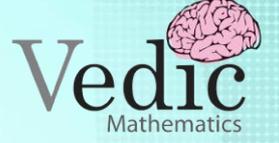


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NATIONAL NEWS

8-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva Becomes Youngest Speaker at India AI Impact Summit 2026



It is truly remarkable to see such a young mind navigating the frontiers of modern technology. Ranvir Sachdeva's achievement at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** isn't just a "feel-good" news story; it's a glimpse into how the next generation is bypassing traditional learning curves.

Here is a detailed breakdown of Ranvir's journey and his impact at the summit.

The Prodigy's Journey

Ranvir's path to the global stage started long before he could likely ride a bicycle without training wheels.

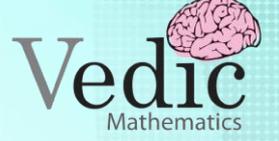
- **Early Start:** He began coding at the age of three. While most children are mastering basic motor skills, Ranvir was learning the logic of programming languages.
- **Deep Dive into ML:** Rather than sticking to simple game design, he transitioned into **Machine Learning (ML) models**. This involves understanding how algorithms



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"learn" from data—a concept usually reserved for university-level computer science students.

- **Global Recognition:** Before the New Delhi summit, he had already established a reputation by delivering talks at various **international tech forums**, proving his ability to communicate technical jargon to adult audiences.

Impact at the India AI Impact Summit 2026

The summit in New Delhi was a high-stakes environment filled with industry titans. Ranvir managed to stand out not just for his age, but for his substance.

Key Highlights:

1. **The Keynote:** He explained complex AI concepts—likely touching on neural networks or generative models—with a level of confidence that rivaled the CEOs in the room.
2. **Meeting the Giants:** Ranvir shared the stage and held discussions with **Sundar Pichai (Google)** and **Sam Altman (OpenAI)**. These meetings signify a bridge between the current architects of AI and the future generation that will inherit it.
3. **Bilingual Proficiency:** His ability to explain these concepts in both **English and Kannada** highlights his versatility and the importance of making AI education accessible in regional Indian languages.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who became the youngest speaker at the India AI Impact Summit 2026?

- A) Sundar Pichai
- B) Sam Altman
- C) Ranvir Sachdeva
- D) Rohan Sharma

2. At what age did Ranvir start coding?

- A) Five years old
- B) Three years old
- C) Eight years old
- D) Six years old

3. Which global tech leaders did Ranvir meet at the event?

- A) Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos
- B) Sundar Pichai and Sam Altman
- C) Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates
- D) Satya Nadella and Tim Cook

4. Where was the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Bangalore
- C) New Delhi

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D) Hyderabad

Answer Key

Question No.	Answer
1	C
2	B
3	B
4	C

NATIONAL NEWS

Railways switches to AI-enabled apps to address grievances & crowd management



The integration of Artificial Intelligence into the Indian Railways, as showcased at the **AI India Summit 2026**, marks a significant shift toward "Smart Rail" operations. Managed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**, these AI-driven tools are designed to handle the massive complexity of the world's fourth-largest rail network.

Here is a detailed explanation of the three core systems mentioned:

Key AI Systems in Indian Railways

1. Generation of Optimised and Automated Loco Links (GOAL)

This system uses AI algorithms to manage **Locomotive (Engine) allocation**.

- **The Problem:** Traditionally, deciding which engine pulls which train and where it goes next was a manual, logistical nightmare.
- **The AI Solution:** GOAL automates the creation of "links" (schedules) for locomotives. It reduces "dead mileage" (engines running without a load) and ensures that engines are available exactly when and where they are needed, significantly cutting down fuel costs and delays.

2. Coaching Crew Link Management System (CCLMS)

While GOAL manages engines, **CCLMS manages the people**—specifically the drivers (Loco Pilots) and guards.

- **Optimization:** The AI ensures that the crew's working hours comply with safety regulations while maximizing their productivity.
- **Safety:** By predicting crew requirements and managing rest periods accurately, it prevents human fatigue, which is a critical factor in rail safety.

3. Track Management System (TMS)

This is perhaps the most critical AI application for **passenger safety and infrastructure**.

- **Predictive Maintenance:** Instead of waiting for a track to break, TMS uses AI to analyze data from sensors and inspection cars to predict which sections of the track are likely to develop cracks or wear out.
- **Efficiency:** It allows engineers to perform repairs *before* an accident occurs, ensuring smoother rides and fewer emergency speed restrictions.

Summary Table

System	Focus Area	Primary Benefit
GOAL	Locomotives (Engines)	Fuel efficiency & reduced delays
CCLMS	Human Resources (Crew)	Safety & fatigue management
TMS	Infrastructure (Tracks)	Accident prevention & smooth travel

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which organization led the initiative to integrate AI into Indian Railways' applications?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)
- C) ISRO
- D) IRCTC

2. What is the full form of the AI application 'GOAL' mentioned in the text?

- A) General Operations and Automated Locomotives

- B) Generation of Optimised and Automated Loco Links
- C) Global Operational AI Logistics
- D) Government Organized Automated Links

3. At which event were these AI-enabled railway initiatives highlighted?

- A) Digital India Expo
- B) Global Tech Summit
- C) AI India Summit 2026
- D) Railway Innovation Conclave

4. Which of the following is NOT a primary goal of these new AI apps?

- A) Faster complaint resolution
- B) Ticket confirmation prediction
- C) Space exploration
- D) Crowd management

Answer Key / ಉತ್ತರಗಳು

Question No.	Answer
1	B
2	B
3	C
4	C





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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US State Department launches \$200 million edge AI package for Indo-Pacific



The **Edge AI Package**, launched by the US Department of State in February 2026, is a strategic \$200 million initiative designed to reshape the digital landscape of the Indo-Pacific. By focusing on "Edge AI"—where AI processing happens directly on the handheld device rather than in a distant cloud—this program aims to provide high-tech autonomy to partner nations.

Here is a detailed breakdown of the initiative's core objectives:

The Edge AI Package: Strategic Pillars

1. Empowering Millions with AI Developer Tools

The initiative isn't just about giving away smartphones; it's about what people can *build* with them.

- **On-Device Processing:** By providing handsets with powerful NPU (Neural Processing Unit) chips, developers in the

Indo-Pacific can create AI apps that work offline, protecting privacy and reducing data costs.

- **Open Access:** It provides local developers with the software kits (SDKs) needed to build custom AI solutions for agriculture, healthcare, and education.

2. Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The program acts as a catalyst for "Silicon Valleys" across the Indo-Pacific.

- **Local Ecosystems:** By making high-quality AI hardware affordable, it lowers the barrier to entry for tech startups.
- **Economic Growth:** It encourages the development of localized AI models that cater to specific regional languages and market needs, rather than relying on generic global tools.

3. Strengthening Digital Autonomy

This is a move toward "Sovereign AI."

- **Reducing Dependency:** It helps partner countries build their own digital future without being tethered to the infrastructure of any single foreign superpower.
- **Open Standards:** By promoting open ecosystems, the US ensures that these countries aren't "locked in" to proprietary, restrictive technologies.

4. Secure and Trusted Digital Ecosystems

A major goal is to provide a "Clean Network" alternative to high-risk vendors.

- **Hardware Security:** The initiative ensures that the smartphones and the chips inside

them are free from backdoors or surveillance vulnerabilities.

- **Data Privacy:** Because Edge AI processes data locally on the phone, sensitive personal information doesn't need to be sent to external servers, making the digital ecosystem inherently more secure.

D) Manufacturing satellites for partner countries

4. How does this initiative aim to empower the people of partner countries?

- A) By providing free healthcare apps
- B) By giving free laptops to everyone
- C) By empowering millions of people with AI developer tools and promoting entrepreneurship
- D) By building physical schools

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. What is the total estimated value of the 'Edge AI Package' announced by the U.S. State Department?

- A) \$100 Million
- B) \$50 Million
- C) \$200 Million
- D) \$500 Million

2. Which region does the Edge AI Package initiative primarily focus on?

- A) Sub-Saharan Africa
- B) Indo-Pacific Region
- C) European Union
- D) South America

3. Which of the following is one of the key strategic goals of the Edge AI Package?

- A) Phasing out all traditional cellular networks
- B) Strengthening reliable digital infrastructure and providing alternatives to high-risk technology vendors
- C) Providing free internet to the entire world

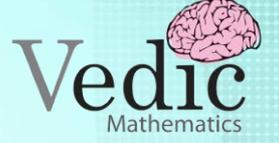
Answer Key

Question No.	Answer
1	C (\$200 Million)
2	B (Indo-Pacific Region)
3	B (Strengthening reliable digital infrastructure)
4	C (Empowering with AI tools & entrepreneurship)

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APPOINTMENTS

Asha Sharma takes over at Microsoft Xbox

That is correct. This past weekend (February 20–22, 2026) marked one of the most significant shake-ups in Xbox history. **Asha Sharma** has indeed stepped in as the new **CEO of Microsoft Gaming**, reporting directly to Satya Nadella.



Her arrival coincides with the retirement of **Phil Spencer**, who is ending a massive 38-year career at Microsoft. Spencer will stay on as an advisor through the summer of 2026 to help Sharma find her footing.

The New Leadership Structure

This wasn't just a one-person change; it's a total overhaul of the "Green Team" leadership:

- Asha Sharma (CEO, Microsoft Gaming):** Previously the President of Microsoft's CoreAI division and former COO of Instacart.
- Matt Booty (Chief Content Officer):** Promoted to Executive Vice President to oversee all creative output and game studios.

- Sarah Bond (Departure):** In a surprise move, the Xbox President also announced she is leaving Microsoft to start a "new chapter."

Sharma's "Three Commitments"

In her first memo to the team, Sharma struck a balance between her AI background and a "back-to-basics" approach for gamers. She outlined three core priorities:

- Great Games Above All:** A promise to invest in iconic franchises and empower studios to take creative risks.
- The Return of Xbox:** Specifically recommitting to the **Xbox console** and the core fan base, while maintaining the "play anywhere" strategy across PC and mobile.
- The Future of Play:** Innovating new business models without sacrificing the soul of the medium.

A Stand Against "AI Slop"

Perhaps her most viral comment was her direct address regarding Artificial Intelligence. Despite her background leading AI at Microsoft, she told employees:

"We will not chase short-term efficiency or flood our ecosystem with **soulless AI slop**. Games are and always will be art, crafted by humans."

This stance seems designed to ease fears that an AI-focused executive would automate the creative process at studios like Bethesda or Activision Blizzard.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Microsoft Gaming and head of Xbox in 2026?

- A) Phil Spencer
- B) Satya Nadella
- C) Asha Sharma
- D) Sundar Pichai

2. Asha Sharma replaced which longtime executive who had led the Xbox division since 2014?

- A) Bill Gates
- B) Phil Spencer
- C) Steve Ballmer
- D) Bobby Kotick

3. What is one of the primary strategic goals of Microsoft Gaming under Asha Sharma's new leadership?

- A) To stop manufacturing consoles
- B) To focus only on mobile gaming
- C) To refocus on console players while balancing AI innovation
- D) To move headquarters to India

Question No.	Answer (English)
1	C) Asha Sharma
2	B) Phil Spencer
3	C) Refocus on consoles & AI

SPORTS

Team USA stuns Canada for women's hockey gold



What a historic moment for American hockey! This victory at the **2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina** is especially sweet, as it breaks the cycle of heartbreak against their rivals and marks their first Olympic gold since PyeongChang 2018.

Here is a breakdown of that pulse-pounding gold medal game:

Game Summary: USA vs. Canada

Feature	Detail
Final Score	USA 2, Canada 1 (F/OT)
Regulation Goal (USA)	Hilary Knight (Power Play, 17:14 of 3rd)
Winning Goal (OT)	Megan Keller
Venue	PalalItalia Santa Giulia, Milan

The Turning Points

- **The Captain's Clutch:** Trailing 1-0 late in the third period, the 36-year-old **Hilary Knight** proved why she is a legend. Her equalizer

with less than three minutes remaining shifted the entire momentum of the arena.

- **Defensive Heroics:** Team USA's penalty kill was perfect throughout the game, neutralizing Canada's high-powered offense during critical stretches in the second period.
- **The Golden Goal:** In the 3-on-3 sudden-death overtime, **Megan Keller** found a lane and fired a laser past the Canadian goaltender, ending the game and clinching the gold.

Why This Matters

This win cements this roster's legacy. After taking silver in Beijing 2022, the U.S. program focused heavily on a mix of veteran leadership (Knight, Coyne Schofield) and younger speed (like Keller and Harvey). Defeating Canada—who had won the last few World Championships—re-establishes Team USA as the top power in women's international hockey.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which team did the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team defeat to win the Gold Medal at the 2026 Winter Olympics?

- A) Sweden
- B) Canada
- C) Finland
- D) Switzerland

2. Where were the 2026 Winter Olympics held?

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Paris, France

- C) Milan, Italy
- D) Vancouver, Canada

3. Who scored the dramatic equalizer for Team USA with less than three minutes left in regulation?

- A) Megan Keller
- B) Kendall Coyne Schofield
- C) Hilary Knight
- D) Amanda Kessel

4. Who scored the winning goal in sudden death overtime to seal the victory for the Americans?

- A) Hilary Knight
- B) Megan Keller
- C) Brianna Decker
- D) Lee Stecklein

Answer Key

Question No.	Answer (English)
1	B) Canada
2	C) Milan
3	C) Hilary Knight
4	B) Megan Keller





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BANKING/ECONOMY

ICICI's New Swasthya Pension Scheme



That's a very sharp and timely observation. You're highlighting a major shift in how the National Pension System (NPS) is evolving from a rigid "retirement-only" bucket into a more liquid, life-stage-friendly financial tool.

The ICICI PF NPS Swasthya Equity Plus (launched in February 2026) is effectively a "Proof of Concept" intended to solve the "Out of Pocket Expenditure" (OOPE) crisis in India. Since many Indians are forced to sell assets or liquidate retirement savings for medical emergencies, this scheme integrates the two.

Key Features of the Swasthya Pension Scheme

The scheme operates within the PFRDA Regulatory Sandbox, meaning it is currently a pilot project with specific "sandbox" flexibilities that aren't available in standard NPS tiers.

Feature	Details
Asset Allocation	Aggressive: 70% to 100% Equity (designed for long-term growth).

Feature	Details
Withdrawal Limit	Up to 25% of your own contributions for medical expenses.
Frequency	No limit on the number of partial withdrawals (unlike the standard NPS limit of 3).
Eligibility Threshold	First withdrawal is permitted once the corpus reaches ₹50,000.
Emergency Exit	If medical costs exceed 70% of the corpus, you can withdraw 100% as a lump sum.
Healthcare Partner	Integration with Apollo 24/7 for direct payment to pharmacies, OPD, and hospitals.

Why the "Sandbox" Framework Matters

This isn't just a new product; it's a test case. The PFRDA is using this to see if allowing "purposeful leakage" (withdrawals for health) actually encourages more people to save for the long term.

Important Note: To open this account, you must already have a Common Scheme NPS account. This is a supplementary "ring-fenced" healthcare buffer, not a replacement for your primary pension or health insurance.

Complementary, Not Competitive

As you noted, with insurance penetration at only 38%, many people find themselves in the "missing middle"—too wealthy for government

schemes but under-insured for private care. This scheme aims to act as a **co-pay fund**, helping you cover the gap between what your insurance pays and the actual hospital bill without touching your primary retirement nest egg.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which organization launched the 'Swasthya Pension Scheme' under the PFRDA sandbox framework in February 2026?

- A) SBI Pension Funds
- B) ICICI Prudential Pension Fund
- C) HDFC Pension Management
- D) Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund

2. What is the unique dual benefit provided by the Swasthya Pension Scheme?

- A) Life insurance and child education planning
- B) Real estate investment and pension
- C) Retirement planning and healthcare flexibility
- D) Unemployment benefits and gratuity

3. According to the announcement, what is the current health insurance penetration rate in India that this scheme aims to address?

- A) 22 percent
- B) 30 percent
- C) 38 percent
- D) 45 percent

4. Under which regulatory framework has the Swasthya Pension Scheme been launched?

- A) SEBI Startup Listing
- B) PFRDA Sandbox Framework
- C) IRDAI Social Sector Obligations
- D) RBI Regulatory Sandbox

5. What specific feature does the scheme offer to help subscribers during medical emergencies?

- A) Interest-free personal loans
- B) Complete waiver of premium
- C) Healthcare-linked withdrawals from the corpus
- D) Guaranteed hospital room upgrades

Quick Summary Table

Feature	Details
Issuer	ICICI Prudential Pension Fund
Launch Date	February 2026
Primary Goal	Build retirement corpus + Emergency health liquidity
Market Context	Bridge the health financing gap in India

STATE NEWS

Tamil Nadu CM Stalin inaugurates Pinnacle Infotech's Global Engineering Hub in Madurai



On Saturday, February 21, 2026, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the second phase of Pinnacle Infotech's Global Engineering Centre of Excellence at the ELCOSEZ in Vadapalanji, Madurai. This expansion marks a significant step in transforming Madurai into a major hub for digital construction and engineering innovation.

Key Highlights of the Expansion

The Phase 2 project is designed to significantly boost the company's operational capacity and the local economy:

- **Infrastructure:** The new phase adds 1.60 lakh sq. ft. of advanced workspace to the existing facility.
- **Job Creation:** This expansion is set to create 2,000 new jobs for engineering and architecture professionals, bringing the total headcount at the Madurai campus toward its goal of 4,000 employees.

- **Housing Project:** CM Stalin laid the foundation stone for a dedicated sustainable housing facility. This project will accommodate approximately 1,200 employees, emphasizing a "walk-to-work" culture.
- **Science & Education:** As part of the visit, the CM also inaugurated the **Ankuran Science Centre**, a facility designed to provide hands-on science education to over 11,000 students from local corporation schools.

Dignitaries in Attendance

The ceremony was attended by several high-ranking state officials and industry leaders, reflecting the project's importance to the state's "Growth Beyond Chennai" initiative:

Name	Designation
Palanivel Thiagarajan	Minister for IT and Digital Services
K.N. Nehru	Minister for Municipal Administration
P. Moorthy	Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration
I. Periasamy	Minister for Rural Development
Thangam Thennarasu	Minister for Finance and Human Resources
K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran	Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management
Bimal Patwari	CEO and Co-founder, Pinnacle Infotech

Pinnacle Infotech is a global leader in **Building Information Modeling (BIM)**, and this Madurai center is expected to be one of the world's

largest engineering excellence centers, handling iconic "Giga-projects" from across the globe.

Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which company's Phase 2 Global Engineering Centre of Excellence was recently inaugurated by CM M.K. Stalin in Madurai?

- A) Zoho Corporation
- B) Pinnacle Infotech
- C) Cognizant
- D) Tata Consultancy Services

2. Alongside the engineering center, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a housing project. How many employees is this project designed to accommodate?

- A) 500
- B) 850
- C) 1,200
- D) 2,000

3. Who is the CEO and co-founder of Pinnacle Infotech who attended the inauguration?

- A) Bimal Patwari
- B) Sridhar Vembu
- C) Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
- D) Shiv Nadar

4. Which state minister, responsible for Information Technology and Digital Services, was present at the event?

- A) K.N. Nehru

- B) Thangam Thennarasu
- C) Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
- D) P. Moorthy

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B (Pinnacle Infotech)
2	C (1,200)
3	A (Bimal Patwari)
4	C (Palanivel Thiaga Rajan)

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a) 16 b) 1 c) 2 d) 4

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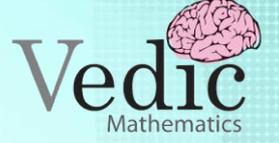
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Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently approved the Great Nicobar Project, worth approximately how much?

- A. ₹55,000 crore
- B. ₹68,000 crore
- C. ₹81,000 crore
- D. ₹95,000 crore

1. C

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given the green light to the massive Great Nicobar Development Project, estimated to cost approximately ₹81,000 crore. This is a major strategic infrastructure project that includes the construction of an international transshipment port, airport, power plant, and township.

Q.2. What is the generation capacity of the recently inaugurated Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh?

- A. 1,000 MW
- B. 1,250 MW
- C. 1,500 MW
- D. 1,750 MW

2. D

The 1,750 MW Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh has received an 11-year environmental clearance extension until 2037, 16 years after its original approval (2010). The Environment Ministry's Expert

Appraisal Committee (EAC) has attributed the delay to pending litigation.

Q.3. Where is the Losar Festival 2026 (Tibetan New Year) being celebrated?

- A. Leh
 - B. Dharamshala
 - C. McLeodganj
 - D. Kaza
3. C

McLeodganj, Himachal Pradesh, celebrates the Losar Festival 2026, marking the beginning of the Year of the Fire Horse. The Tibetan community prepares khapses, offers prayers, and welcomes the Dalai Lama during the traditional New Year celebration.

Q.4. Who recently inaugurated the first Mumbai Climate Week 2026?

- A. Eknath Shinde
- B. Devendra Fadnavis
- C. Ajit Pawar
- D. Uddhav Thackeray

4. B

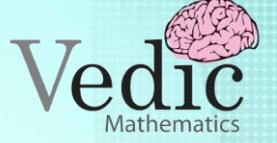
The first Mumbai Climate Week 2026 was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the Jio World Convention Center in Bandra. Organized by Project Mumbai in collaboration with the Maharashtra government and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the event aims to find grassroots solutions, focusing on urban resilience, clean energy, and sustainable development.



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Q.5. The India-France Year of Innovation 2026 was recently launched during the visit of which French President to India?

- A. Nicolas Sarkozy
- B. François Hollande
- C. Emmanuel Macron
- D. Jacques Chirac

5. C

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his fourth visit to India. The two leaders held bilateral talks and signed 21 important agreements. They jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai.

Q.6. Where did Tejaswin Shankar recently win the gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships?

- A. Seoul, South Korea
- B. Bangkok, Thailand
- C. Tokyo, Japan
- D. Tianjin, China

6. D

India's Tejaswin Shankar won a historic gold medal at the 2026 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tianjin, China. The Indian athlete won the men's heptathlon event with a record-breaking performance of 5,993 points. This was India's only gold medal at the championships. With this achievement, Tejaswin Shankar also set a new national indoor record, surpassing his own previous best. India won five medals at the tournament and finished sixth in the overall standings.

Q.7. Lauren Down, who recently retired from cricket, belongs to which team?

- A. England
- B. South Africa
- C. New Zealand
- D. Australia

7. C

New Zealand women's cricketer Lauren Down has announced her retirement from international and all forms of cricket. The 30-year-old right-handed batswoman was a member of the New Zealand national team (White Ferns) as well as the Auckland Hearts in domestic cricket. She played 35 ODIs and 13 T20 Internationals between 2018 and 2024.

Q.8. Where will the world's first Humanity First AI City be built?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Patna
- C. Bhopal
- D. Dispur

8. A

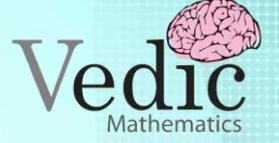
Bharat1.AI will build the world's first AI city in Bengaluru. Several announcements related to artificial intelligence are being made at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, currently underway at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. One such announcement has been made by Bharat1.AI. They have announced that they will build the world's first 'humanity-first' AI city in Bengaluru.



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Q.9. Which bank recently launched the 'Hello Cashback Credit Card' for new customers?

- A. SBI
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. IDFC First Bank

9. D

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the 'Hello Cashback Credit Card' for new and digitally active customers. This is an FD-linked (fixed deposit) credit card specifically designed for young people looking to build their first credit history or score.

Q.10. For which crops did NABARD and NCDEX recently launch a price protection scheme for farmers?

- A. Wheat, Rice, Maize
- B. Turmeric, Cumin, Coriander
- C. Tea, Coffee, Rubber
- D. Cotton, Jute, Sugarcane

10. B

NABARD and NCDEX launched a price protection scheme (using put options) for farmer producer organizations (FPOs), primarily covering spices such as turmeric, cumin, and coriander. This initiative, aimed at managing price fluctuations and mitigating risks, has also been extended or applied to crops such as mustard and chickpea.

Q.11. Where did Mastercard recently complete India's first fully authenticated agent commerce transaction?

- A. Global FinTech Fest 2026
- B. India Mobile Congress 2026
- C. India AI Impact Summit 2026
- D. Digital India Week 2026

11. C

At the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, Mastercard announced the successful launch of fully authenticated agentic commerce transactions on its payment network. This development expands the company's global agentic commerce payment capabilities to the Asia Pacific region.

Q.12. Airtel Money recently received a certificate of registration from the RBI as which type of NBFC?

- A. Deposit-taking NBFC
- B. NBFC-Microfinance
- C. Type II NBFC-ND (ICC)
- D. Housing Finance Company

12. C

Airtel Money Limited has received a Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Type II Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (Type II-NBFC-ND-ICC). This license was issued under Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934, which allows the company to carry on non-banking financial activities without accepting public deposits.

Q.13. Where was the Indian Navy's first indigenous cadet training ship, 'Krishna', recently launched?

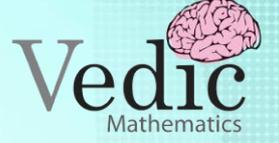
- A. Kochi



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B. Mazagon Dock

C. Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu

D. Visakhapatnam

13. C

The Indian Navy's first indigenously built cadet training ship 'Krishna' (Yard 18003) was launched at the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai. This is the first in a series of three ships being built under the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, which will train naval personnel, including women cadets.

Q.14. For which region did the Indian Army recently organize a United Nations Fellowship Training Program on SALW Control?

A. Africa

B. Europe

C. Asia-Pacific

D. West Asia

14. C

The Indian Army has hosted the first United Nations Fellowship Training Programme on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the Asia-Pacific region. The programme is being conducted at the College of Military Material Management (MCOMM) in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Q.15. Which renowned American documentary filmmaker recently passed away at the age of 96?

A. Ken Burns

B. Frederick Wiseman

C. Michael Moore

D. Errol Morris

15. B

Renowned American documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman has died at the age of 96. He was known for films like "Titicut Follies" and for more than six decades made essential documentaries about American institutions, for which he received an Honorary Academy Award.

FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

The Chola Dynasty is a testament to the enduring power and cultural sophistication of ancient India. Their influence extended far beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu, shaping the history of Southeast Asia and maritime trade.

Here are some fascinating facts about the Chola Empire to complement your post:

The Golden Age of the Cholas

While their roots go back to the 3rd century BCE, the **Imperial Cholas** (9th–13th century CE) marked a peak in Indian civilization under rulers like **Rajaraja I** and his son **Rajendra I**.

- **Maritime Superpower:** They possessed one of the most powerful navies of the ancient world, controlling the Bay of Bengal (often called the "Chola Lake") and launching successful naval expeditions to **Sri Lanka, Maldives, Malaysia, and Indonesia (Srivijaya Empire)**.
- **Architectural Marvels:** They built the **Brihadisvara Temple** in Thanjavur (a



UNESCO World Heritage site). Its *Vimana* (temple tower) is 216 feet high, and the capstone is a single 80-ton block of granite—an engineering feat that remains a mystery today.

- **Democratic Roots:** The **Uttaramerur Inscriptions** (10th century) provide a detailed blueprint of their local self-governance. They used a "Kudavolai" system (a lucky draw method) to elect village council members, showcasing early democratic principles.
- **Artistic Excellence:** The world-famous **Nataraja** (the dancing Shiva) bronze statues reached their aesthetic pinnacle during this era. Chola bronzes are still considered some of the finest metal sculptures ever created.

Comparison of the "Three Crowned Kings"

The Cholas were part of the *Muventhar* (Three Kings) who dominated the Tamil region:

Dynasty	Emblem	Primary Region	Famous Capital
Chola	Tiger	Kaveri Delta	Thanjavur / Gangaikonda Cholapuram
Pandya	Fish	Southern Tamil Nadu	Madurai
Chera	Bow & Arrow	Kerala / Western TN	Muziris / Vanchi

Did You Know?

The **Kalanai Dam** (Grand Anicut), built by the Chola King **Karikala** in the 2nd century CE, is one of the oldest water-regulation structures in the

world still in use today! It stands as a symbol of their advanced understanding of irrigation and civil engineering.

Knowledge Check for Proficien

1. The Chola Dynasty is primarily known as what type of empire?

- A) Land-locked agrarian empire
- B) Thalassocratic (maritime) empire
- C) Nomadic tribal empire
- D) Central Asian caliphate

2. Which Mauryan Emperor's inscriptions provide the earliest datable references to the Cholas?

- A) Chandragupta Maurya
- B) Bindusara
- C) Ashoka
- D) Dasharatha Maurya

3. The "Three Crowned Kings" of Tamilakam included the Cholas, the Pandyas, and which other dynasty?

- A) Pallava
- B) Chera
- C) Chalukya
- D) Rashtrakuta

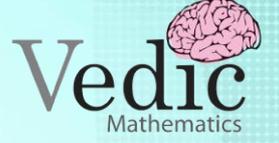
4. Approximately when did the Chola Dynasty's rule come to an end?

- A) 3rd century BCE
- B) 10th century CE
- C) 13th century CE

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D) 15th century CE

5. In which part of India was the Chola Empire primarily based?

- A) Northern India
- B) Western India
- C) Southern India
- D) North-Eastern India

Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Thalassocratic (maritime) empire
2	C) Ashoka
3	B) Chera
4	C) 13th century CE
5	C) Southern India

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We wish best for your studies & Exams

Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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a) 16 b) 1 c) 2 d) 4

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