCS, and Cabinet Secretariat under one roof for the first time since Independence.
Sustainability	Built to 4-Star GRIHA environmental standards, featuring renewable energy and advanced waste management.
Digital Integration	Equipped with future-ready digital infrastructure to support real-time e-governance and secure communication.
Symbolic Shift	Inaugurated on the 95th anniversary of New Delhi becoming the capital, signaling a move from "Authority" ( <i>Satta</i> ) to "Service" ( <i>Seva</i> ).

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Which three major administrative bodies are now housed under one roof at the Seva Teerth complex?**

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs, PMO, and NITI Aayog
- B) PMO, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), and Cabinet Secretariat
- C) Ministry of External Affairs, PMO, and Parliament House
- D) Cabinet Secretariat, NSCS, and Ministry of Defense

**2. What is the primary objective of establishing the Seva Teerth complex in New Delhi?**

- A) To create a new museum for administrative history
- B) To separate different government wings for better autonomy
- C) To streamline top-level administration and create a citizen-centric governance ecosystem
- D) To house all state-level ministers during their visits to the capital

**3. According to the government, Seva Teerth is designed to improve coordination among:**

- A) Different political parties
- B) State and Central legislatures
- C) Top decision-making bodies
- D) International diplomatic missions

**4. Which of the following is NOT listed as a key benefit of the Seva Teerth project?**

### Broader Administrative Reform

Alongside Seva Teerth, the Prime Minister also inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan 1 & 2**. These buildings will house over 10 major ministries—including Finance, Defence, and Health—which were previously scattered across 50+ different locations in Delhi. This consolidation is expected to save the exchequer approximately **₹1,500 crore annually** in rental costs.

### What happens to the old offices?

The historic North and South Blocks will be repurposed into the **'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum**, which will showcase India's 5,000-year-old civilizational journey.



- A) Reduction of administrative delays
- B) Enhancement of security and operational efficiency
- C) Promotion of integrated governance
- D) Decentralization of the Prime Minister's powers

**5. The term "Seva Teerth" reflects the government's focus on:**

- A) Industrial expansion
- B) Service-oriented and efficient governance
- C) Tourism and cultural heritage
- D) Military modernization

**Answer Key**

Question	Answer
1	B (PMO, NSCS, and Cabinet Secretariat)
2	C (Streamline administration/citizen-centric ecosystem)
3	C (Top decision-making bodies)
4	D (Decentralization - the project focuses on integration/centralization of office space)
5	B (Service-oriented and efficient governance)

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**National Statistical Systems Training Academy Celebrates 18th Foundation Day**



The celebration of the 18th Foundation Day of the **National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA)** marks a significant milestone in India's journey toward data-driven governance. As the training wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), NSSTA has evolved into a cornerstone for the professional development of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS).

**The Evolution of Official Statistics**

The event at Mahalanobis Auditorium (named after the father of Indian statistics, **P.C. Mahalanobis**) emphasized that statistics are no longer just numbers on a page—they are the "fuel" for modern policy-making.

**Core Pillars of the Foundation Day Address**

The discussions centered on three primary pillars that will define the future of the academy:

- **Evidence-Based Governance:** Moving away from anecdotal decision-making to policies rooted in high-frequency, reliable data.
- **Technological Modernization:** Integrating advanced computational tools to handle the sheer volume of modern data sets.
- **Human Capital:** Recognizing that the integrity of a statistical system is only as strong as the ethical standards and technical skills of its practitioners.

### Transitioning to "Statistics 2.0"

To remain relevant in a digital economy, the academy highlighted the need to pivot from traditional sampling methods to a more technologically integrated approach:

Focus Area	Traditional Approach	Future Approach (NSSTA Vision)
Data Sources	Surveys & Censuses	Administrative Data + Satellite Imagery
Analysis Tools	Descriptive Statistics	AI, Machine Learning (ML), & Big Data
Reporting	Periodic Publications	Real-time Dashboards
Training	Classroom-based	Hybrid, Simulation-based, & Continuous Learning

### Strategic Impact

By focusing on **Capacity Building**, NSSTA ensures that India's statistical officers are prepared to navigate complex global standards (like the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics). This strengthens the credibility of

India's GDP, inflation, and employment data on the global stage.

**Fun Fact:** The venue, Knowledge Park-II in Greater Noida, has become a hub for central training institutes, placing NSSTA at the heart of India's intellectual and administrative development corridor.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Where is the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) located?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Kolkata, West Bengal

**2. Which ministry oversees the functioning of the NSSTA?**

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Education
- C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- D) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

**3. The 18th Foundation Day was celebrated at an auditorium named after which famous Indian statistician?**

- A) C.R. Rao
- B) P.V. Sukhatme
- C) P.C. Mahalanobis
- D) Sam Pitroda

**4. According to the event's highlights, what is considered the "foundation of evidence-based governance"?**

- A) Political consensus
- B) Statistics
- C) Legislative reforms
- D) Financial auditing

**5. Which emerging technologies did the event emphasize for future capacity building in statistics?**

- A) Blockchain and Cybersecurity
- B) Big Data, AI, and Machine Learning
- C) Cloud Computing and 5G
- D) Virtual Reality and Robotics

**Answer Key**

Question	Answer
1	B (Knowledge Park-II, Greater Noida)
2	C (MoSPI)
3	C (Mahalanobis Auditorium)
4	B (Statistics)
5	B (Big Data, AI, and Machine Learning)

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**India's Top Wool Producing States in 2026**



India's wool industry remains a vital component of its rural economy and textile heritage. As of **February 2026**, the country maintains its position as the **second-largest sheep population** globally (77.4 million) and the **ninth-largest wool producer**.

**Production Landscape (FY 2024-25)**

According to the latest **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS 2025)**, total wool production in India reached **34.57 million kg**, showing a steady recovery and growth of **2.63%** over the previous financial year.

**State-wise Leadership**

The production is highly concentrated in a few key regions, with **Rajasthan** functioning as the undisputed hub:

1. **Rajasthan:** 16,540 thousand kg (~47.9% share) — Known for carpet-grade wool from breeds like *Chokla* and *Marwari*.





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- Jammu & Kashmir:** 7,910 thousand kg (~22.9% share) — The primary source of high-quality fine wool used in shawls.
- Gujarat:** 2,150 thousand kg (~6.2% share).

- Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj:** A new program to strengthen global branding for Indian wool products under the **ODOP** (One District, One Product) banner.

### Understanding the "Quality Gap"

While India produces a vast quantity of wool, the industry faces a unique structural challenge regarding its quality distribution:

### Growth Highlights

- Fastest Growing State:** Punjab recently recorded the highest annual growth rate in wool production at **22.04%**, followed by **Tamil Nadu** at **17.19%**.
- Livestock Contribution:** Ewes (adult female sheep) contribute the lion's share of production, accounting for over **71%** of the total national output.

Wool Grade	Percentage	Typical Use
Carpet Grade	85%	Hand-knotted carpets, rugs, and heavy blankets.
Coarser Grade	10%	Rough mats, industrial felts, and low-cost coverings.
Apparel Grade	5%	High-end clothing and fashion garments.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**Note:** Due to the low percentage of apparel-grade wool produced domestically, India remains heavily dependent on imports of fine wool (mostly from Australia and New Zealand) to feed its garment industry.

**1. Where does India rank globally in terms of sheep population?**

- First
- Second
- Fifth
- Ninth

### New Strategic Initiatives (Budget 2026-27)

To address productivity and quality concerns, the Union Budget 2026 introduced the **National Fibre Scheme**. This initiative aims to:

**2. As per the provided data, what is India's global rank in total wool production?**

- Second
- Third
- Seventh
- Ninth

- Reduce Import Dependence:** Incentivizing the breeding of fine-wool sheep (like *Merino* hybrids) in Himalayan regions.
- Modernize Clusters:** Establishing common testing and certification centers in traditional hubs like Bikaner and Panipat.

**3. Which Indian state is the leading producer of wool, accounting for 47.53% of the national output?**

- A) Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Gujarat

**4. What was the total wool production of India in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24)?** A) 16.01 million kg

- B) 33.69 million kg
- C) 77.40 million kg
- D) 47.53 million kg

**5. Approximately how many sheep are there in India, according to the industry statistics?**

- A) 33.69 million
- B) 47.53 million
- C) 77.4 million
- D) 100.2 million

**Answer Key**

Question	Answer
1	B (Second)
2	D (Ninth)
3	C (Rajasthan)

Question	Answer
4	B (33.69 million kg)
5	C (77.4 million)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**World Health Organization Prequalifies New nOPV2 Vaccine to Strengthen Global Polio Eradication**



The World Health Organization (WHO) prequalified an additional novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) on February 13, 2026. This milestone is particularly significant for India, as the newly prequalified vaccine is manufactured by the Hyderabad-based Biological E. Limited (BioE).

**A New Chapter for Biological E.**

While BioE had previously been involved in the "fill-and-finish" process (packaging bulk vaccine from other sources), this new prequalification designates them as a full end-to-end manufacturer.

- Production Capacity:** BioE is expected to produce approximately **600 million doses annually**.
- Global Resilience:** They become only the second full manufacturer of nOPV2 globally, joining **PT Bio Farma** in Indonesia. This diversification drastically reduces the risk of global supply chain bottlenecks.
- Track Record:** Even before this full prequalification, BioE had already contributed over 700 million doses to the global stockpile through its earlier partnerships.

efforts are showing clear results. In **2025**, wild polio cases dropped to **41 cases** across 24 districts (primarily in Pakistan and Afghanistan), down from **99 cases** in 2024.

**Technical Insight:** nOPV2 has already been deployed in over **2 billion doses** worldwide since its initial emergency use listing in 2021, proving its effectiveness in interrupting transmission without seeding new outbreaks.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. What is the primary significance of a vaccine receiving WHO "prequalification"?**

- A) It grants the vaccine a patent for 24 months.
- B) It certifies the vaccine meets international standards for safety, quality, and effectiveness.
- C) It allows the vaccine to be sold in private pharmacies only.
- D) It confirms the vaccine is the only one available for type 2 polio.

**2. Why is nOPV2 considered a "novel" improvement over older oral polio vaccines?**

- A) It is delivered via injection rather than orally.
- B) It can only be stored at freezing temperatures.
- C) It is genetically more stable and has a lower risk of mutating into virulent strains.
- D) It eliminates the need for any follow-up doses.

**3. Which organization is specifically mentioned as being able to procure and distribute nOPV2 globally following its prequalification?**

### Why nOPV2 is the "Game-Changer"

The nOPV2 vaccine was specifically engineered to address **circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2)**. These outbreaks occur when the weakened virus in traditional oral vaccines (Sabin OPV) mutates back into a virulent, paralyzing form in under-immunized communities.

Feature	Impact on Global Health
Triple-Locked Genetics	Engineered to be <b>80% more stable</b> than older vaccines, making it much less likely to revert to a harmful strain.
Outbreak Response	Designed specifically for rapid use in emergency settings where wild or variant polio is detected.
Storage Flexibility	Has a shelf life of <b>24 months at -20°C</b> and remains stable for up to <b>6 months</b> at standard refrigeration (2°C to 8°C).

### Global Eradication Progress

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that these vaccination

- A) The Red Cross
- B) The World Bank
- C) UNICEF
- D) CDC

**4. What is the maximum shelf life of the nOPV2 vaccine?**

- A) 6 months
- B) 12 months
- C) 18 months
- D) 24 months

**5. Which specific type of outbreak is nOPV2 designed to respond to?**

- A) Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)
- B) Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)
- C) Seasonal Influenza
- D) Type 3 Poliovirus outbreaks only

**Answer Key**

Question	Correct Answer
1	B (International standards certification)
2	C (Genetically more stable)
3	C (UNICEF)
4	D (24 months)
5	B (cVDPV2)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Mia Mottley Secures Historic Third Term in Barbados**



Prime Minister **Mia Mottley** has secured a historic third consecutive term as the leader of Barbados following a landslide victory in the general elections held on **February 11, 2026**. Her Barbados Labour Party (BLP) achieved a "clean sweep," winning all **30 seats** in the House of Assembly for the third time in a row (2018, 2022, and 2026).

**The "Hat-Trick" Sweep**

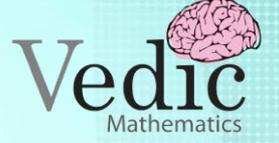
The 2026 election further cements Mottley's position as one of the most dominant political figures in the Caribbean. This victory is particularly notable as it comes after Barbados transitioned to a republic in 2021, removing the British monarch as head of state.

Election Year	Party	Seats Won	Total Seats
2018	BLP	30	30
2022	BLP	30	30

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Election Year	Party	Seats Won	Total Seats
2026	BLP	30	30

### Key Outcomes of the 2026 Election

- Opposition Defeat:** Ralph Thorne, the leader of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and former BLP member, was unable to secure a single seat for his party. Thorne himself was defeated in the St. John constituency.
- Voter Turnout:** Despite the decisive seat count, the election saw a relatively low turnout of approximately **37.3%**, reflecting a trend of decreasing participation seen in recent Barbadian polls.
- Victory Celebration:** Following the results, PM Mottley declared Friday, February 13, a national bank holiday and held a "Red Day" celebration at the National Botanical Gardens.

### Global Impact and Diplomacy

Mia Mottley has used her platform to become a global voice for **climate justice** and **international financial reform** (notably the Bridgetown Initiative).

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was among the first world leaders to congratulate her on February 13, 2026, highlighting the strengthening ties between India and Barbados, particularly in areas like healthcare, climate action, and pharmaceuticals.

**Our Mission:** "Our mission first and foremost is to stop poor people from being poor and to remove injustice wherever it exists to create opportunities for people." — *Mia Mottley in her 2026 victory speech.*

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who secured a historic third consecutive election victory as the Prime Minister of Barbados?

- A) Sandra Mason
- B) Mia Mottley
- C) Freundel Stuart
- D) Owen Arthur

**Correct Answer: B** (Mia Mottley led her party to a third straight win.)

2. Which political party swept all the seats in the House of Assembly during this election?

- A) Democratic Labour Party (DLP)
- B) Barbados Labour Party (BLP)
- C) People's Party for Democracy
- D) United Progressive Party

**Correct Answer: B** (The BLP achieved a total sweep of the legislature.)

3. How many seats are there in the Barbados House of Assembly that were won by the winning party?

- A) 21
- B) 25
- C) 30
- D) 35

**Correct Answer: C** (The party won all 30 available seats in Parliament.)

4. How many times has Mia Mottley's party now won all the seats in the Barbados Parliament?

- A) Once
- B) Twice
- C) Three times
- D) Four times

**Correct Answer: C** (This victory marked the third time they won every seat.)

**5. The election result is described as a "major political milestone" because:**

- A) It resulted in a coalition government.
- B) It was the first time a woman ran for Prime Minister.
- C) One party won every single seat for the third time.
- D) The election had to be rescheduled due to protests.

**Correct Answer: C** (Sweeping every seat in three consecutive elections is a rare and significant historical event.)

## BANKING/ECONOMY

### RBI Proposes Tighter Lending Norms for REITs and InvITs



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft guidelines on February 13, 2026, titled the *Commercial Banks – Credit Facilities (Second Amendment) Directions, 2026*. This landmark shift allows banks to lend directly to **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)**, a privilege previously reserved primarily for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

By integrating REITs into the formal banking credit system, the RBI aims to lower borrowing costs for commercial real estate and reduce the sector's reliance on volatile capital markets.

### Mandatory Eligibility Criteria

To ensure financial stability, the RBI has set high entry barriers for REITs seeking bank loans:

- **Listing Status:** Must be registered with SEBI and listed on a recognized stock exchange.
- **Operational History:** A minimum of **three years** of operations is required.

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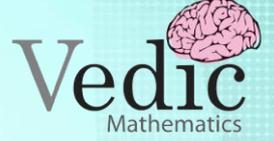
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- **Financial Health:** The REIT must have reported **positive net distributable cash flows** in the preceding two financial years.
- **Clean Record:** No material adverse regulatory action from SEBI or other authorities in the last three years.

### Key Prudential Safeguards

The draft norms introduce strict "guardrails" to prevent systemic risk and ensure the quality of bank books:

Feature	Regulation Detail
Exposure Cap	Combined credit exposure of all banks cannot exceed 49% of the REIT's asset value.
Loan Structure	Only amortizing loans are permitted; "bullet" or "balloon" repayments are strictly prohibited.
Restricted End-Use	Funds cannot be used for land acquisition, even if it is part of a larger project.
Security	Loans must be fully secured by a mortgage of identified assets and a charge over receivables.
Refinancing	Permitted only for completed projects that have received a Completion Certificate (CC) or Occupancy Certificate (OC).

### Strategic Impact on Real Estate

This policy change, expected to be implemented by **July 1, 2026**, is a major win for India's growing REIT market (which includes major players like Embassy, Mindspace, and Brookfield).

- **Lower Costs:** Direct bank credit is typically cheaper than issuing bonds or NCDs (Non-Convertible Debentures).
- **Asset Recycling:** Developers can more easily monetize finished projects through REITs, freeing up capital for new construction.
- **Harmonization:** The move aligns REIT lending rules with InvITs, creating a unified framework for "Trust-based" financing in India.

**Note for Banks:** The RBI has also proposed a specific cap on an individual bank's exposure to the sector—generally suggested at **10% of the bank's eligible capital base**—to ensure diversification.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. According to the draft guidelines, which authority must a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) be registered with to be eligible for bank lending?**

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)
- C) Ministry of Finance
- D) RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority)

**Correct Answer: B** (The guidelines specify that banks can lend to SEBI-registered REITs.)

**2. What is the primary objective of the RBI in issuing these draft guidelines with "stricter eligibility conditions"?**

- A) To discourage investment in the real estate sector.
- B) To replace equity funding with debt funding entirely.
- C) To ensure financial stability while expanding structured financing options.
- D) To allow banks to take over the management of REITs.

**Correct Answer: C** (The move aims to balance financial stability with the expansion of financing options.)

**3. Under the draft directions, what is the minimum operational history required for a REIT to borrow from a bank?**

- A) One year
- B) Two years
- C) Three years
- D) Five years

**Correct Answer: C** (REITs must have at least three years of operational history.)

**4. Besides operational history, what financial condition must a REIT meet to qualify for bank credit under these guidelines?**

- A) It must have zero debt.
- B) It must have positive cash flows.
- C) It must be owned by a government entity.
- D) It must have a minimum of 100 properties.

**Correct Answer: B** (The guidelines require three years of operational history with positive cash flows.)

**5. To be eligible for bank lending under the new draft directions, where must the REIT be listed?**

- A) Only on international exchanges.
- B) On the RBI's private registry.
- C) On stock exchanges.
- D) It does not need to be listed.

**Correct Answer: C** (The draft guidelines state that banks can lend only to REITs that are listed on stock exchanges.)

## STATE NEWS

### Tamil Nadu Electronics Hub



Tamil Nadu's ascent as India's "Electronics Superstate" is one of the most significant industrial transformations in recent years. By **February 2026**, the state has not only maintained its lead but is aggressively pivoting from simple assembly to high-value research, development, and component manufacturing.

### Performance and Projections (2025-2030)

As of the latest industry reports from the **Source India 2026** event, Tamil Nadu's trajectory remains record-breaking:

- **FY 2025 Reflection:** The state closed the financial year with **\$15 billion** in electronics exports, capturing a dominant **41% share** of India's total exports in this sector.
- **FY 2026 Forecast:** Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa has projected exports to hit or surpass **\$18 billion**, with the state's share expected to climb to **45%**.
- **The 2030 Vision:** The state is on track to become a **\$150 billion electronics hub** by 2030. This is part of a broader goal to reach a **\$1 trillion state economy** by the end of the decade.

### The "Full-Stack" Ecosystem

Tamil Nadu's success is rooted in its "full-stack" approach, moving beyond mobile phones into semiconductors and aerospace electronics.

Metric	Current Status (Feb 2026)	Significance
Export Growth	414% increase since 2021-22	The fastest growth rate for any industrial sector in the state's history.
Manufacturing Units	191 active units	Concentrated in clusters like Sriperumbudur, Oragadam, and Hosur.
Asset Addition	47.6% share of India's total	Leads the country in actual new investments and factory infrastructure.

Metric	Current Status (Feb 2026)	Significance
Employment	69% of all jobs in EMC schemes	High focus on female employment and high-end engineering roles.

### Strategic Drivers: Why Tamil Nadu?

The state's dominance is driven by a combination of global "China+1" shifts and proactive local policies:

- **The Apple Effect:** Through partners like **Foxconn, Tata Electronics, and Pegatron**, Tamil Nadu serves as the primary global hub for iPhone manufacturing outside China.
- **Component Ecosystem:** The state has secured **5 out of 7 major projects** under the central government's **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)**, reducing reliance on imported parts.
- **New Investment (Feb 16, 2026):** Just this week, the state signed a **₹5,980 crore MoU** with Japanese giant **MinebeaMitsumi** and **Aeque Group** to deepen precision engineering and aircraft engine manufacturing.

**Minister's Insight:** "We have expertise in manufacturing and services; the next big thing is R&D. We want to move decisively beyond low-value assembly into IP ownership and design-led manufacturing." — *T.R.B. Rajaa, Feb 2026.*



**Knowledge Check for Proficiency**

**1. What is the projected value of Tamil Nadu's electronics hub by the year 2030?**

- A) \$50 billion
- B) \$100 billion
- C) \$150 billion
- D) \$200 billion

**Correct Answer: C** (The state is projected to reach a \$150 billion valuation by 2030.)

**2. What was Tamil Nadu's percentage share in India's total electronics exports in FY2025?**

- A) 28.6%
- B) 41%
- C) 45%
- D) 414%

**Correct Answer: B** (The state held a 41% share, valued at \$15 billion.)

**3. What is the expected increase in Tamil Nadu's share of India's electronics exports for FY2026?**

- A) It is expected to drop to 35%.
- B) It is expected to remain steady at 41%.
- C) It is expected to rise to 45%.
- D) It is expected to reach 50%.

**Correct Answer: C** (Projections suggest a rise to a 45% share in FY2026.)

**4. Where does Tamil Nadu rank in India regarding electronics manufacturing gross sales value?**

- A) First

B) Second

C) Third

D) Fifth

**Correct Answer: B** (With 28.6% of the gross sales value, it ranks second in the country.)

**5. By what percentage have electronics exports from Tamil Nadu grown since the 2021-22 period?**

- A) 41%
- B) 150%
- C) 286%
- D) 414%

**Correct Answer: D** (The state recorded a massive 414% increase in exports since 2021-22.)

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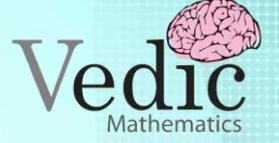
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## Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

**Q.1. Recently, the Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN) announced a strategic collaboration with which platform to accelerate fintech and digital innovation?**

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B. Startup Policy Forum (SPF)
- C. NASSCOM
- D. Digital India Forum

1. B

The Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), a platform headquartered in Singapore, created by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and networking policy, technology and finance leaders from over 130 countries, and the Startup Policy Forum (SPF), India's largest industry platform representing over 65 fast-growing startups with a combined value of over USD 100 billion.

**Q.2. Which state government recently signed a letter of intent (LOI) with SpaceX's Starlink for satellite internet services?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Tamil Nadu

2. B

The Gujarat government has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with SpaceX's satellite internet

company, Starlink. The agreement aims to provide high-speed internet service to remote, border, and tribal areas of Gujarat, including aspirational districts like Narmada and Dahod.

**Q.3. According to the recent PLFS (Q3 FY 2025-26), India's unemployment rate has declined to what percentage?**

- A. 5.2%
- B. 5.0%
- C. 4.8%
- D. 4.5%

3. C

India's unemployment rate (UR) for people aged 15 years and above fell to 4.8% in the third quarter of FY 2025-26, according to PLFS data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). This rate is down from 5.2% in the previous quarter.

**Q.4. Which company recently successfully implemented Bhashini's end-to-end sovereign AI cloud transformation?**

- A. Tata Communications
- B. Reliance Jio
- C. Yotta Data Services
- D. Infosys

4. C

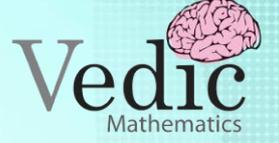
Yotta Data Services, India's leading sovereign cloud infrastructure and platform service provider, announced the successful deployment of Bhashini's complete sovereign AI cloud transformation on Yotta's Government Community Cloud (GCC) and Shakti Cloud. This



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major success aligns with the goals of the IndiaAI Mission and marks a major step in India's journey towards self-reliant and scalable AI capabilities.

**Q.5. Which state government recently launched the Stree Suraksha Scheme to provide monthly pension to unemployed women and transwomen?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Maharashtra

5. A

The Kerala government has launched the Stree Suraksha Scheme, providing a monthly pension of ₹1,000 to unemployed women and transwomen. The first installment has been transferred to 1,018,042 beneficiaries whose applications have been approved so far. Women between the ages of 35 and 60 who are economically disadvantaged and not receiving any other social welfare pension are eligible for this scheme. Transwomen are also included as beneficiaries under this pension scheme.

**Q.6. Which scheme did the Delhi government recently launch for the educational and economic security of girls in 2026?**

- A. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- B. Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana
- C. Kanya Shiksha Yojana
- D. Balika Samridhhi Yojana

6. B

The Delhi government has announced the launch of the "Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana" from April 1, 2026, to provide education and financial security to girls. This scheme will replace the old "Laadli Yojana." Under this scheme, daughters will receive a total of ₹56,000 in installments from birth to graduation, and a maturity amount of over ₹1 lakh upon completion of their studies.

**Q.7. Which states' Panchayati Raj Institutions were recently released the second installment of the 15th Finance Commission for the financial year 2025-26?**

- A. Kerala only
- B. Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
- C. All states
- D. Northeastern states

7. B

The Central Government has announced the release of over Rs 3,324 crore for strengthening rural local bodies in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal under the second tranche of the 15th Finance Commission's Unrestricted Grant for the financial year 2025-26.

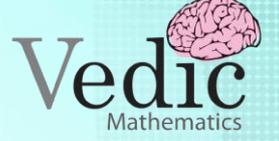
**Q.8. With which organization did the Department of Posts (India Post) recently sign a three-year renewable agreement?**

- A. SEBI
- B. BSE
- C. National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- D. RBI

8. C



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The Department of Posts (India Post) has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) or the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) for the distribution of mutual fund products through over 1.64 lakh post offices. The partnership aims to promote financial inclusion in rural and semi-urban areas.

**Q.9. What is India's position in the recent Stanford University 2025 Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Vibrancy Ranking?**

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

9. C

India ranks third in Stanford University's 2025 Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Vibrancy Ranking. Data infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and demographics have been identified as key drivers of AI adoption in India. According to the Stanford Global AI Index report, penetration of AI skills in India is 2.5 times higher than the global average for similar jobs.

**Q.10. Recently, India assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 under which multinational maritime group?**

- A. QUAD
- B. NATO
- C. Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)
- D. ASEAN Maritime Forum

10. C

The Indian Navy assumed command of the multinational Combined Task Force 154 (CTF-154) under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). This is the first time India has led this multinational training task force. The change of command ceremony took place at the CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.

**Q.11. Recently, the Defence Acquisition Council approved proposals worth approximately how much amount?**

- A. ₹2.5 lakh crore
- B. ₹3.0 lakh crore
- C. ₹3.60 lakh crore
- D. ₹4.2 lakh crore

11. C

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved defence procurement proposals worth approximately ₹3.60 lakh crore to enhance the military's combat capability. These approvals primarily include 114 Rafale multi-role fighter aircraft, advanced missiles, and high-altitude proxy satellites (AS-HAPS).

**Q.12. HAL recently signed a contract with the Ministry of Defense to supply Dornier-228 aircraft to which force?**

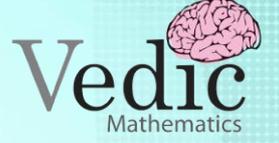
- A. Indian Air Force
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Coast Guard
- D. Border Security Force

12. C

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The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth over ₹2,312 crore with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure eight Dornier-228 aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The deal, under the 'Buy (Indian)' category, aims to strengthen maritime security.

**Q.13. Agrivastana recently signed an agreement with which force to supply materials for defense use?**

- A. Indian Navy
- B. Indian Army
- C. DRDO
- D. Indian Air Force

13. B

In a major step towards strengthening indigenous defense manufacturing, Mumbai-based company Agnivastra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army. The agreement focuses on the supply of advanced carbon fabrics and high-performance composite materials designed for critical defense applications. This collaboration reflects India's growing focus on locally sourced, cutting-edge defense technology under the Make in India initiative. With this MoU, the Indian Army will gain access to world-class, homegrown material innovations for high-stakes military applications.

**Q.14. Which three startups were recently selected by IN-SPACE under the SBaaS initiative?**

- A. Skyroot, Agnikul, Pixxel
- B. Astrome Technologies, Azista Industries, Dhruva Space

C. Bellatrix, MapmyIndia, Kawa Space

D. Larsen & Toubro, Tata Advanced Systems, Godrej Aerospace

14. B

Three startups—Astrom Technologies (Bengaluru), Azista Industries (Hyderabad), and Dhruva Space (Hyderabad)—have been selected to develop indigenous small satellite bus platforms under IN-SPACE's Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative. Each company will receive a grant of ₹5 crore.

**Q.15. Recently, ICICI Prudential AMC received RBI approval to acquire a maximum stake of what amount in selected banks?**

- A. 5%
- B. 7.5%
- C. 9.95%
- D. 15%

15. C

India's central bank has approved ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company and other ICICI Group entities to increase their stake in HDFC Bank to 9.95%. ICICI Group entities previously held a total stake of 4.07% in the bank. HDFC Bank, India's largest bank by market value, is valued at approximately \$157 billion.



**FACTS ABOUT BHARAT**

Your facts are spot on! India's dam infrastructure is truly a testament to massive engineering, balancing ancient wisdom with modern power needs.

Here is a quick breakdown of the "Big Three" you mentioned, plus a couple of other record-breakers that deserve a spot on the list:

**India's Engineering Marvels: The Dam Edition**

Title	Dam Name	State	River	Key Fact
Highest Dam	Tehri Dam	Uttarakhand	Bhagirathi	Stands at 260.5 meters; it's one of the tallest in the world.
Longest Dam	Hirakud Dam	Odisha	Mahanadi	Stretches for 25.79 km (including dykes), creating one of Asia's largest artificial lakes.
Largest Capacity	Indira Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	Narmada	Holds a massive 12.22 billion cubic meters of water.

Title	Dam Name	State	River	Key Fact
Highest Gravity Dam	Bhakra Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Sutlej	At 225 meters, it was famously called a "New Temple of Resurgent India" by PM Nehru.
Oldest Functional Dam	Kallanai	Tamil Nadu	Kaveri	Built by the Chola King Karikalan nearly 2,000 years ago and still in use today!

**Did You Know?**

- **The Powerhouse:** The Tehri Dam isn't just about height; it's part of a complex that generates **2,400 MW** of electricity, supplying power to almost all of Northern India.
- **The Rice Bowl:** The Hirakud Dam is the reason the Sambalpur region is known as the "Rice Bowl of Odisha," as its canal system transformed the local agriculture.
- **Ancient Tech:** The **Kallanai Dam** (also known as the Grand Anicut) was built using unhewn stones and is considered one of the oldest water-regulator structures in the world.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which dam holds the title of the highest dam in India, reaching a height of 260.5 meters?

- A) Hirakud Dam
- B) Indira Sagar Dam
- C) Tehri Dam
- D) Bhakra Nangal Dam

2. The Tehri Dam is constructed across which of the following rivers?

- A) Yamuna
- B) Bhagirathi
- C) Mahanadi
- D) Narmada

3. If you are looking for the longest dam in India, which state should you visit?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Odisha
- D) Punjab

4. Which Indian dam is recognized for having the largest water storage capacity?

- A) Tehri Dam
- B) Indira Sagar Dam
- C) Hirakud Dam
- D) Mettur Dam

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C) Tehri Dam
2	B) Bhagirathi
3	C) Odisha (Hirakud Dam)
4	B) Indira Sagar Dam

### 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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