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NATIONAL NEWS

Gender Budgeting In India Jumps 11.55%

It looks like you've captured the core highlights of the 2026-27 Gender Budget perfectly. To add a bit more "meat to the bone," here is a deeper breakdown of where that ₹5.01 lakh crore is actually going and the new strategic initiatives being introduced.

The Three Pillars of the 2026-27 Gender Budget

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) is categorized into three parts based on how much of the funds are specifically dedicated to women:

Category	Allocation (₹ Crore)	Share of GBS	Description
Part A	₹1,07,688.42	~21.5%	100% women-specific schemes (e.g., Mission Shakti, LPG subsidies).
Part B	₹3,63,412.37	~72.5%	30% to 99% allocation for women

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Category	Allocation (₹ Crore)	Share of GBS	Description
			(e.g., Jal Jeevan Mission, PMAY-G).
Part C	₹29,777.94	~6.0%	Below 30% women-specific allocation (general infrastructure with secondary female benefits).

New Initiatives & Strategic Shifts

Beyond just the numbers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted a shift from "credit-linked survival" to "business ownership":

- **SHE-Marts (Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts):** These are community-owned retail outlets designed to help 10 crore women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) scale up from small-scale production to professional entrepreneurship.

- **SHE-MARK:** A new branding and certification initiative to help women-led businesses access formal credit and markets more easily.

- **Safe Housing for STEM:** In a bid to boost women in science and technology, the government announced the establishment of **girls' hostels in every district** to reduce barriers to higher education.

- **Expanded Reporting:** A record **53 Ministries/Departments** (up from 49 last year) reported gender-specific allocations, showing that gender-responsive budgeting is becoming more mainstream across the government.

Top Participating Ministries

The Ministry of Women & Child Development isn't the only one doing the heavy lifting. Other departments with high gender-specific outlays include:

- **Ministry of Rural Development:** 69.92% of its allocation is gender-coded.

- **Drinking Water & Sanitation:** 48.04% (largely due to the Jal Jeevan Mission's impact on reducing women's "time poverty").

- **Health and Family Welfare:** 40.44%.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the total amount allocated to the Gender Budget in the Union Budget 2026-27?

A) ₹4.49 lakh crore

B) ₹5.01 lakh crore

C) ₹3.85 lakh crore

D) ₹5.50 lakh crore

2. By what percentage has the Gender Budget allocation increased compared to the previous financial year?

A) 8.86%

B) 9.37%

C) 11.55%

D) 10.25%

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3. What is the share of the Gender Budget as a percentage of the total Union Budget for 2026-27?

A) 8.86%

B) 11.55%

C) 7.50%

D) 9.37%

4. Who presented the Union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament?

A) Smriti Irani

B) Draupadi Murmu

C) Nirmala Sitharaman

D) Amit Shah

5. The Gender Budget allocation for the previous financial year (2025-26) stood at:

A) ₹4.49 lakh crore

B) ₹5.01 lakh crore

C) ₹4.10 lakh crore

D) ₹3.95 lakh crore

Answer Key & Quick Summary

Question	Answer	Key Logic
1	B	The new allocation is exactly ₹5.01 lakh crore.
2	C	The growth rate is calculated as: $\frac{5.01 - 4.49}{4.49} \times$

Question	Answer	Key Logic
		$100 \approx 11.58\%$ (Rounded to 11.55%).
3	D	It rose to 9.37% of the total outlay, up from 8.86%.
4	C	Nirmala Sitharaman is the current Finance Minister.
5	A	Last year's figure was ₹4.49 lakh crore.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India & UK Launch Offshore Wind Taskforce Under Vision 2035

This launch marks a significant transition for India's renewable energy landscape, shifting focus from land-based solar and wind to the vast, untapped potential of its 7,600 km coastline.

The **India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce**, or "Trustforce," is designed to bridge the gap between India's massive market scale and the UK's mature technical expertise (the UK is

currently the world's second-largest offshore wind market).

The Three Strategic Pillars

The taskforce will operate through three execution-focused workstreams to ensure the project moves beyond "symbolic" cooperation:

1. **Ecosystem & Market Design:** Developing refined seabed leasing frameworks and "revenue certainty" mechanisms to ensure projects are bankable for international investors.

2. **Infrastructure & Supply Chain:** Modernizing Indian ports to handle massive turbines and fostering local manufacturing of specialized components like subsea cables and foundations.

3. **Finance & Risk Mitigation:** Implementing **Blended Finance** models and leveraging the government's recently approved **₹7,453 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to offset the high initial costs of offshore installation.

Why Offshore Wind? The Vision 2035 Context

As of February 2026, India's non-fossil fuel capacity has crossed **272 GW**, but offshore wind is seen as the "missing piece" for grid stability.

- **Higher Efficiency:** Offshore winds are more consistent and stronger, offering a **Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) of 50-55%**, nearly double that of solar or onshore wind.

- **Green Hydrogen Synergy:** The taskforce specifically targets the integration of offshore wind with coastal **Green Hydrogen clusters**, providing the high-quality renewable power needed to meet India's goal of becoming a global hydrogen hub.

- **Target Zones:** Initial focus is on 16 identified zones off the coasts of **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu**, with a combined estimated potential of **71 GW**.

Key Figures at a Glance

Metric	Current Status (Feb 2026)	Target / Potential
Total Non-Fossil Capacity	272 GW+	500 GW by 2030
Offshore Wind Potential	0 GW (Installed)	71 GW (Estimated)
VGF Allocation	₹7,453 Crore	Initial 1 GW projects
Green Hydrogen Price	₹279/kg	Historic Low

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. On which date was the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce officially launched?

A) January 2026

B) February 2026

C) December 2025

D) March 2026

2. The Offshore Wind Taskforce was unveiled during which high-level meeting?

A) COP31 Climate Summit

B) G20 Energy Transitions Working Group

C) Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue

D) Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

3. Under which strategic roadmap does the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce operate?

A) Net Zero 2070

B) Vision 2035

C) Mission 500GW

D) UK-India 2030 Roadmap

4. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi referred to the taskforce by which specific term to emphasize its focus on measurable results?

A) Greenforce

B) Powerforce

C) Trustforce

D) Windforce

5. Who launched the initiative alongside Union Minister Pralhad Joshi?

A) Keir Starmer

B) Rishi Sunak

C) David Lammy

D) Ed Miliband

Answer Key & Detailed Context

Question	Answer	Contextual Note
1	B	The launch occurred in February 2026.
2	C	It was part of the Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue.
3	B	It is aligned with Vision 2035 for clean energy cooperation.
4	C	Joshi used the term "Trustforce" to move beyond "symbolic" partnerships.
5	C	David Lammy (UK Foreign Secretary) co-launched the initiative.

Technical Insight: How Offshore Wind Works

For India to reach its Vision 2035 goals, the taskforce focuses on the technical challenges of anchoring turbines in deep water and managing high-voltage transmission back to the mainland.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India & France Launch Game-Changing AI Centre at AIIMS Delhi

This inauguration at AIIMS New Delhi represents a cornerstone of the **2026 India-France Year of Innovation**. Launched on **February 18, 2026**, the **Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH)** isn't just a research lab; it's a strategic move to create a "Third Way" in

AI—one that prioritizes sovereignty and ethics over the data-monopolies of Silicon Valley or state-led models elsewhere.

Core Objectives of IF-CAIH

The center is built on a tripartite agreement between **AIIMS New Delhi**, **Sorbonne University**, and the **Paris Brain Institute**, with support from **IIT Delhi**. Its mission is categorized into three specific tracks:

- **Neurodegenerative Research:** Initial efforts are focused on using AI for the early detection and precision treatment of brain disorders, specifically **Parkinson's**, **Alzheimer's**, and **Epilepsy**.

- **Medical Imaging & Diagnostics:** Developing generative AI models to analyze complex medical scans (MRI, CT) faster than traditional methods, with a focus on **ophthalmology** and **oncology**.

- **Frugal AI for Rural Health:** A unique priority is developing "ultra-low-field" portable MRI systems (potentially 0.35T) that can be deployed via mobile units to India's rural districts, using AI to compensate for lower-resolution hardware.

The "RUSH" Context

The launch took place during the **Rencontres Universitaires et Scientifiques de Haut Niveau (RUSH) 2026**. This forum served as the intellectual engine for the partnership, featuring:

- **The "AI for People" Dialogue:** President Macron and Minister Nadda emphasized building **Sovereign AI capacity**, ensuring that medical data stays protected and that algorithms are transparent and free from bias.

- **Youth Innovation:** Macron engaged with young Indian tech leaders (like Priyanka Das Rajkakati and Manan Suri) to discuss how cross-border data sharing can accelerate drug discovery without compromising patient privacy.

Strategic & Geopolitical Significance

Feature	Impact
Sovereignty	Reduces dependence on foreign-managed AI systems for critical healthcare.
Data Diversity	Combines India's massive, diverse clinical datasets with France's high-end computational research.
Global South Hub	Positions the centre as a model for "affordable innovation" that can be exported to other developing nations.

"We cannot rely solely on technologies created and managed elsewhere... AI must serve humanity with strong protections." > — *Emmanuel Macron, AIIMS New Delhi, Feb 2026*

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Where is the newly inaugurated Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH) located?

A) Sorbonne University, Paris

B) AIIMS New Delhi

C) IIT Bombay

D) Pasteur Institute, Lille

2. Which two leaders officially launched the IF-CAIH during the RUSH 2026 meetings?

A) Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron

B) J P Nadda and Catherine Colonna

C) J P Nadda and Emmanuel Macron

D) S. Jaishankar and Jean-Noël Barrot

3. What is the primary objective of the Indo-French Centre for AI in Health?

A) To regulate pharmaceutical pricing between the two nations

B) To accelerate AI-driven research, medical education, and clinical innovation

C) To provide visa-free travel for medical professionals

D) To build physical hospitals in rural France

4. The inauguration of IF-CAIH took place on the sidelines of which high-level meeting?

A) G20 Summit

B) RUSH 2026

C) COP31

D) World Health Assembly

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) AIIMS New Delhi
2	C) J P Nadda and Emmanuel Macron
3	B) AI-driven research, medical education, and clinical innovation
4	B) RUSH 2026

Quick Summary Table

Feature	Details
Project Name	Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH)
Host Institution	AIIMS New Delhi
Key Partners	India and France
Timeline	February 2026

SPORTS

India's Tejaswin Shankar Strikes Gold in Men's Heptathlon

Tejaswin Shankar's performance in Tianjin was nothing short of a masterclass in versatility. By scoring **5,993 points**, he didn't just win gold; he shattered the previous **Championship Record (5,928)** and came within a tantalizing 7 points of the elusive 6,000-point barrier—a feat achieved by only one other Asian in history (Dmitriy Karpov).

The Road to 5,993: Event Breakdown

To appreciate the scale of this "National Record" (surpassing his own 2021 mark of 5,650), here is how he performed across the seven indoor disciplines:

Event	Performance	Points Earned
60m Sprint	7.11s (Personal Best)	844
Long Jump	7.53m	942
Shot Put	13.63m	706
High Jump	2.23m (Meet Best)	1,021
60m Hurdles	8.02s (Personal Best)	977
Pole Vault	4.20m	673
1000m Run	2:43.91	830
Total	5,993 points	GOLD (NR & CR)

India's Overall Campaign

While Tejaswin secured India's only gold, the 17-member Indian contingent finished **6th overall** with a total of **5 medals**. It's worth noting that the championship was dominated by the hosts, China (34 medals).

The Other Medalists:

- **Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Silver):** Men's Shot Put (20.05m). He missed gold by just 2cm to China's Chen Chengyu.

- **Pooja Singh (Silver):** Women's High Jump (1.87m). She also set a **new Women's National Indoor Record**, breaking a 20-year-old mark.

- **Ancy Sojan (Bronze):** Women's Long Jump (6.21m).

- **J. Aadarsh Ram (Bronze):** Men's High Jump (2.19m).

Historical Context

Tejaswin's gold ended a **16-year drought** for India in the heptathlon at this event, with the last medal being P.J. Vinod's bronze in 2010.

Fun Fact: Despite the gold and the records, Tejaswin humorously posted on social media that he was the "saddest person" for missing the 6,000-point milestone by just 7 points—showing the elite mentality that has made him India's premier multi-event athlete.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. In which event did Tejaswin Shankar win a historic gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026?

A) High Jump

B) Men's Heptathlon

C) Decathlon

D) 400m Hurdles

Answer: B) Men's Heptathlon

2. Where was the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026 held?

A) New Delhi, India

B) Bangkok, Thailand

C) Tianjin, China

D) Tokyo, Japan

Answer: C) Tianjin, China

3. What was the record-breaking total points accumulated by Tejaswin Shankar to set a new national indoor record?

A) 5,850 points

B) 6,000 points

C) 5,993 points

D) 5,745 points

Answer: C) 5,993 points

4. How many gold medals did India win in total at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026?

A) One

B) Three

C) Five

D) None

Answer: A) One

5. Which of the following statements is true regarding Tejaswin Shankar's performance in 2026?

A) He won a silver medal in the high jump event.

B) He broke the Asian record for the heptathlon.

C) He set a new Indian national indoor record in the heptathlon.

D) The championships were held in India.

Answer: C) He set a new Indian national indoor record in the heptathlon.

SPORTS

Mumbai to Host Prince William's Earthshot Prize 2026 During Climate Week

Hosting the **Earthshot Prize 2026** is a massive win for Mumbai and a testament to India's track record in the competition—India has produced more winners and finalists than any other country to date.

The announcement, made on **February 17, 2026**, by Prince William via video message, coincided with the inaugural **Mumbai Climate Week**, effectively turning the city into a global "Green Lab" for the month.

The "Green Oscars" in Mumbai: What to Expect

Scheduled for **November 2026**, the ceremony will be the first time the Earthshot Prize is held in India, following previous hosts London, Boston, Singapore, Cape Town, and Rio de Janeiro.

- **The Prize:** Five winners will each receive **£1 million** ($1.3 million) to scale their solutions.

- **The Categories:** Solutions are judged across five "Earthshots":

  1. Protect and Restore Nature

  2. Clean our Air

  3. Revive our Oceans

  4. Build a Waste-Free World

  5. Fix our Climate

- **High-Profile Attendance:** Prince William is expected to travel to Mumbai for the event. The announcement itself was attended by global figures like **Hillary Clinton** and senior UN officials.

Mumbai Climate Week: Beyond the Awards

The launch of the Climate Week (Feb 17–19, 2026) wasn't just about the ceremony; it triggered several immediate climate actions for the region:

- **1,000+ Urban Projects:** Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis announced over 1,000 urban climate projects across 44 cities under the AMRUT scheme.

- **Grid Modernization:** A **$25 million** "India Grids of the Future Accelerator" was launched by the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to modernize power distribution.

- **Strategic Partnerships:** The state signed **23 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with global bodies like UNEP and C40 to tackle urban heat and air pollution.

- **Net-Zero Leadership:** The week highlighted **Bela Gram** (Bhandara district)

as Maharashtra's first net-zero panchayat, serving as a blueprint for localized climate action.

Why Mumbai?

Prince William highlighted India's **"young population"** and its role as a **"global technology leader"** as primary reasons for the choice. He noted that "what succeeds in India at scale has the power to inspire progress everywhere."

Milestone	Context
Previous Indian Winners	Kheyti (Greenhouse-in-a-box) and S4S Technologies (Solar food drying).
Financial Impact	Finalists have collectively secured over $500 million in follow-on investment.
Environmental Focus	Hosting in Mumbai puts a spotlight on the city's unique challenge as a dense coastal megacity facing rising sea levels and air quality issues.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which Indian city has been selected to host the Earthshot Prize 2026?

A) New Delhi
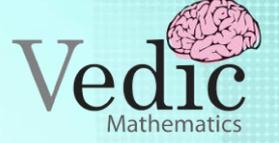
B) Bengaluru

C) Mumbai

D) Chennai

Answer: C) Mumbai

2. Who is the founder of the Earthshot Prize?

A) King Charles III

B) Prince William

C) Bill Gates

D) Greta Thunberg

Answer: B) Prince William

3. What is the primary focus of the Earthshot Prize?

A) Reducing global poverty and hungerB) Advancing space exploration technology

C) Recognizing and scaling solutions to repair the planet

D) Promoting international trade and commerce

Answer: C) Recognizing and scaling solutions to repair the planet

4. How many global innovators are recognized each year by the Earthshot Prize?

A) Three

B) Five

C) Ten

D) Twelve

Answer: B) Five

5. What is the prize amount awarded to each winner to help scale their environmental solutions?

A) £500,000

B) £1 million

C) £5 million

D) £10 million

Answer: B) £1 million

6. The announcement of Mumbai hosting the 2026 prize coincided with the launch of which event?

A) India Solar Mission

B) Mumbai Climate Week

C) National Sustainability Summit

D) Clean Ganga Initiative

Answer: B) Mumbai Climate Week

BANKING/ECONOMY

RBI's New Rulebook- UTI Required for All OTC Derivative Deals by 2027

This mandate, announced in **February 2026**, represents a significant structural shift in how India monitors its financial markets. While the RBI initially proposed an April 2026 rollout, they have officially pushed the implementation date to **January 1, 2027**, to give banks and financial institutions more time to overhaul their technical infrastructure.

The goal is to eliminate the "blind spots" in the OTC (Over-the-Counter) market—where trades are private and bilateral—by assigning a 52-

character "digital fingerprint" to every single contract.

How the UTI Works

The UTI isn't just a random number; it follows global **CPMI-IOSCO standards** to ensure that Indian trades can be tracked even if they involve foreign counterparties.

- **Composition:** The code starts with the 20-character **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** of the generating entity, followed by a unique string of up to 32 characters.

- **Lifecycle Persistence:** Once assigned, the UTI remains attached to the trade from execution to maturity, even if the contract is modified. Only "lifecycle events" that create a brand new contract (like a **novation**) trigger a new UTI.

The "Waterfall" Mechanism

To avoid confusion over who generates the code for a private trade, the RBI has established a clear hierarchy of responsibility:

Scenario	Primary Generator
Cleared Trades	The Central Counterparty (e.g., CCIL).
Platform Trades	The Electronic Trading Platform (ETP).
Direct Private Trades	The Clearing Member or an entity agreed upon by both parties.
Fallback	If no entity is designated, the **CCIL Trade Repository** will generate it.

Key Operational Changes

- **Reporting Window:** Market participants now have **5 business days** from the trade date to report the final UTI (increased from the 2 days initially proposed).

- **Temporary UTIs:** If a final ID isn't ready at the time of reporting, entities can submit an "Interim UTI" to avoid compliance delays.

- **Scope:** The rule covers Rupee interest rate swaps, FX forwards/swaps, G-Sec forwards, and credit derivatives.

Why this matters for the Economy

OTC derivatives often involve massive sums of money but lack the transparency of stock exchanges. By mandating UTIs, the RBI can:

1. **Spot Systemic Risk:** See if a single bank has "hidden" exposures across multiple private deals.

2. **Prevent Double-Counting:** Ensure the same trade isn't reported twice by different parties.

3. **Global Alignment:** Make Indian derivatives markets more attractive to international investors by matching the transparency standards of the US and EU.

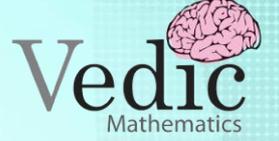## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the mandatory requirement for OTC derivatives trades announced by the RBI starting January 1, 2027?

A) A PAN Card verification

B) A Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI)

C) A Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)

D) A Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoice

Answer: B) A Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI)

2. When will the requirement for a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) become mandatory for OTC derivatives?

A) January 1, 2026

B) April 1, 2027

C) January 1, 2027

D) July 1, 2026

Answer: C) January 1, 2027

3. To which specific type of trades does the new UTI rule primarily apply?

A) Stock market equity trades

B) Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives trades

C) Real estate transactions

D) Cryptocurrency exchanges

Answer: B) Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives trades

4. The UTI rule applies to direct private transactions in which of the following?

A) Gold and silver bullion

B) Rupee interest rate derivatives and foreign currency derivatives

C) Government bonds and Treasury bills

D) Corporate fixed deposits

Answer: B) Rupee interest rate derivatives and foreign currency derivatives

5. Which institution announced this major regulatory update for financial markets?

A) SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)

B) Ministry of Finance

C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

D) NITI Aayog

Answer: C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

STATE NEWS

Organ Donations in Tamil Nadu

This record-breaking month is a major milestone for Tamil Nadu's health infrastructure, especially for the **Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORC)** program, which allows smaller hospitals to harvest organs without needing full transplant surgery facilities.

Here is a more detailed look at the statistics and the factors driving this surge.

Donation Breakdown: January 2026

Of the **33 donors** recorded in January, **19 (nearly 60%)** were from government hospitals. This is significant because it shows that the organ donation movement is moving beyond major metro private hospitals into rural and semi-urban government centers.

Hospital	Donors (Jan 2026)	Role / Location
GMC Dharmapuri	5	Leading NTORC (Peripheral Hospital)
Rajaji Hospital, Madurai	4	Major South TN Hub
Kilpauk GMC, Chennai	2	Speciality Care
MGM GMC, Tiruchi	2	Central TN Hub
Others	1 each	Coimbatore, Salem, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, RGGGH Chennai

The "State Honour" Effect

The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (**TRANSTAN**) attributes this rise to a specific policy move by the state government: **Government Order (GO) 331 (2023)**.

- Under this order, the mortal remains of brain-dead donors are accorded **official State Honours** (a ceremonial salute and tribute by government officials).

- Since its inception, over **639 donors** have been honored.

- This policy has shifted public perception, turning a moment of grief into a moment of extreme civic pride, which has significantly increased the "consent rate" among grieving families.

Key Performance Indicators (Feb 2026)

The momentum hasn't slowed down since January ended. According to N. Gopalakrishnan, Member Secretary of TRANSTAN:

- **The "One-a-Day" Rate:** As of mid-February 2026, Tamil Nadu has recorded **42 donations in the first 43 days** of the year.

- **Geographic Spread:** More than half of the recent donations are coming from hospitals situated outside of Chennai, proving the success of the decentralized NTORC model.

- **National Standing:** Tamil Nadu continues to lead India in deceased organ donations, having recorded **267 donors in 2025**, surpassing Telangana (205) and Karnataka (198).

Strategic Outlook: Reducing "Time Poverty"

While donations are up, the challenge for 2026 remains the "utility rate" of organs like hearts and lungs, which have a very short shelf life. The state is currently working on:

- **Drone Logistics:** Trials for using drones to transport smaller organs across city traffic.

- **Green Corridors:** Strengthening the coordination between the police and health departments to create traffic-free routes for organ transport.

Note: A 10-month-old girl in Kerala recently became that state's youngest donor, sparking a similar wave of awareness across South India this month.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What was the total number of deceased organ donors recorded in Tamil Nadu in January 2026?

A) 25 donors

B) 33 donors

C) 40 donors

D) 50 donors

Answer: B) 33 donors

2. Which hospital recorded the highest number of donors (5) in January 2026?

A) Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai

B) Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Chennai

C) Government Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital

D) Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital

Answer: C) Government Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital

3. In the context of organ donation, what does the acronym NTORC stand for?

A) National Transplant Organ Research Centre

B) Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre

C) Network for Tissue and Organ Recovery CoordinationD) New Transplant and Oncology Retrieval Cell

Answer: B) Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre

4. How many donors were recorded at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai during this period?

A) 2 donors

B) 3 donors

C) 4 donors

D) 5 donors

Answer: C) 4 donors

5. Which two hospitals in Chennai recorded 2 donors each in January 2026?

A) Stanley Medical College and MMC Chennai

B) Government Kilpauk Medical College and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital

C) Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital and Apollo Hospital
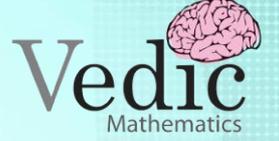
D) Government Dharmapuri Hospital and Rajaji Hospital

Answer: B) Government Kilpauk Medical College and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital

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Vedic Mathematics

📰 DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECENT CURRENT AFFAIRS: MULTIPLE CHOICE FORMAT

Q.1. In which state did the CCEA recently approve the construction of a 4-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor?

A. Assam

B. Bihar

C. Odisha

D. West Bengal

1. A

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the construction of a 4-lane, access-controlled greenfield corridor in Assam at a cost of ₹18,662 crore. The project will stretch 33.7 kilometers from Gohpur on NH-15 to Numaligarh on NH-715. Its most notable feature is India's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel (15.79 kilometers) under the Brahmaputra River.

Q.2. In which city will India's first National Cow Culture Museum be established?

A. Vrindavan

B. Mathura

C. Ayodhya

D. Haridwar

2. B

India's first National Cow Culture Museum will be built in Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh. This unique museum, located on the campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University (Veterinary University), will showcase the cultural, scientific, and economic importance of cows in Indian society.

Q.3. Who recently approved the conversion of North Block and South Block into the 'Yuge Yugen Bharat' National Museum?

A. NITI Aayog

B. Union Cabinet

C. Lok Sabha

D. Rajya Sabha

3. B

India's Union Cabinet has approved the conversion of the historic North Block and South Block into the National Museum of Yugin Bharat in February 2026. This landmark decision was taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new PMO (Seva Teerth), ending the administrative use of these 95-year-old colonial buildings.

Q.4. President Draupadi Murmu recently inaugurated the centenary celebrations of which script?

A. Meitei Mayek
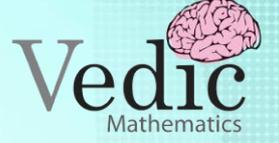
B. Ol Chiki

C. Brahmi

D. Sharada

4. B

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi. Organized by the Ministry of Culture, the event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Ol Chiki script, which was

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created in 1925 for the Santali language. The President stressed the importance of preserving the Santali language and spreading the Ol Chiki script among the younger generation. On this historic occasion, she also released a commemorative coin and a postage stamp honoring the cultural heritage of the Santhal community.

Q.5. According to UIDAI, approximately how many Aadhaar app downloads have been made recently?

A. 7 million

B. 10 million

C. 14 million

D. 20 million

5. C

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has reported rapid adoption of the new Aadhaar app, with nearly 14 million downloads to date. The app is being downloaded an average of 100,000 times daily. A significant achievement is that more than 1 million people have updated their mobile numbers through the Aadhaar app, demonstrating its growing daily usage. This rapid adoption reflects growing trust in secure, digital, and privacy-first Aadhaar services.

Q.6. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurate the India AI Impact Expo 2026?

A. Vigyan Bhawan

B. Bharat Mandapam

C. Pragati Maidan

D. Nehru Centre

6. B

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the India AI Impact Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. He emphasized that the country's progress in AI will not only create transformative solutions for the country but will also contribute to global progress.

Q.7. What was India's sugar export as of February 2026?

A. 101,547 tonnes

B. 151,547 tonnes

C. 201,547 tonnes

D. 251,547 tonnes

7. C

According to the All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA), India's sugar exports have surpassed 201,000 tonnes as of February in the current 2025-26 marketing year. The United Arab Emirates has emerged as the top destination for Indian sugar exports. The government has approved a total of 2 million tonnes of sugar exports this year, including the recent approval of an additional 0.5 million tonnes. Sugar production is also expected to increase by 13%, strengthening India's export outlook.

Q.8. Who recently won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship?

A. Hikaru Nakamura

B. Ian Nepomniachtchi

C. Magnus Carlsen
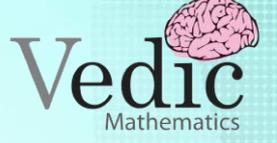
D. Ding Liren

8. C

World number one Magnus Carlsen has won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Champion title after defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5-1.5 in the final in Weissenhausen. Carlsen secured the title after a draw in the fourth and final game. With this victory, he won his 21st world title across all formats and his first FIDE-recognized title in the freestyle (Chess960) format.

Q.9. Lucas Pinheiro Brathen recently won the gold medal in which event at the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics?

A. Slalom

B. Giant Slalom

C. Downhill

D. Super-G

9. B

At the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, Brazilian skier Lucas Pinheiro Brathen won the gold medal in the giant slalom, securing South America's first medal at the Winter Games. The 25-year-old produced a powerful performance in the final despite difficult snow and fog conditions on the Stelvio track. He beat defending champion Marco Odermatt of Switzerland by 0.58 seconds, clocking a total of 2 minutes 25 seconds.

Q.10. Recently, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan became the first bowler in history to achieve which record?

A. 500 ODI wickets

B. 600 international wickets

C. 700 T20 wickets

D. 400 Test wickets

10. C

Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan created T20 cricket history during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup match against the UAE in Delhi. He became the first bowler to take 700 T20 wickets. He achieved the feat by dismissing UAE's Mohammad Arfan. Rashid had already become the highest wicket-taker in the format in February 2025, surpassing Dwayne Bravo (631 wickets). Now, he has set a new global record in T20 cricket.

Q.11. Recently, the RBI restored the use of Default Loss Guarantees (DLGs) for which entities?

A. Cooperative Banks

B. Payment Banks

C. NBFCs

D. Regional Rural Banks

11. C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reinstated the Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). This decision primarily provides relief to NBFCs that are engaged in digital lending business in collaboration with fintech partners, thereby reducing their provisioning burden.
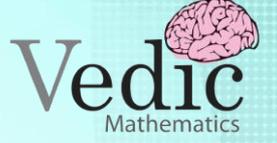
Q.12. Which country recently announced an investment of $2.8 billion for nuclear submarines under the AUKUS agreement?

A. UK

B. USA

C. Australia

D. France

12. C

Australia has announced an initial investment of A$3.9 billion (approximately US$2.8 billion) to develop infrastructure (shipyard facilities) to build nuclear-powered submarines under the AUKUS agreement. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made the announcement, which is an "upfront payment" for the construction of a submarine yard in Adelaide.

Q.13. Which bank recently partnered with Visa for a pilot project under Visa Intelligent Commerce?

A. HSBC

B. DBS Bank

C. Standard Chartered

D. ICICI Bank

13. B

DBS Bank has become the first bank in the Asia-Pacific region to launch the Visa Intelligent Commerce (VIC) pilot project, marking a major milestone in the development of agent-based digital payments. This collaboration with Visa aims to validate AI-ready card credentials, authentication systems, and payment signals, thereby preparing the ecosystem for secure, consent-based transactions executed by artificial intelligence agents on behalf of customers.

Q.14. Recently, how many financial institutions were fined a total of ₹1.35 crore by the RBI?

A. 3

B. 4

C. 5

D. 6

14. C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties totaling ₹1.35 crore on five financial institutions for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines. These include three banks (CSB Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, DCB Bank) and two non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) (IIFL Finance and Navi Finserv).

Q.15. In which city did India's first CBDC-based digital food currency pilot scheme under the Public Distribution System (PDS) recently begin?

A. Jaipur

B. Gandhinagar

C. Surat

D. Ahmedabad

15. B

India's first CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency)-based digital food currency pilot scheme was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated this modern ration distribution system, which aims to distribute grains in a transparent and secure manner through digital tokens (e₹).
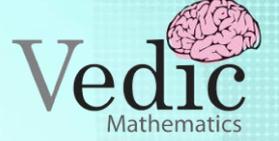
FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

This tribute captures the essence of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj—a visionary whose strategies continue to influence modern India.

His birth anniversary, celebrated as **Shivaji Jayanti** on **February 19**, is not just a regional festival in Maharashtra but a national acknowledgment of his role as the "Architect of Indian Independence" through the Maratha Empire.

The Father of the Indian Navy

Shivaji Maharaj was one of the few rulers of his era who realized that "He who rules the sea, rules the land."

- **The Strategic Vision:** To counter the growing influence of the Portuguese, British, and Dutch, he built a dedicated naval fleet consisting of diverse ships like *Gurabs* and *Galivats*.

- **Sea Forts:** He constructed legendary sea forts like **Sindhudurg** and **Vijaydurg**, which served as defensive bastions and naval bases.

- **Modern Connection:** In September 2022, the Indian Navy officially moved away from its colonial past by unveiling a **new Naval Ensign**. The new flag features a blue octagonal seal inspired by Shivaji Maharaj's **Rajmudra** (royal seal), cementing his legacy as the father of the force.

Military Brilliance: "Ganimi Kava"

He didn't just fight; he outmaneuvered. His use of **Guerrilla Warfare** (called *Ganimi Kava*) was revolutionary for the Deccan landscape:

- **The Terrain Advantage:** He used the rugged Sahyadri mountains as a natural fortress, allowing his smaller units to ambush much larger Mughal and Bijapur armies.

- **Fort Capture:** He captured his first fort, **Torna**, at just 16 years old. By the time of his coronation in 1674, he controlled over **300 forts**, creating a chain of defense that was nearly impenetrable.

A Secular and Just Ruler

While he fought for "Hindavi Swarajya," his administration was famously inclusive:

- **Diverse Army:** His personal bodyguards and several high-ranking generals were Muslims. For instance, **Siddi Ibrahim** was a key naval commander, and **Madari Mehtar** played a vital role in his famous escape from Agra.

- **Code of Conduct:** He strictly prohibited the harm of holy books (like the Quran) or places of worship during his raids. He also enforced a legendary policy of respecting women, even those belonging to his enemies.

"Swarajya is not just a Kingdom; it is a state of mind where every citizen lives with self-respect."

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which empire was established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

A) Mughal Empire

B) Maratha Empire

C) Maurya Empire

D) Rajput Empire

Answer: B) Maratha Empire

2. Why is Shivaji Maharaj often referred to as the "Father of the Indian Navy"?

A) He invented the modern submarine.

B) He was the first to establish naval forces to secure the coastline.

C) He traveled across the world by sea.

D) He defeated the British Navy in a major battle.

Answer: B) He was the first to establish naval forces to secure the coastline.

3. What was the primary goal of Shivaji Maharaj's dream of 'Swaraj'?

A) Expansion of territory into foreign lands

B) Self-rule and independence

C) Establishing a single religion

D) Accumulating vast wealth

Answer: B) Self-rule and independence

4. Which specific warfare technique did Shivaji use to conquer over 30 forts with a small army?

A) Trench warfare

B) Frontal assault

C) Guerilla warfare

D) Aerial combat

Answer: C) Guerilla warfare

5. Which coastline did Shivaji Maharaj secure using his naval forces?

A) Malabar Coast

B) Konkan Coast

C) Coromandel Coast

D) Gujarat Coast

Answer: B) Konkan Coast

6. According to the text, what was Shivaji's stance on religion during his reign?

A) He fought against all other religions.

B) He was a secular ruler who fought against rival kings, not religions.

C) He only allowed one religion in his army.

D) He established a new religion for his empire.

Answer: B) He was a secular ruler who fought against rival kings, not religions.

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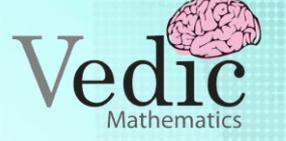
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