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NATIONAL NEWS

Overall LFPR Show Upward Momentum as Unemployment Falls to New Low In November 2025



Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

The LFPR measures the percentage of the population that is either working or actively seeking work.³

- **Overall LFPR:** Rose to **55.8%**, the highest level since the revamped monthly reporting began in April 2025.⁴
- **Rural vs. Urban:** The growth was primarily driven by rural areas, where LFPR climbed to **58.6%** (up from 57.8% in October). Urban areas saw a marginal dip to **50.4%**.⁵
- **Female Participation:** A standout highlight was the surge in rural female LFPR, which jumped to **39.7%**.⁶ This contributed to an overall female LFPR of **35.1%**, up from 32.0% in June.⁷

2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

The WPR represents the percentage of the total population that is employed.





- **Employment Growth:** The overall WPR improved to **53.2%** in November, up from 52.5% in the previous month.
- **Rural Dynamics:** Rural WPR reached **56.3%**, supported by seasonal agricultural activities like Rabi sowing.
- **Female Employment:** The rural female WPR saw a notable increase to **38.4%**, pushing the overall female employment ratio to **33.4%**.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bharat Taxi to Roll Out in January 2026



3. Unemployment Rate (UR)

The unemployment rate fell to its lowest point in the 2025 reporting cycle.¹²

- **New Low:** The overall UR declined to **4.7%** (down from 5.2% in October).¹³
- **Sectoral Breakdown:** * **Rural UR:** Dropped to a new low of **3.9%**.¹⁴
 - **Urban UR:** Eased to **6.5%**, matching its previous low from April.¹⁵
- **Gender Trends:** Both genders saw improvements.¹⁶ The male UR fell to **4.6%**, while the female UR dropped to **4.8%** (down from 5.4% in October).¹⁷

Summary Table: Key Indicators (November 2025)

Indicator	Overall	Rural	Urban
LFPR (Participation)	55.8%	58.6%	50.4%
WPR (Employed) ¹⁸	53.2%	56.3%	47.1%
UR (Unemployment) ²²	4.7%	3.9%	6.5%

1. The Cooperative Business Model:

Unlike private giants that operate on high-commission structures, Bharat Taxi is democratically controlled.

- **Zero-Commission Policy:** Drivers are expected to retain **80% to 100%** of the fare. Only a minimal fraction is diverted to a common pool to cover operational and app maintenance costs.
- **Driver Ownership:** Registered drivers are stakeholders in the cooperative. This means they participate in decision-making and share in any surplus generated by the platform.
- **Backing:** The cooperative is chaired by **Jayen Mehta** (MD of Amul) and is backed by major cooperative bodies including **IFFCO**, **NABARD**, and **NAFED**.



2. Key Features for Passengers: For the commuter, Bharat Taxi aims to solve the most common pain points of existing ride-hailing apps:

- **No Surge Pricing:** Fares are fixed and predictable. Unlike dynamic algorithms, prices do not spike during peak hours, rain, or festive rushes.
- **Transparent Fares:** The minimum fare is set at ₹30 for up to 4 km, followed by approximately ₹23/km for mid-distances (4–12 km) and ₹18/km for longer trips.
- **Multi-Modal Service:** The app offers a comprehensive range of transport, including:
 - **Autos & Bike Taxis** for short distances.
 - **Hatchbacks, Sedans, and XL Cabs** for city and outstation travel.
- **Digital Integration:** The platform is integrated with government services like DigiLocker and UMANG for seamless identity verification and safety.

over **51,000 drivers**. As of late December, registrations have surpassed **100,000** nationwide, with 56,000 in Delhi alone.

- **Future Expansion:** The service plans to expand to over **20 cities** shortly after the initial rollout.

Comparison: Bharat Taxi vs. Traditional Aggregators

Feature	Bharat Taxi	Ola / Uber / Rapido
Model	Driver-Owned Cooperative	Corporate Aggregator
Commission	0% - 20% (approx.)	20% - 30%
Pricing	Fixed / Government Approved	Dynamic / Surge Pricing
Driver Stake	Shareholder / Owner	Partner / Contractor
App Tech	ONDC-backed (like Namma Yatri)	Proprietary

3. Launch & Scalability

The project has already demonstrated significant momentum during its trial phase:

- **Pilot Launch:** Beta testing began in **December 2025** across New Delhi and the Saurashtra region of Gujarat (including Rajkot).
- **Official Launch:** Scheduled for **January 1, 2026**, starting in the National Capital.
- **Network Size:** Within just 10 days of registration, the cooperative onboarded

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and Saudi Arabia Sign Visa Waiver Agreement to Facilitate Official Travel



1. Scope and Eligibility: The waiver is highly specific and does not apply to the general public. It is tailored to streamline the movement of those managing the strategic relationship between the two nations.

- **Eligible Passports:** Holders of Diplomatic, Special, and Official passports.
- **Stay Duration:** Allows for visa-free entry for **short stays** (typically up to **90 days** within a 180-day period).
- **Exclusions:** The agreement **does not apply** to:
 - Ordinary passport holders (tourists, workers, or business travellers).
 - Long-term stays, employment, or residency.

2. Strategic Objectives: The timing of this agreement is significant, coming amid a surge in bilateral cooperation across energy, defence, and technology.

- **Reducing Red Tape:** Previously, official delegations often faced delays of up to four weeks for visa processing. The waiver allows joint working groups to meet on short notice.
- **Accelerating "Vision 2030" Projects:** Saudi Arabia's massive infrastructure and energy projects (under Vision 2030) and India's National Logistics Policy require constant official oversight and technical consultations.
- **Strengthening Parliamentary Ties:** The deal follows the announcement of an **India-Saudi Arabia Parliamentary Friendship Group**, aimed at fostering deeper legislative cooperation.

3. Implementation and Future Outlook

While the agreement was signed in mid-December, a brief transition period is expected for ground-level implementation.

- **System Integration:** Border agencies in both countries have approximately **30 days** to update their e-immigration systems to recognize the new exemption.
- **Note Verbale:** Even with the waiver, travellers are generally required to carry a *note verbale* (a formal diplomatic note) from their respective foreign ministries to confirm the official nature of their visit.
- **Potential Expansion:** Mobility analysts suggest that such diplomatic waivers often serve as "confidence-building measures" that could eventually lead to eased visa rules for business professionals and investors.





Comparison: Official vs. Ordinary Travel

Feature	Official/Diplomatic (New Pact)	Ordinary/Business (Existing)
Visa Requirement	Waved (Visa-Free)	Mandatory (E-visa or Sticker)
Primary Goal	Government & Strategic Dialogue	Tourism, Employment, Trade
Processing Time	Immediate (at Port of Entry)	24 hours to 4 weeks
Verification	Note Verbale + Official Passport	Standard Documentation

APPOINTMENTS

Shashwat Sharma Appointed As MD & CEO of Airtel India



Bharti Airtel has officially announced that **Shashwat Sharma** will take over as the **Managing Director and CEO of Airtel India**, effective **January 1, 2026**. This transition is part

of a broader leadership reshuffle approved by the company's board on December 18, 2025.

Key Leadership Transitions

The reorganization aims to balance internal continuity with a fresh strategic focus. Here is the breakdown of the major changes:

Executive	Current/Previous Role	New Role (Effective Jan 1, 2026)
Shashwat Sharma	CEO-Designate & COO	MD & CEO, Airtel India
Gopal Vittal	Vice Chairman & MD	Executive Vice Chairman
Soumen Ray	CFO, Airtel India	Group Chief Financial Officer
Akhil Garg	Financial Controller	CFO, Airtel India
Rohit Puri	Joint Company Secretary	Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Who is Shashwat Sharma?

Sharma is an internal veteran who has been groomed for this role over the past year.

- Experience:** He has over 20 years of experience, including nearly 10 years at **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)**.
- Education:** An alumnus of **IIM Ahmedabad** and **Delhi College of Engineering**.





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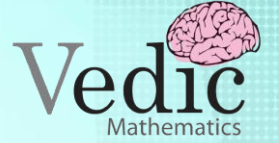
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- **Airtel Journey:** He joined Airtel in 2018 as Chief Brand Officer and progressed through roles as Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO). He is credited with leading the "Airtel Thanks" program.

Strategic Context

This move marks the end of **Gopal Vittal's** 13-year tenure as the day-to-day head of Airtel India. In his new role as Executive Vice Chairman, Vittal will focus on group-wide synergies, including:

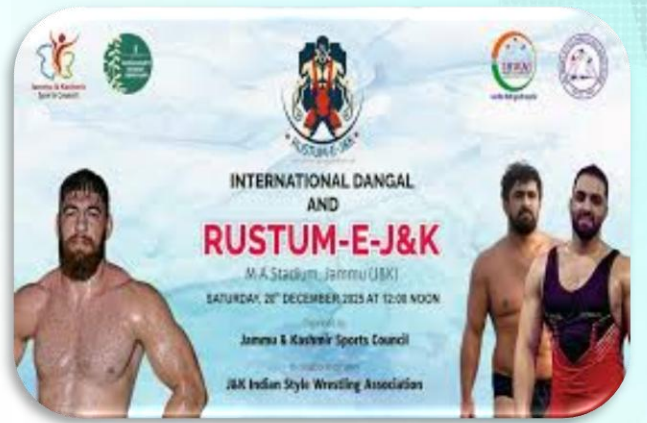
- Digital and technology innovation.
- Network strategy and procurement.
- Future-proofing the organization across all subsidiaries.

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Airtel, noted that the timing is ideal for "change and continuity to go hand in hand," as the company looks to strengthen its balance sheet and push further into 5G and digital services.

SPORTS

J&K Set for International Indian Style Wrestling, Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title

Jammu and Kash The historic International Indian Style Wrestling (Dangal) and the **Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025** concluded on **December 20, 2025**, at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. This event marked the first time Jammu and Kashmir hosted a wrestling tournament of this international scale, featuring over 100 wrestlers from India, Iran, Russia, and Georgia.



The Winners & Key Highlights

The championship was inaugurated and the winners were felicitated by the J&K Sports Minister, **Satish Sharma**.

- **Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025:** **Ishaq Ahmad** clinched the prestigious title in a high-intensity bout, earning the traditional **Gurj (Gadda)**, a **Patta**, and a cash prize of **₹50,000**.
- **Runner-up:** **Aamir Khan** took the second spot, receiving a cash prize of **₹30,000**.
- **Other Top Finishers:** **Diler Khan** (3rd place) and **Sadaq Gajansoo** (4th place).

Prominent International Bouts

The event featured several cross-border matchups that drew massive cheers from the crowd:

- **Dinesh Dankar (India)** defeated **Tamarlan (Russia)**.
- **Balu Bodake (Maharashtra)** outplayed **Khetag (Russia)**.
- **Hamid (Iran)** defeated **Lucky Kohli (Punjab)**.





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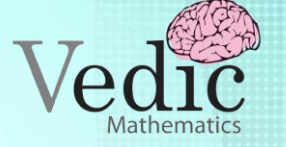
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- **Nadeem (Doda, J&K)** secured a victory against Irfan (Iran).
- **Tedo (Georgia)** defeated Bania Min (Jammu).

Event Significance

Organized by the **J&K Sports Council** in collaboration with the **J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association**, the event served several strategic purposes:

- **Cultural Preservation:** Reviving the traditional "Dangal" or "Kushti" culture which is deeply rooted in the rural belts of Jammu.
- **Social Impact:** The event was held under the banner of the "Nasha Mukht Abhiyan" (Drug-Free Campaign) to inspire youth toward fitness and away from substance abuse.
- **Sports Tourism:** By inviting international athletes, the administration aims to position J&K as a hub for global sporting events.

mir is all set to host its first-ever International Indian Style Wrestling (Dangal) event along with Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025 at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu. The mega sporting event will witness participation of more than 100 International and National Dangal stars who will compete for the Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025. The competition will also feature open-category bouts with prominent national and international wrestlers.

AWARDS

Singapore Changi Airport Wins World's Best Airport Title 2025

Singapore's **Changi Airport** has officially secured the title of **World's Best International Airport for 2025** at the 14th edition of **Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards (IBA)**.



The awards ceremony, held on **December 16, 2025**, at the **ITC Maurya** in New Delhi, operated under the theme "**Passport to Possibility.**" Changi's victory was powered by a massive public mandate, with over **500,000** readers participating in the online voting process.

Why Changi Won

The recognition highlights Changi's shift from a mere transit hub to a lifestyle destination. Voters specifically cited:

- **Immersive Attractions:** Features like the **HSBC Rain Vortex** (the world's tallest indoor waterfall), the **Butterfly Garden**, and sky-lit terminals.
- **Passenger Wellness:** Exceptional transit facilities including sleeping pods, wellness zones, and spas.





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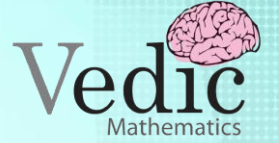
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- Operational Excellence:** Seamless immigration, efficient baggage handling, and intuitive terminal layouts that minimize travel stress.

immigration for frequent Indian flyers and expanded dining options featuring regional Indian cuisines.

Other Major Winners at IBA 2025

The awards also celebrated excellence across the broader travel and hospitality sectors:

Category	Winner(s)
Best Domestic Airport	Terminal 2 (T2), Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru)
Best Domestic Airline	Air India (Second consecutive year)
Best International Airline	Singapore Airlines & Emirates
Best International Airport Lounge	Al Mourjan Business Lounge (Qatar) & The Centurion Lounge (Sydney)
Best Wellness Destination	Kerala
Best Cultural Destination	Punjab
Best Emerging Adventure Destination	Anini, Arunachal Pradesh

Global Context

This award further cements a banner year for Changi Airport. Earlier in April 2025, it was also named the **World's Best Airport** by **Skytrax** for the 13th time. With Indian travelers now making up one of its top five international markets, Changi has recently introduced more personalized services, including digitalized

STATE NEWS

Farm Sector status in Tamil Nadu 2025



Based on the latest data from the **RBI Handbook of Statistics on Indian States** and recent economic reports, agriculture has emerged as the primary drag on Tamil Nadu's otherwise booming economy. Despite reaching a record real GSDP growth of **9.69% in 2024-25** (the highest in India), the state's farm sector has faced a significant downturn.

Agricultural Performance (2023-25)

The agriculture and allied activities sector recorded negative growth in the last two fiscal years.

- 2024-25 Growth:** -0.09% (First negative growth in 8 years).
- Key Driver of Decline:** The **crop segment** specifically saw a sharp contraction of -5.93%, which offset the resilience shown by the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors.



- **Food Grain Production:** Output fluctuated between 107 and 120 lakh tonnes.
 - **Peak:** 119.98 lakh tonnes (2021–22).
 - **Low Point:** 107 lakh tonnes (2023–24).



- **Crop Imbalance:** Production is heavily skewed toward **paddy (rice)**, which accounts for **64%** of food grains.
- **Dwindling Commercial Crops:** Sugarcane production has plummeted from 411 lakh tonnes (2006–07) to roughly **133.5 lakh tonnes** today. Cotton and oilseeds have seen similar "southward" trends.
- **Structural Issues:** Shrinking landholdings (average 0.75 hectares), aging farming population, and lack of procurement facilities for crops other than rice.

Sectoral Shift in the Economy

While agriculture struggled, the state maintained its position as India's second-largest economy due to the dominance of industry and services.

Sector	Contribution to GSVA (%)	Performance Highlight (2024–25)
Tertiary (Services)	~53–54%	Grew by 12.7% ; driven by real estate and financial services.
Secondary (Industry)	~34–37%	Grew by 9% ; Tamil Nadu ranks 1st in India in number of factories.
Primary (Agriculture)	~10–13%	Growth was nearly flat (0.15%) or negative (-0.09%) depending on real vs. nominal terms.

Why is the Farm Sector Declining?

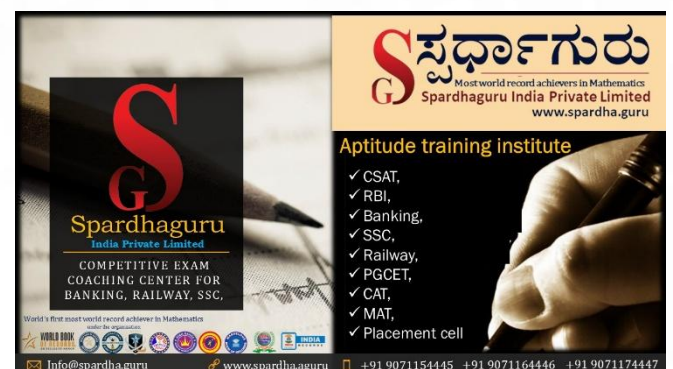
Experts and state documents point to several structural and environmental bottlenecks:

- **Climatic Stress:** Erratic monsoons, unseasonal heavy rains in early 2025, and damage from **Cyclone Fengal** (Dec 2024) affected over 9 lakh acres.

The Path Forward

To revitalize the sector, the **Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission** and agricultural experts recommend:

1. **Horticulture Focus:** Shifting attention to high-value fruit and vegetable crops, especially in rain-fed areas.
2. **Climate Resilience:** Promoting "Shri Anna" (millets) and climate-resilient varieties.
3. **Policy Revisions:** Updating the state's food processing policy to ensure better price realization for non-paddy crops.





Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Ponduru Khadi, which recently received the GI tag, belongs to which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Telangana

1. C

Ponduru Khadi, a traditional hand-spun and woven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh, recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This fabric is produced exclusively in Ponduru village in Srikakulam district and is known there as "Patnulu." It has also been included in the "One District One Product" (ODOP) scheme.

Q.2. Which ministry recently implemented the "One State One RRB" principle?

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Cooperation

2. B

The "One State One RRB" concept was implemented by the Ministry of Finance, specifically its Department of Financial Services (DFS). It is a strategic initiative to consolidate Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) within a state into a single, unified entity to improve their

operational efficiency, financial viability, and governance.

Q.3. Which Indian currency notes did Nepal recently lift the ban on?

- A. ₹100 & ₹200
 - B. ₹50 & ₹100
 - C. ₹200 & ₹500
 - D. ₹500 & ₹2000
3. C

The Nepal government has lifted the ban on Indian currency notes of Rs 200 and Rs 500. Now, citizens of Nepal and India will be able to carry currency notes of more than Rs 100, i.e. Rs 200 and Rs 500, while travelling from India to Nepal. Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India had also lifted the ban on carrying Indian currency notes of more than Rs 100 from India. Nepal minister and government spokesperson Jagdish Kharel said, "The cabinet has decided to allow Nepali and Indian citizens to carry Indian currency notes of Rs 200 and Rs 500 while travelling to India and returning to Nepal."

Q.4. Who recently released the 10th edition of the "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024-25"?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Statistics
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. CSO

4. C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 10th edition of its "Handbook of Statistics on





Indian States 2024-25" to provide a consolidated, comparable statistical resource for the states and union territories (UTs) of India.

Q.5. How many IPOs raising more than ₹6,000 crore were recently approved by SEBI?

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

India's market regulator SEBI has approved the initial public offering (IPO) applications of seven companies, which together are looking to raise over ₹6,000 crore. Yashoda Healthcare Services, TurtleMont Fintech Solutions, Fusion CX, Orient Cables India, RSB Retail India, SFC Environmental Technologies and Lohia Corp have received approval from the regulator. Yashoda Healthcare aims to launch an IPO of ₹3,000-4,000 crore.

Q.6. How many states are projected to have a debt-to-GSDP ratio of 35% or more in FY 2025-26?

- A. 9
 - B. 10
 - C. 11
 - D. 12
6. C

Data presented in the Rajya Sabha shows that 11 states are projected to have a debt-to-GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) ratio of 35

percent or more in the current fiscal year (2025-26). The data, presented as part of a written reply by Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State in the Finance Ministry, shows that Arunachal Pradesh has the highest debt-to-GSDP ratio, followed by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Odisha is at the bottom of the list.

Q.7. With which foreign bank did SBI recently sign a €150 million credit line?

- A. World Bank
 - B. Asian Development Bank
 - C. KfW Development Bank (Germany)
 - D. IMF
7. C

SBI recently signed a €150 million credit line with German development bank KfW to finance climate-friendly energy generation projects (such as solar and wind power). The agreement was signed in Frankfurt and represents a major step towards sustainable financing.

Q.8. The 'IDFC First Global Savings Account' was recently launched primarily for what?

- A. MSMEs
 - B. Startups
 - C. Senior Citizens
 - D. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
8. D

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the IDFC FIRST Global Savings Account for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from its banking unit in GIFT City, Gujarat. This offering allows NRIs to open and operate savings accounts in major foreign





currencies such as the US Dollar and Euro, providing them with digital convenience, full repatriation and tax benefits within the regulatory framework of the Special Financial Centre.

Q.9. NCDEX received SEBI approval for which new platform?

- A. Crypto Exchange Platform
- B. Bond Trading Platform
- C. Mutual Fund Transaction Platform
- D. Insurance Portal

9. C

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch a mutual fund (MF) transaction platform. This move marks a significant milestone in the exchange's larger strategy to become a diversified, multi-asset market infrastructure institution.

Q.10. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti recently visited which country for the closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Seychelles
- C. Maldives
- D. Mauritius

10. C

Indian Navy's Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), VAdm Tarun Sobti, is on an official visit to Maldives to attend the closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025. Exercise Ekatha, which

commenced in 2017, is an annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

Q.11. Recently, the Indian government announced an OFS to sell a 3% stake in which bank?

- A. Bank of India
- B. Central Bank of India
- C. Indian Overseas Bank
- D. Punjab & Sind Bank

11. C

The government has decided to sell up to 3% of its stake in public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) through an offer for sale (OFS). The sale is expected to fetch the government approximately ₹2,100 crore at current market prices.

Q.12. Roadshows were recently held in London to sell a minority stake in which PSU insurance company?

- A. LIC
- B. New India Assurance
- C. United India Insurance
- D. General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)

12. D

The Indian government has held roadshows in London to gauge investor interest in selling a minority stake in state-owned General Insurance Corp. of India (GIC). The move is part of a plan to sell a total of 10% of the insurance company to meet regulatory public shareholding rules.





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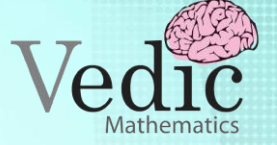
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Q.13. On which portal was a dedicated webpage for the Republic Day celebrations 2026 recently launched?

- A. Digital India Portal
- B. MyGov Portal
- C. MY Bharat Portal
- D. Youth India Portal

13. C

As part of Republic Day Celebrations-2026 (RDC-26), the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a special webpage through the MY Bharat portal to conduct national level youth competitions, including essay writing, painting and slogan/signature competitions.

Q.14. Who recently inaugurated the "Param Veer Gallery" at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas?

- A. Prime Minister of India
- B. Defence Minister
- C. Vice President of India
- D. President Droupadi Murmu

14. D

The President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, inaugurated the Param Vir Gallery at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of Vijay Diwas. The gallery displays portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. The gallery aims to enlighten visitors about our great soldiers and their steadfast resolve and extraordinary bravery, reflecting the spirit of patriotism. It is also an initiative to honor the bravery of those valiant warriors who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland.

Q.15. Which Indian film was shortlisted in the Best International Feature Film category for the Oscars 2026?

- A. The Lunchbox
- B. Jawan
- C. Homebound
- D. Kantara

15. C

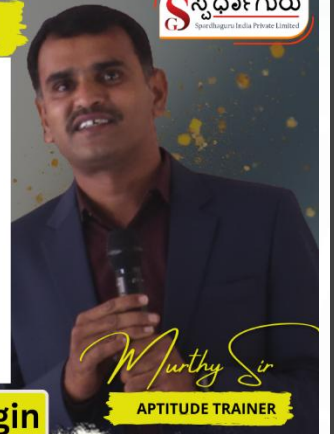
Indian cinema has achieved a major milestone as Neeraj Ghaywan's film "Homebound" has been shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026). The film has now advanced to the next round of voting and is among the final 15 shortlisted films from entries received from 86 countries and territories worldwide.

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Historical and Technical Events of 22nd December 2025

1921: Vishwa-Bharati University inaugurated.



Inaugurated on **December 23, 1921**, Visva-Bharati was the realization of Rabindranath Tagore's vision to create a global center where "the whole world makes its home in a single nest" (*Yatra visvam bhavati ekanidam*).

The university was founded as a protest against the colonial education system of the time, which Tagore felt was restrictive and disconnected from nature and local culture.

The Vision of "Meeting of Races"

The core philosophy behind the 1921 inauguration was to build a bridge between the East and the West. Tagore believed that the "meeting of races" should not be based on political or economic dominance, but on intellectual and spiritual fellowship.

- Global Fellowship:** Tagore invited scholars from across the globe to live and work in the "desert of Bolpur." Early collaborators included the French scholar **Sylvain Lévi**,

the Italian **Giuseppe Tucci**, and the English missionary **C.F. Andrews**.

- A "New Indian Personality":** The goal was to develop a generation that was neither strictly Eastern nor Western, but a "reconciler of both," capable of appreciating the diverse currents of Indian tradition alongside Western liberal ideals.
- Cultural Exchange:** Visva-Bharati was established as a center for the study of varied religious and cultural currents, including Vedic, Buddhist, Islamic, Sikh, and Christian traditions, as well as the fine arts and music.

Structure and Key Milestones

Key Date	Milestone
1901	Tagore founded a small school for children at Shantiniketan (<i>Brahmacharyasrama</i>).
Dec 23, 1921	Official Inauguration of Visva-Bharati as an international university.
May 1922	Visva-Bharati Society was formally registered.
1951	Declared a Central University and an Institution of National Importance.
2023	Recognized by UNESCO as the world's first "Living Heritage University."

A Unique Educational Model

Visva-Bharati is famous for its **open-air classrooms**, where lessons are held under the shade of trees. Tagore believed that nature was the most fertile ground for a "free and fearless" mind.



The university consists of several specialized institutes, known as **Bhavanas**:

- **Vidya Bhavana:** Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **Kala Bhavana:** The world-renowned Institute of Fine Arts.
- **Sangit Bhavana:** Institute of Music and Dance.
- **Sriniketan:** A dedicated campus for **Rural Reconstruction**, focusing on agriculture, cottage industries, and village welfare.

- **Foundation:** The company was formed on **October 18, 1922**, by a consortium of leading wireless manufacturers, including **Marconi**, General Electric, and British Thomson-Houston. Their primary goal was to encourage the sale of radio sets by providing consistent content.
- **First Broadcasts:** Daily broadcasting officially began on **November 14, 1922**, from the **2LO station** located at Marconi House in the Strand, London. The first program was a news bulletin supplied by the Press Association.
- **The First Leader:** In December 1922, **John Reith** was appointed General Manager. Despite having no background in broadcasting, his vision of "inform, educate, and entertain" became the enduring blueprint for the BBC.



1922: BBC radio begins daily news broadcasts.



The formation of the **British Broadcasting Company** in 1922 marked the birth of public service broadcasting. It transitioned from a commercial venture by radio manufacturers into the global institution we recognize today.

The Birth of the BBC (1922)

Key Milestones of the Early Era

Year	Milestone
1922	October 18: British Broadcasting Company Ltd is formed.
1922	November 14: First 2LO broadcast from London; 5IT (Birmingham) and 2ZY (Manchester) follow within days.
1923	The Radio Times is launched to list program schedules.
1927	The private <i>Company</i> is dissolved and replaced by the British Broadcasting Corporation , established by Royal Charter.

The "Reithian" Legacy



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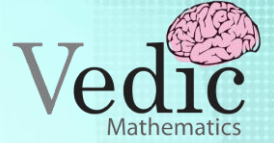
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John Reith (later Lord Reith) was instrumental in transforming the BBC from a commercial entity into a public corporation. He famously advocated for **impartiality** and **cultural elevation**, believing that the BBC should provide the best of human knowledge and art to everyone, regardless of their social standing.

"The BBC's mission is to enrich people's lives with programs that inform, educate and entertain." — *The Reithian Principle*

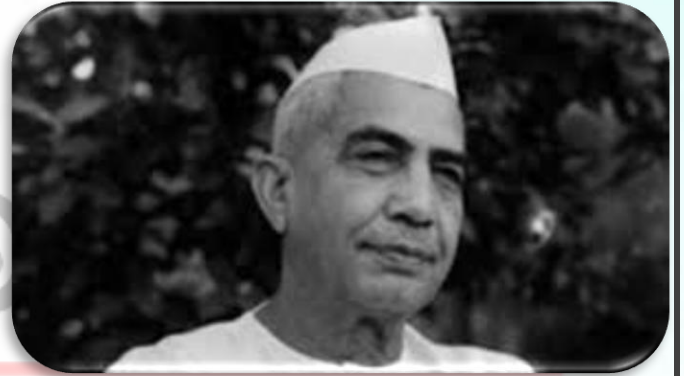
Did You Know?

- **The First News:** The very first news broadcast in 1922 had to be read twice—once at normal speed and once slowly—so that listeners could take notes if they wished.
- **Strict Dress Codes:** In the early days, radio announcers were required to wear **full evening dress (tuxedos)**, even though the audience couldn't see them, to maintain the "seriousness" of the medium.

Born on **December 23, 1902**, in Noorpur (Hapur), Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary Charan Singh is remembered as the "Champion of India's Peasants." His life and policies were deeply rooted in the rural Indian landscape, earning him a unique place in the nation's history.

The "Messiah" of Farmers

Chaudhary Charan Singh's political identity was inseparable from the welfare of the agrarian



community. He famously believed that the "path to India's prosperity passes through the villages."

- **Zamindari Abolition:** As the Revenue Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he was the chief architect of the **UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1952**. This landmark legislation ended the feudal system in the state, giving land ownership rights to millions of actual tillers.
- **Land Ceiling Acts:** He pushed for laws that limited the size of landholdings to ensure equitable distribution among small and marginal farmers.
- **Protection from Exploitation:** He introduced the **Debt Redemption Bill (1939)** and the



December 22, 2025, marks the eve of Kisan Diwas

Today, **December 22, 2025**, marks the eve of **Kisan Diwas** (National Farmers' Day), which will be celebrated tomorrow across India to honor the legacy of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.





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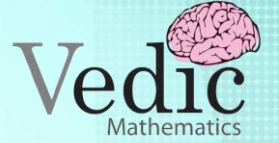
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Consolidation of Holdings Act (1953) to protect farmers from predatory moneylenders and inefficient land fragmentation.

Political Journey & The Bharat Ratna

Charan Singh's rise from a humble peasant family to the highest office in the land remains an inspiring success story.

Milestone	Detail
Chief Minister (UP)	Served twice (1967–1968 and 1970), becoming the first non-Congress CM of the state.
Prime Minister	Served as India's 5th Prime Minister from July 28, 1979, to January 14, 1980.
Bharat Ratna	Posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honor on March 30, 2024, by President Droupadi Murmu.
Kisan Ghat	His memorial in New Delhi, named to reflect his lifelong commitment to the farming community.

Kisan Diwas 2025

Since 2001, his birth anniversary (December 23) has been observed as **Kisan Diwas**. This year, the celebrations focus on:

- Technological Integration:** Promoting the use of drones and AI in farming to honor his vision of modernizing agriculture while keeping the small farmer at the center.

- Climate Resilience:** Discussing sustainable practices in the face of erratic weather patterns.
- Policy Awareness:** Education on current schemes like PM-KISAN and crop insurance.

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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