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NATIONAL NEWS

Finance Ministry Launches 'Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima' for CGHS Beneficiaries



That is correct. The Union Finance Ministry (specifically the Department of Financial Services) launched the **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima** on January 14, 2026.

This scheme is a significant addition for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries, as it bridges the gap between traditional CGHS facilities and the need for higher financial protection in private healthcare.

Key Details of the Policy

Feature	Details
Eligibility	Exclusively for existing CGHS beneficiaries (serving and retired).
Sum Insured	Options of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh.
Insurer	Provided by the state-run New India Assurance Company Limited.

Feature	Details
Coverage Type	Indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation within India.
Member Limit	Up to 6 family members can be covered under a single policy.

Why it was launched

The initiative aims to provide a "seamless experience" and "additional financial security" against rising medical inflation. It is meant to complement, not replace, the existing CGHS benefits, allowing beneficiaries to access a wider network of private hospitals with cashless facilities more easily.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) What is the primary objective of the newly launched Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima scheme?

A) To replace the existing CGHS benefits for all government employees.

B) To provide an optional, indemnity-based supplement to existing CGHS benefits.

C) To offer free life insurance to retired Central Government officials.

D) To mandate private insurance for all citizens under the Finance Ministry.

Answer: B) To provide an optional, indemnity-based supplement to existing CGHS benefits.

2) Which of the following sum insured options are available to beneficiaries under this policy?

A) ₹1 lakh and ₹5 lakh

B) ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh

C) ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh

D) ₹25 lakh and ₹50 lakh

Answer: C) ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh

3) The Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima is categorized as a:

- A) Mandatory group insurance policy
- B) Optional retail health insurance policy
- C) Fixed-benefit critical illness plan
- D) International travel health cover

Answer: B) Optional retail health insurance policy

4) Which type of coverage does this policy specifically provide within the borders of India?

- A) Out-patient (OPD) consultations only
- B) In-patient hospitalization coverage
- C) Overseas medical emergency coverage
- D) Only AYUSH-based alternative treatments

Answer: B) In-patient hospitalization coverage

That is an impressive figure and underscores India's strengthening position as a global industrial hub. As of **January 2026**, the data confirms that India attracted **\$51 billion** in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) over the preceding six months.

This surge is particularly notable because it occurred during a period of uneven global investment flows, signaling that international investors view India as a "safe haven" for long-term capital.

Key Drivers of the \$51 Billion Inflow

According to **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the growth is fueled by three strategic pillars:

- **Manufacturing Prowess:** A significant portion of the FDI has been directed toward setting up new factories and expanding existing units. The government's **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes, which now cover 14 sectors, have been a major catalyst in this area.
- **Startup-Corporate Synergy:** There is a new trend of "deep-tech" startups collaborating with large corporations. The government has been facilitating MoUs to ensure that startups aren't just innovation hubs but are integrated into the supply chains of major global players.
- **Policy Reforms:** Recent moves, such as raising the FDI cap in Defence to 74% under the automatic route (announced in early 2026), have opened up strategic sectors that were previously more restricted.

NATIONAL NEWS

India Attracts \$51 Billion FDI as Startup and Manufacturing Push



FDI Performance at a Glance (H1 FY26)

Parameter	Current Status (Approx.)
Total FDI Inflow (Last 6 Months)	\$51 Billion
Year-on-Year Increase	~17%
Top Recipient Sectors	Manufacturing, Tech/Deep-tech, and Services
Leading States	Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat

C) \$51 billion

D) \$75 billion

Answer: C) \$51 billion

2) According to DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia, which of the following is a key driver for the positive response from international investors?

A) High volatility in the domestic stock market

B) A stable macroeconomic environment and policy reforms

C) A reduction in the total number of startups

D) A shift away from the manufacturing sector

Answer: B) A stable macroeconomic environment and policy reforms

3) The surge in FDI is closely linked to the Indian government's sustained push towards which specific sectors?

A) Agriculture and traditional handicrafts

B) Startups, innovation, and manufacturing

C) Mining and heavy metal extraction only

D) Import-dependent retail trading

Answer: B) Startups, innovation, and manufacturing

4) What does the \$51 billion inflow of FDI primarily signify regarding India's economy?

A) A decline in domestic production

Looking Ahead: National Startup Day

To sustain this momentum, the government is celebrating National Startup Day today, January 16, 2026.

- 75 Grand Challenges are being launched to invite innovative solutions for industrial problems.
- 20 National Startup Awards will be presented to recognize excellence in the ecosystem.
- The government anticipates that overall FDI for the full fiscal year could cross the \$100 billion mark for the first time.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) How much Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) did India attract in the last six months, according to the report?

A) \$25 billion

B) \$40 billion

A) A decline in domestic production

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B) Sustained international confidence in India's long-term economic potential

C) A temporary fluctuation due to global currency changes

D) A shift toward a closed-market economy

Answer: B) Sustained international confidence in India's long-term economic potential

Sa'ar announced the immediate severing of ties with seven specific international bodies.

This move is a direct strategic response to a major shift in U.S. foreign policy: just a week prior, on January 8, 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of the United States from **66 international organizations**, citing that they no longer served American national interests.

The Seven Agencies Israel is Exiting

Israel's withdrawal includes four agencies with which it had already significantly downgraded ties, plus three new ones.

Category	Agency	Specific Reason Cited by Israel
New Exits	UN Alliance of Civilizations	Claimed it was used as a platform for attacks against Israel and excluded Israeli participation.
	UN Energy	Described as "wasteful" and a symbol of UN bureaucratic inefficiency.
	Global Forum on Migration & Development	Accused of eroding the ability of sovereign nations to enforce immigration laws.
Formalized Exits	Office of the Rep. for Children & Armed Conflict	Prompted by the 2024 "blacklisting" of the IDF alongside groups like ISIS and Boko Haram.
	UN Women	Accused of deliberately ignoring sexual violence against

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel Withdraws from Seven UN Agencies Over Alleged Bias



This is a significant diplomatic pivot. On **January 13-14, 2026**, Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon

Category	Agency	Specific Reason Cited by Israel
		Israeli women on Oct 7, 2023.
	UNCTAD (Trade & Development)	Cited "virulent anti-Israel reports" issued over several years.
	ESCWA (Western Asia Commission)	Accused of fostering one-sided anti-Israel resolutions and reports.

earlier in Jan 2026) to completely ban UNRWA (the UN agency for Palestinian refugees) from operating within its territory, further signaling a historic low in Israel-UN relations.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) Which official announced Israel's immediate withdrawal from seven United Nations agencies in January 2026?

A) Benjamin Netanyahu

B) Gideon Sa'ar

C) Isaac Herzog

D) Israel Katz

Answer: B) Gideon Sa'ar (Foreign Minister)

2) Israel's decision to exit these agencies was prompted by an internal review following which major international event?

A) The signing of a new regional peace treaty

B) The United States exiting 66 international organizations

C) The dissolution of the UN Security Council

D) A global reduction in UN membership fees

Answer: B) The United States exiting 66 international organizations

3) Israel terminated its cooperation with UN Women citing which specific reason?

A) Excessive membership fees and lack of funding

Key Context & Strategic Shift

- The "Trump Effect":** Israeli officials explicitly stated that their review was prompted by the U.S. decision to exit 66 organizations. This highlights a growing alignment between Jerusalem and the new U.S. administration in favoring **selective multilateralism** over universal engagement.
- National Interest Review:** Foreign Minister Sa'ar has instructed a broader, ongoing review. This means more agencies could be added to the exit list if they are found to provide little operational value or display persistent bias.
- Transactional Diplomacy:** Israel's approach is becoming increasingly transactional—engaging only where platforms are impartial and provide concrete benefits, while bypassing those it views as ideologically hostile.

The UNRWA Situation

Notably, this exit from specialized agencies runs parallel to Israel's domestic legislation (passed

B) Alleged failure to address sexual violence committed against Israeli women on October 7, 2023

C) Overlap of duties with the Israeli Ministry of Welfare

D) A shift in focus toward climate change initiatives

Answer: B) Alleged failure to address sexual violence committed against Israeli women on October 7, 2023

4) Which organization did the Israeli Foreign Ministry label a "wasteful organization" that exemplifies "excessive and inefficient bureaucracy"?

A) UNCTAD

B) UN Energy

C) ESCWA

D) UN Alliance of Civilizations

Answer: B) UN Energy

D) Due to a disagreement over educational curriculum standards

Answer: B) Because the office added the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to a "blacklist" alongside extremist groups

Summary of Withdrawn Agencies (January 2026)

Agency	Primary Reason for Exit
UN Women	Alleged silence on Oct 7 sexual violence
UN Energy	Bureaucratic inefficiency and wastefulness
UNCTAD & ESCWA	Production of "virulent anti-Israel reports"
SRSG (Children)	Blacklisting of the IDF
Alliance of Civilizations	Platform used for political attacks on Israel
Global Forum on Migration	Perceived erosion of national immigration sovereignty

APPOINTMENTS

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Appoints Vikas Chadha as Global CEO



5) Why did Israel sever ties with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict?

A) Due to the office's closure following UN budget cuts

B) Because the office added the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to a "blacklist" alongside extremist groups

C) Because the office moved its headquarters to a hostile nation

That is correct. This leadership transition at **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)**, announced on **January 14, 2026**, is a key part of the company's long-term strategy to ensure global continuity.

Vikas Chadha will officially take over as the Global CEO on January 22, 2026.

Details of the Transition

The move is a pre-emptive step ahead of the retirement of **Ravi Viswanathan**, the current Managing Director, who is set to step down during the **2026-27 financial year**.

- The Handover:** To ensure stability, Viswanathan will remain as Managing Director during the transition period, working closely with Chadha to maintain operational momentum.
- Strategic Goal:** The appointment is intended to strengthen TVS SCS's global footprint, particularly as international trade patterns shift and the demand for integrated, digital-first logistics grows.

Who is Vikas Chadha?

Chadha is a veteran executive with over **30 years of experience** in managing large-scale, multi-country operations.

Aspect	Experience
Past Leadership	Spent 12 years at Honeywell in various roles, including President - Honeywell India and MD - Honeywell Automation India Ltd.
Expertise	Managing P&L operations exceeding \$1 billion , digital transformation, and strategic growth.

Why this matters for the Logistics Sector

TVS SCS is one of India's largest integrated supply chain providers. This structured succession plan is seen as a "best practice" in corporate governance for several reasons:

- Investor Confidence:** Publicly listed companies often face volatility during leadership changes; a year-long transition period minimizes this risk.
- Global Ambitions:** Chadha's extensive background in the Middle East and with multinational giants like Honeywell aligns with the company's "Network Solutions" and "Integrated Supply Chain" segments across Europe and North America.
- Digital Transformation:** Given his history with automation and digital innovation, Chadha is expected to accelerate the company's "tech-led" logistics initiatives.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) In January 2026, who was appointed as the Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TVS Supply Chain Solutions?

Aspect	Experience
Education	MBA from ISB Hyderabad ; Electronics & Communications Engineer from Delhi College of Engineering .
Previous Role	CEO of Jumbo Electronics Group (Dubai-based conglomerate).



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- A) R. Dinesh
- B) Ravi Viswanathan
- C) Vikas Chadha
- D) Siddharth Jairaj

Answer: C) Vikas Chadha

2) The appointment of the new Global CEO is part of a structured succession plan due to the upcoming retirement of which official?

- A) The Chief Financial Officer
- B) The Executive Chairman
- C) The Managing Director
- D) The Global Chief Information Officer

Answer: C) The Managing Director (Ravi Viswanathan is scheduled to retire in FY 2026-27)

B) January 14, 2026

C) January 22, 2026

D) April 1, 2026

Answer: C) January 22, 2026

Leadership Transition Roadmap

Official	Current/New Role	Timeline
Vikas Chadha	Global CEO	Appointed effective Jan 22, 2026
Ravi Viswanathan	Managing Director	Continuing through transition; retiring in FY 2026-27
R. Dinesh	Executive Chairman	Overseeing long-term value creation

SPORTS

Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement After India Series



That is correct. In a major announcement on **January 13, 2026**, Australian captain Alyssa Healy confirmed she will retire from all forms of

3) Prior to joining TVS Supply Chain Solutions, Vikas Chadha served as the CEO of which Dubai-based conglomerate?

- A) Aramex
- B) Jumbo Electronics Company Ltd
- C) DP World
- D) Landmark Group

Answer: B) Jumbo Electronics Company Ltd

4) When is the new Global CEO officially scheduled to take charge?

- A) January 1, 2026



international cricket at the end of the current home summer.

Her decision marks the departure of one of the most decorated players in the history of the game, leaving a significant void in the Australian leadership ahead of the **2026 T20 World Cup**.

The Retirement Roadmap

Healy's exit is strategically phased to allow the Australian team to transition toward a new leadership structure before the World Cup in England.

- Effective Immediately (T20Is):** Healy has retired from the T20 format with immediate effect. She will **not** play in the three T20Is against India in February, allowing a new captain to gain experience before the World Cup.
- The Final Stretch (ODIs):** She will continue to lead the side in the three-match ODI series against India.
- The Swansong (Test Match):** Her final international appearance will be the **one-off day-night Test** against India at the WACA in Perth, scheduled for **March 6–9, 2026**.

A Legendary Career by the Numbers

Healy retires as the most successful wicketkeeper in the history of women's international cricket.

Category	Career Achievement
International Runs	Over 7,000 runs across all formats
T20I Milestone	Highest individual score by a Full Member player (148*)
Major Awards	2-time ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year (2018, 2019)

Why Now?

Healy shared her thoughts on the *Willow Talk* podcast, citing a combination of factors:

- Loss of "Competitive Edge":** She admitted that the drive required to compete at the highest level had begun to fade.
- Physical & Mental Toll:** At 35, the cumulative effect of injuries and the mental fatigue of constant high-stakes competition influenced her timing.
- Team Transition:** She emphasized that staying until the World Cup would not be fair to her teammates, as it would deprive the next captain of vital preparation time.

What's Next for Australia?

The Australian selectors now face a significant decision. While **Tahlia McGrath** is the current vice-captain and a frontrunner, other names being discussed for the top job include **Ashleigh Gardner** and **Phoebe Litchfield**.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) Which legendary Australian cricketer recently announced her retirement from all formats of the game?

Category	Career Achievement
World Cup Titles	8 (6 T20 World Cups, 2 ODI World Cups)
Total Dismissals	275 (A world record for wicketkeepers)

- A) Meg Lanning
- B) Ellyse Perry
- C) Alyssa Healy
- D) Beth Mooney

Answer: C) Alyssa Healy

- B) It is a T20 World Cup year
- C) The team is moving to a new coaching staff
- D) The team is being relegated from the top rankings

Answer: B) It is a T20 World Cup year

Career Snapshot: Alyssa Healy

Feature	Details
Role	Wicketkeeper-Batter (Opening Batsman)
Final Series	vs. India (Home Series)
Major Impact	Key member of multiple World Cup-winning squads
Leadership	Captained Australia following Meg Lanning's retirement

2) When will Alyssa Healy's retirement officially come into effect?

- A) Immediately following the announcement
- B) After the conclusion of the T20 World Cup
- C) After the upcoming multi-format home series against India
- D) At the end of the 2026 calendar year

Answer: C) After the upcoming multi-format home series against India

3) Alyssa Healy is primarily celebrated for her role in the Australian team as a:

- A) Right-arm fast bowler
- B) Wicketkeeper-batter
- C) Specialist leg-spinner
- D) All-rounder and opening bowler

Answer: B) Wicketkeeper-batter

4) Why is Alyssa Healy's retirement considered a significant "transition point" for the Australian team in 2026?

- A) Australia is hosting the Olympics

BANKING/ECONOMY

Karnataka Bank Bags IBA Award for Best Fintech & DPI Adoption



That is exactly right. Karnataka Bank (KBL) has been a standout performer at the IBA Banking Technology Awards 2026, held on January 14.

The bank won the top honor in the "Best Fintech & DPI Adoption" category, which is a major validation of its "KBL NxT" digital transformation journey. This award specifically recognizes how well a bank integrates India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)—like UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker—into its core services.

Award Summary for Karnataka Bank

Beyond the main win for Fintech & DPI, the bank secured several other recognitions that highlight its broad-based approach to technology:

Award Category	Position
Best Fintech & DPI Adoption	Winner
Best Tech Talent	Runner-up
Best Technology Bank	Special Mention
Best Digital Financial Inclusion	Special Mention
Best Digital Sales	Special Mention

Key Strengths Noted by the IBA

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) highlighted three specific areas where Karnataka Bank excelled:

- DPI Integration:** The bank's seamless connection with platforms like RBI's e-Kuber and the Khajane-2 (for Karnataka state government receipts) was cited as a benchmark for efficiency.
- Tech Talent Development:** Being the runner-up for "Best Tech Talent" shows that the bank isn't just buying technology but is

successfully training its own IT and business teams to innovate in-house.

- Customer-Centric Innovation:** The Managing Director & CEO, Raghavendra S. Bhat, emphasized that these awards reflect the bank's ability to balance "high-tech" with "high-touch"—keeping the customer experience at the center of digital tools.

Why this is a "Milestone"

For a mid-sized private sector bank to win against much larger competitors in the Fintech & DPI category is significant. It signals that digital leadership in India is no longer restricted to the "Big 4" banks. It also aligns with the bank's recent launch of an online payment facility for government taxes and fees, making it a "one-stop digital shop" for its users.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) In January 2026, Karnataka Bank was declared the winner in which category at the IBA Banking Technology Awards?

- A) Best Cybersecurity Bank
- B) Best Fintech & DPI Adoption
- C) Best AI/ML Implementation
- D) Best Mobile Banking App

Answer: B) Best Fintech & DPI Adoption

2) In addition to its main win, Karnataka Bank was adjudged the runner-up in which of the following categories?

- A) Best Customer Experience



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- B) Best Tech Talent
- C) Best Digital Transformation
- D) Best Sustainable Banking

Answer: B) Best Tech Talent

3) What specific milestone did Karnataka Bank achieve on January 14, 2026, as part of its digital transformation journey?

- A) Launch of India's first satellite-based ATM
- B) Enablement of Khajane-2 government e-receipt payments via net banking
- C) Complete migration of all branches to a 100% cloud-only model
- D) Introduction of a voice-activated biometric loan system

Answer: B) Enablement of Khajane-2 government e-receipt payments via net banking

Overview of Karnataka Bank's Recent Tech Milestones

Feature	Details
Awarding Body	Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
Key Categories	Winner: Best Fintech & DPI Adoption; Runner-up: Best Tech Talent
DPI Focus	Digital Public Infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar, Khajane-2)
Centenary Strategy	"Startup@100" focused on agility and innovation

STATE NEWS

Tamil Nadu State Indicator Framework 2.0



In a significant step toward data-driven governance, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 on January 6, 2026.

This updated framework is designed to provide a more streamlined and precise roadmap for achieving the United Nations Sustainable

4) Under its "Startup@100" strategy, Karnataka Bank recently collaborated with which tech giant to modernize its digital infrastructure using API-led integration?

- A) Microsoft
- B) Google Cloud
- C) IBM
- D) Oracle

Answer: C) IBM



Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, aligning the state's progress with national and global benchmarks.

What is SIF 2.0?

The SIF 2.0 is a refinement of the original 2019 framework. It focuses on higher-quality, outcome-oriented data rather than just counting activities.

- Indicator Optimization:** The number of indicators has been reduced from **314 to 244** across all 17 SDGs. This reduction ensures focus on high-impact areas while removing redundant or low-quality metrics.
- Inter-Departmental Coordination:** The framework is monitored by **28 state departments**, ensuring that progress in health, education, and infrastructure is tracked in a unified manner.
- Alignment:** It is synchronized with India's **National Indicator Framework (NIF)** and the **SDG India Index 3.0**.

Tamil Nadu's Performance Highlights

The release of SIF 2.0 comes at a time when Tamil Nadu has solidified its position as a "Front Runner" in India's development.

1. Multidimensional Poverty (MPI)

According to recent NITI Aayog data, Tamil Nadu has one of the lowest poverty rates in the country, showcasing a stark contrast with some other major states:

State	Multidimensional Poverty Rate
Tamil Nadu	2.2%

State	Multidimensional Poverty Rate
Uttar Pradesh	22.93%
Bihar	33.76%

2. Health and Education

- Maternal & Child Health:** The state reports an **under-five mortality rate of 13 per 1,000 live births** (national target is 25) and has achieved **99.98% institutional deliveries**.
- Higher Education:** Tamil Nadu leads India with a **47% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education, nearly double the national average.

The "Dravidian Model" Strategy

Chief Minister Stalin noted that SIF 2.0 is rooted in the "Dravidian Model," emphasizing social justice and inclusiveness.

- Outcome over Output:** Instead of just tracking how many schools were built, the framework now tracks learning outcomes and teacher training (99.9% of secondary teachers in TN are professionally trained).
- Renewable Energy:** The state now generates over **50% of its power** from renewable sources, significantly higher than the national share.
- Labor Market:** The unemployment rate among the working-age population (15-59) has declined from **7.2% to 4.8%**.

Why this matters

By narrowing the indicators, the government can better identify specific "last-mile" gaps in

rural nutrition or regional imbalances. The framework serves as a "dashboard" for the state to make sure its \$1 trillion economy goal is not just about growth, but about equitable development for every citizen.

B) 2.2%

C) 5.8%

D) 10.2%

Answer: B) 2.2%

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1) Which state government recently released the State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 to track its progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

A) Kerala

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Karnataka

D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B) Tamil Nadu

4) How many state departments in Tamil Nadu are responsible for monitoring the progress of the SIF 2.0?

A) 15

B) 20

C) 28

D) 35

Answer: C) 28

2) Under the SIF 2.0 framework, how many indicators are currently being used to monitor the 17 SDGs, compared to the previous 314?

A) 200

B) 225

C) 244

D) 280

Answer: C) 244

3) According to NITI Aayog data mentioned in the report, what is the multidimensional poverty rate in Tamil Nadu?

A) 1.5%

5) As per the NITI Aayog comparison, which state has the highest multidimensional poverty rate among those listed?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Bihar

D) Maharashtra

Answer: C) Bihar (at 33.76%)

Comparative Poverty Rates (NITI Aayog)

State	Multidimensional Poverty Rate
Tamil Nadu	2.2%
Uttar Pradesh	22.93%
Bihar	33.76%

 Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Which state recently topped the list of APAAR ID generation with approximately 88.63% coverage?

- A. Odisha
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Jharkhand

1. B

Chhattisgarh has topped in creating APAAR ID (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) with around 88.63% coverage, leaving behind other big states by creating this digital ID for more than 50 lakh students and achieving it as a major achievement under the National Education Policy (NEP).

Q.2. Where was the 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025-26 recently held?

- A. Mumbai Port
- B. Chennai Port
- C. Paradip Port
- D. Visakhapatnam Port

2. C

The 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025-26 was held at Paradip Port in Odisha. It was organised by the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) under the aegis of the Major Ports Sports Control Board.

Q.3. What is India's approximate fish production in FY 2024-25?

- A. 150 lakh tonnes
- B. 175 lakh tonnes
- C. 197.75 lakh tonnes
- D. 210 lakh tonnes

3. C

India's fish production is expected to be around 197.75 to 198 lakh tonnes in the financial year (FY) 2024-25, up from 95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013-14, showing a growth of 106%, making India the second largest fish producer in the world.

Q.4. In which city did APEDA recently open its regional office?

- A. Ranchi
- B. Raipur
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Nagpur

4. B

APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) recently opened its regional office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Its mission is to promote Chhattisgarh's agricultural exports and provide direct support to farmers, FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations), and exporters. This initiative aims to enhance the state's potential for global export of agri-food products.

Q.5. Where will the Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 be held?

- A. Noida
- B. Kanpur
- C. Varanasi
- D. Lucknow
- 5. D

IndiaAI, India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are jointly organizing the Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Summit 2026 in Lucknow. The summit aims to promote responsible, inclusive, and large-scale AI adoption across Indian states, and showcase Uttar Pradesh's growing leadership role in AI-based governance and public service delivery.

Q.6. Who recently received Italy's "Order of the Star of Italy" award?

- A. Ratan Tata
- B. Srinivas Dempo
- C. Mukesh Ambani
- D. Nandan Nilekani
- 6. B

Italy has awarded renowned Goa-based industrialist Srinivas Dempo the "Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia," one of its highest civilian titles. The award recognizes his long-standing support for Italian citizens living in India and his role in promoting India-Italy cooperation in the areas of trade, culture, and

community. This recognition emphasizes that in today's international relations, in addition to governments, businesses and non-state actors also play a vital role in strengthening diplomatic ties.

Q.7. With whom did ICAR recently sign an MoU for dairy cooperation?

- A. AMUL
- B. NDBB
- C. NABARD
- D. FSSAI
- 7. B

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen dairy research, innovation, and extension. The agreement aims to directly benefit millions of dairy farmers by creating a strong synergy between research and implementation on the ground, thereby boosting productivity, climate-resilience, and value addition.

Q.8. In which city was the recent India-Germany bilateral agreement signed?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Gandhinagar
- D. Jaipur
- 8. C

Several bilateral agreements were recently signed between India and Germany in Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad cities of Gujarat, where German Chancellor Friedrich Merz held talks with Prime Minister Modi and more than 19 important agreements were signed in sectors like defence, technology, clean energy and semiconductors, strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

India became the world's sixth-largest gold ETF holder in 2025, reaching a record 95 tonnes, and funds from India such as Nippon India Gold BeES have entered the top 15 globally, making India a leader in Asia and among the top 3 ETF markets worldwide.

Q.11. What was India's retail inflation rate (CPI) in December 2025?

- A. 2.45%
- B. 1.98%
- C. 1.33%
- D. 3.10%

11. C

Retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 1.33% in December from 0.71% in December, mainly due to rising food prices. The Reserve Bank of India primarily considers retail inflation when setting interest rates. For FY 2025-26, the RBI cut the policy rate by 1.25 percentage points, keeping the repo rate at 5.25%, and described the current situation as a "Goldilocks era" of high growth and low inflation.

Q.9. Which cricketer did Virat Kohli recently overtake to take the second spot?

- A. Ricky Ponting
- B. Brian Lara
- C. Kumar Sangakkara
- D. Jacques Kallis
- 9. C

Virat Kohli has moved up to second on the all-time list of men's international run-scorers, surpassing Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara and closing in on batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar at the top.

Q.10. Which country will become the world's largest holder of gold ETFs in 2025?

- A. 5th
- B. 6th
- C. 7th
- D. 8th
- 10. B

Q.12. Who was recently appointed the Chairperson of the UN Disarmament Advisory Board?

- A. Ajit Doval
- B. B. Venkatesh Verma
- C. S. Jaishankar
- D. Ruchira Kamboj

12. B

Senior Indian diplomat DB Venkatesh Varma has been nominated by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General as Chairman of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for the term 2026-27. This is the first time an Indian has been appointed Chairman of this board since it was formed in 1978.

Q.13. Recently, Justice Revati Mohite-Dere became the first woman Chief Justice of which High Court?

A. Manipur HC

B. Tripura HC

C. Meghalaya HC

D. Sikkim HC

13. C

This is a historic moment for the judiciary in Northeast India. Meghalaya has appointed Justice Revati Mohite Dere as its first woman Chief Justice. She took the oath of office in Shillong, thus making judicial history in the matriarchal state of Meghalaya. Her appointment is being seen as an important step towards increasing gender representation in the higher judiciary and strengthening judicial leadership in the region.

Q.14. Who recently became the Director of the National Olympic Academy?

A. Abhinav Bindra

B. Anju Bobby George

C. Gagan Narang

D. Rajyavardhan Rathore

14. C

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed Olympic medalist and IOA Vice President Gagan Narang as the Director of the relaunched National Olympic Academy (NOA). According to an IOA release, this is a major step towards strengthening India's Olympic education and athlete development framework.

Q.15. What was the first military-civil fusion exercise of the Indian Army recently?

A. Vajra Shakti

B. Sanjha Shakti

C. Yudh Abhyas

D. Samanvay

15. B

A Joint Military Civil Fusion (MCF) exercise, "Sanjha Shakti", under MG&G Area of Southern Command of Indian Army was successfully conducted at Khadki Military Station, Daggi Range, Pune, Maharashtra. The exercise focused on smooth coordination and joint preparedness between civil and military agencies to deal with difficult security challenges and emergency situations.



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