

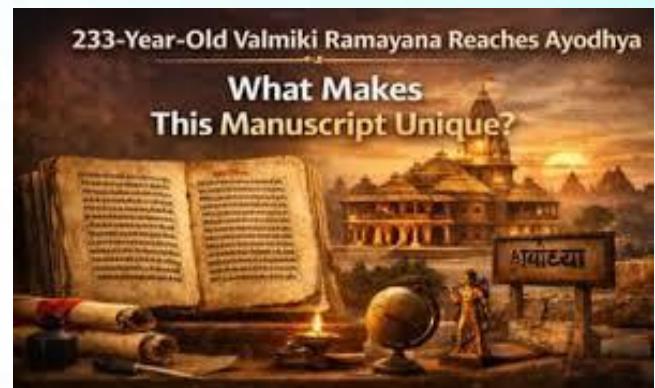
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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 233-Year-Old Valmiki Ramayana Gifted to Ram Katha Museum in Ayodhya



This is a remarkable development for both the archival community and the cultural landscape of Ayodhya. The preservation of a text that includes the **Tattvadipikatika** is particularly significant, as Maheśvara Tīrtha's commentary is highly regarded for its deep philosophical insights into the epic.

Here is a closer look at the significance of this manuscript's journey and its technical specifications:

#### The Manuscript's Historical Significance

The **Valmiki Ramayana** is not just a religious text but the foundational *Adi Kavya* (the first poem) of Sanskrit literature. Finding a complete version that dates back over two centuries provides a vital snapshot of 18th-century scribal traditions in India.

- **Timeline:** Dated to **Vikrama Samvat 1849**, which aligns with **1792 CE**. This was a period of intense literary preservation across the Indian subcontinent.



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- The Script:** Written in *Devanāgarī*, the script that eventually became the standard for Sanskrit, though many contemporary manuscripts of that era were still being produced in regional scripts like Sharada or Nandinagari.
- The Commentary:** Maheśvara Tīrtha's *Tattvadipika* is famous for its "Advaita" (non-dualist) interpretation, helping readers understand the metaphysical layers beneath the narrative.

### Why Ayodhya Matters as a Repository

By housing this manuscript in Ayodhya, the city transitions from a site of pilgrimage to a **scholarly hub**. Modern preservation techniques—such as climate-controlled environments and digitization—will likely be employed to ensure the 233-year-old paper or parchment survives for several more centuries.

### Impact on Research

- Philological Study:** Scholars can compare this version with other recensions (versions) of the Ramayana to track how the text remained consistent or evolved over time.
- Cultural Continuity:** It reinforces Ayodhya's role as the "Global Centre of Ramayana Tradition," attracting international researchers interested in Indology.

### Understanding the Date Conversion

To understand how we get 1792 CE from Vikrama Samvat 1849, we use a simple

chronological formula. The Vikrama Samvat (VS) calendar started in 57 BCE.

To find the Common Era (CE) year:

$$\$\$CE = VS - 57\$\$$$

$$\$\$1792 = 1849 - 57\$\$$$

### Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

- The 233-year-old manuscript recently transferred to Ayodhya is a copy of which ancient text?
  - Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas
  - Valmiki Ramayana
  - Kamban Ramayanam
  - Yoga Vasistha
- Which specific classical commentary is included in this rare manuscript?
  - Tattvadipikatika by Maheshvara Tirtha
  - Manmatha by Govindaraja
  - Bhushana by Govindaraja
  - Tilaka by Ramavarma
- The manuscript is written in which script?
  - Brahmi
  - Sharada
  - Devanāgarī
  - Grantha



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No 8, 24th Block Manasi Nagar Beside of Bliss serviced Apartment, Mysuru, Karnataka 570029



[info@spardha.guru](mailto:info@spardha.guru)



90711 54445, 90711 64446, 90711 74447

4. The manuscript dates back to Vikrama Samvat 1849. To which year in the Common Era (CE) does this correspond?

- A) 1752 CE
- B) 1792 CE
- C) 1849 CE
- D) 1902 CE

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	B) Valmiki Ramayana
2	A) Tattvadipikatika by Maheshvara Tirtha
3	C) Devanāgarī
4	B) 1792 CE

This ₹5,000 crore equity infusion is a decisive move to turn the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** into an even more powerful engine for India's economic growth. Approved by the Union Cabinet on **January 21, 2026**, this support is specifically designed to bridge the credit gap for small businesses.

Here is a breakdown of how this capital will be used and the massive impact it's expected to have over the next few years:

### Phased Capital Infusion Plan

The government isn't just dropping the full amount at once; it's a strategic, three-year rollout handled by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**:

- **FY 2025–26:** ₹3,000 crore (at a book value of ₹568.65 per share).
- **FY 2026–27:** ₹1,000 crore.
- **FY 2027–28:** ₹1,000 crore.

This "staggered" approach ensures SIDBI maintains a rock-solid **Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**—essentially a financial "health score"—keeping it above **14.50%** under normal conditions and above **10.50%** even during economic stress.

### Projected Impact: By the Numbers

The infusion is more than just a balance sheet update; it has tangible goals for the Indian workforce and the MSME ecosystem:

Metric	Current (End of FY25)	Projected (By FY28)
MSME Beneficiaries	76.26 Lakh	1.02 Crore

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Cabinet Approves ₹5,000 Crore Capital Support to SIDBI to Strengthen MSME Credit Flow**



Metric	Current (End of FY25)	Projected (By FY28)
New Beneficiaries Added	-	~25.74 Lakh
Jobs Generated	-	~1.12 Crore

**Note:** The job creation estimate is based on the official average of **4.37 persons** employed per MSME in India.

### Why does SIDBI need this now?

As India pushes for a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), SIDBI is taking on riskier, more innovative lending practices that require a larger capital "cushion." This includes:

- Digital Lending:** Expanding collateral-free, digitally verified loans.
- Venture Debt:** Providing capital to high-growth startups that traditional banks might avoid.
- Refinancing:** Lowering the cost of borrowing for NBFCs and MFIs, who then pass those lower rates on to small entrepreneurs.

By keeping SIDBI's credit rating high, the bank can borrow money from global and domestic markets at much lower interest rates, directly leading to **cheaper loans** for the local shopkeeper or small manufacturer.

### Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. In January 2026, the Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of how much into SIDBI?

- A) ₹2,500 crore  
B) ₹5,000 crore

C) ₹10,000 crore

D) ₹7,500 crore

2. What is the primary objective of the ₹5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI?

- A) To privatize the institution  
B) To strengthen its capital base and expand credit to MSMEs  
C) To facilitate the merger of SIDBI with commercial banks  
D) To fund large-scale infrastructure projects only

3. SIDBI serves as the principal financial institution for which sector in India?

- A) Large Scale Industries  
B) Agricultural Exports  
C) Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)  
D) Real Estate Development

4. Which of the following functions does SIDBI perform according to the announcement?

- A) Refinancing banks, NBFCs, and MFIs  
B) Regulating the Stock Market  
C) Managing the country's Foreign Exchange Reserves  
D) Setting Repo and Reverse Repo rates

## Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) ₹5,000 crore
2	B) To strengthen its capital base and expand credit to MSMEs
3	C) Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
4	A) Refinancing banks, NBFCs, and MFIs

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Abu Dhabi Ranked World's Safest City for 10th Consecutive Year



Abu Dhabi's achievement of the top spot in the **Numbeo Global Safety Index 2026** is not just a win for the city, but a testament to the UAE's broader national security strategy. By securing the **#1 position for the 10th consecutive year**, Abu Dhabi has effectively turned urban safety into a competitive global advantage.

The 2026 rankings also highlight a broader regional trend, with the UAE dominating the global list like never before.

### Global Safety Rankings (January 2026)

In a historic sweep, five of the top six safest cities in the world are now located in the United Arab Emirates.

Rank	City	Country	Safety Index Score
1	Abu Dhabi	UAE	88.9
2	Ras Al Khaimah	UAE	85.3
3	Doha	Qatar	84.5
4	Sharjah	UAE	84.5
5	Ajman	UAE	84.4
6	Dubai	UAE	83.9

**Interesting Fact:** While Abu Dhabi remains #1 globally, **Mangaluru** was ranked as the safest city in India for 2026, holding a global rank of 46 with a score of **74.4**.

### The "Secret Sauce" of Abu Dhabi's Safety

The city's decade-long dominance is attributed to a "triple-threat" approach to urban management:

#### 1. AI-Powered "Smart Policing"

The Abu Dhabi Police use the **"Safe City"** system—a sophisticated network that integrates:

- **Predictive Analytics:** AI models that identify potential crime "hotspots" before incidents occur.



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- Falcon Eye:** A city-wide surveillance network that centralizes data from thousands of cameras for real-time monitoring.
- Autonomous Patrols:** The deployment of smart, driverless patrol vehicles to monitor residential and tourist zones.

## 2. Urban Design & Lighting

Safety is built into the city's physical blueprint. Wide, well-lit streets and the strategic placement of emergency response units ensure that there are no "dark corners." This is reflected in the city's exceptionally high scores for **"Safety walking alone at night."**

## 3. Social Cohesion & Zero Tolerance

The UAE's strict legal framework acts as a massive deterrent. However, it is paired with high social spending and "Community Police" initiatives that build trust between residents and the state, creating a culture where safety is a shared responsibility.

## Impact on the Future

This ranking is a major driver for the **Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030**. A "Safe Haven" status makes the city a magnet for:

- Global Talent:** High-net-worth individuals and professionals are increasingly choosing the UAE for family security.
- Foreign Investment:** Businesses prioritize stable environments with low risk of civil unrest or property crime.
- Solo Tourism:** Abu Dhabi and Dubai are now leading destinations for solo travelers,

particularly women, due to the high perception of nighttime safety.

## Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. According to the latest rankings, which city has been named the world's safest for the tenth consecutive year?

- A) Dubai
- B) Abu Dhabi
- C) Singapore
- D) Zurich

2. Which organization or database released this ranking comparing cities based on crime rates and safety perception?

- A) World Bank
- B) Interpol
- C) Numbeo
- D) UNESCO

3. Abu Dhabi has consistently topped this specific index since which year?

- A) 2010
- B) 2015
- C) 2017



D) 2020

4. The Numbeo safety ranking is primarily based on which of the following?

- A) Only official government crime reports
- B) GDP per capita and tourism rates
- C) User-contributed data, surveys, and crime statistics
- D) The number of police officers per square kilometer

level policing to India's largest Central Armed Police Force.



The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the official order for this central deputation on **January 19, 2026**, directing the Uttar Pradesh government to relieve the officer immediately to assume his new national role.

#### Profile: Ravi Shankar Chhabhi (IPS 2007)

Ravi Shankar Chhabhi is a "Regular Recruit" officer of the 2007 batch, known for his diverse experience in both operational and administrative reform.

- **Cadre:** Uttar Pradesh (originally from Rohtas, Bihar).
- **Previous Role:** Before this move, he was serving as DIG (Public Grievances) at the DGP Headquarters in Lucknow (appointed June 2023).
- **Education:** A strong academic background in the social sciences, holding degrees in Economics, Sociology, and History.

#### Notable Career Highlights

His career in Uttar Pradesh has spanned high-pressure field assignments and specialized units:

## APPOINTMENTS

### Ravi Shankar Chhabhi Appointed DIG in CRPF on Central Deputation

The appointment of Ravi Shankar Chhabhi as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** marks a significant transfer of operational expertise from state-



- Women Safety:** He led the **Women Powerline-1090** initiative in Lucknow, a critical project focused on digitizing and streamlining safety responses for women.
- District Leadership:** Served as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in **Jaunpur**, managing complex law and order situations.
- Correctional Reform:** Held the position of **DIG, Prison Administration and Reforms**, where he worked on custodial management and prisoner rehabilitation.
- National Oversight:** Served as a **Police Observer** for the high-profile Baramulla constituency during the 2024 General Elections.

This appointment comes at a time when the CRPF is increasingly modernizing its technology, moving toward AI-integrated surveillance and specialized drone units for forest-based anti-Naxal operations—areas where Chhabbi's experience in administrative reform and public grievances will be highly relevant.

### Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. Who has been recently appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?
  - A) Ravi Shankar Chhabbi
  - B) Kuldip Singh
  - C) Sujoy Lal Thaosen
  - D) Sanjay Arora
2. Ravi Shankar Chhabbi is an IPS officer belonging to which state cadre?
  - A) Bihar
  - B) Maharashtra
  - C) Uttar Pradesh
  - D) Madhya Pradesh
3. To which batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS) does the newly appointed DIG, Ravi Shankar Chhabbi, belong?
  - A) 2001
  - B) 2007
  - C) 2010

### Role as DIG in the CRPF

In the CRPF's organizational structure, a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) is a pivotal leadership rank. Each CRPF "Sector" is divided into "Ranges," and a DIG typically commands one of these Ranges or a Group Centre.

### Key Responsibilities in the New Assignment:

1. **Counter-Insurgency Operations:** Leading battalions in sensitive areas, including the LWE (Left Wing Extremism) heartlands or Jammu & Kashmir.
2. **Internal Security:** Coordinating crowd control and riot response (including the specialized Rapid Action Force wing).
3. **Administrative Command:** Managing the logistics, training, and welfare of several thousand personnel under his Range or Group Centre.



D) 2012

4. The CRPF, where this appointment was made, falls under the category of:

- A) State Police Forces
- B) Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
- C) Intelligence Agencies
- D) Defense Forces under the Ministry of Defence

In a significant shift for India's sports-commercial landscape, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has officially signed a high-value sponsorship deal with **Google's Gemini** ahead of the **IPL 2026** season.

This partnership, finalized on **January 20, 2026**, underscores the "AI war" moving from the tech sector into the mainstream living rooms of Indian cricket fans.

### Key Deal Details

The agreement is structured as a multi-year commitment, reflecting Google's long-term strategy for Gemini in the Indian market:

- **Total Value:** ₹270 crore (approx. \$32 million).
- **Duration:** 3 Years (2026–2028 cycle).
- **Annual Contribution:** ₹90 crore per season.
- **Brand Category:** Official Partner (AI Platform).

### The Strategic Shift: Tech Over Gaming

The entry of Google Gemini follows a major regulatory pivot in 2025. After the Indian government passed the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill**, real-money gaming platforms like **Dream11** (a longtime IPL staple) were forced to exit high-profile sponsorship roles.

This created a "commercial vacuum" that global tech giants have moved to fill:

- **The AI Rivalry:** Gemini's entry into the men's IPL follows **ChatGPT's** sponsorship of the **Women's Premier League (WPL)** earlier in the year.

## SPORTS

**BCCI Signs ₹270 Crore Gemini Sponsorship Deal Ahead of IPL 2026**





- Blue-Chip Stability:** The BCCI has prioritized "blue-chip" global brands like Google and **Apollo Tyres** (which took over the Team India jersey rights for ₹579 crore) to ensure financial stability amid changing regulations.

- A) ChatGPT
- B) Gemini
- C) Claude
- D) Perplexity

### How it Changes the Fan Experience

The partnership is expected to go beyond just static logo placement on boundaries and stumps. Sources within the BCCI and Google suggest several AI-integrated features for the 2026 season:

- Smarter Broadcasts:** Real-time AI analysis for win probabilities, player matchups, and predictive field placements.
- Instant Content:** Automated generation of "Smart Highlights" and multilingual AI-powered commentary in regional Indian languages.
- Digital Fan Engagement:** Gemini-powered interactive features on the IPL app, allowing fans to ask complex statistical questions or "chat" with simulated versions of cricket legends.

**Fun Fact:** The 2026 IPL season is scheduled to run from **March 26 to May 31**, where Gemini will sit alongside the **Tata Group** (Title Sponsor) in one of the world's most valuable sporting ecosystems.

2. What is the total reported value of the three-year sponsorship agreement between Gemini and the BCCI?

- A) ₹150 crore
- B) ₹270 crore
- C) ₹500 crore
- D) ₹579 crore

3. The entry of AI sponsors like Gemini into the IPL follows a regulatory ban on which sector's advertising?

- A) EdTech
- B) Real-Money Gaming (RMG)
- C) Crypto Exchanges
- D) Tobacco and Alcohol

4. While Gemini has partnered with the IPL, which rival AI platform is currently a sponsor for the Women's Premier League (WPL)?

- A) Microsoft Copilot
- B) Grok
- C) ChatGPT
- D) Llama

### Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. Which AI platform has signed a high-value sponsorship deal with the BCCI for the IPL 2026 season?



## Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Gemini
2	B) ₹270 crore
3	B) Real-Money Gaming (RMG)
4	C) ChatGPT

Managing Director of HDFC Bank is a vital step for management continuity.



## Sponsorship Landscape Comparison

The table below summarizes the key commercial shifts in Indian cricket heading into 2026:

Partnership Category	Brand / Sponsor	Deal Context
IPL Title Sponsor	Tata Group	Continues long-term rights.
IPL AI Sponsor	Google Gemini	₹270 Cr for 3 years (Starting 2026).
Team India Jersey	Apollo Tyres	Replaced Dream11 (₹579 Cr deal).
WPL AI Sponsor	ChatGPT	Direct competitor to Gemini in the women's league.

As the bank navigates its post-merger landscape, keeping a veteran hand like Bharucha in the core leadership team provides a strong signal to investors and the market.

The official approval was communicated to the bank on January 20, 2026.

## Details of the Reappointment

The reappointment follows a rigorous governance process involving the bank's internal committees before receiving the final regulatory nod from the RBI.

- Effective Date:** April 19, 2026.
- Tenure:** 3 Years (extending his term to April 2029).
- Designation:** Whole-time Director (Deputy Managing Director).

## BANKING/ECONOMY

### RBI Approves Reappointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Whole-Time Director of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the reappointment of **Kaizad Bharucha** as Whole-Time Director and Deputy

### Why Kaizad Bharucha is Central to HDFC Bank

Kaizad Bharucha is a career banker who has been a pillar of HDFC Bank for nearly three



decades (since 1995). His role is particularly critical in the following areas:

- Wholesale Banking:** He has been instrumental in building HDFC's massive corporate and wholesale banking franchise, which serves India's largest conglomerates and SMEs.
- Risk & Credit Management:** He is widely credited with maintaining the bank's pristine asset quality. In a sector often plagued by Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), his conservative yet growth-oriented credit oversight has kept HDFC Bank ahead of its peers.
- Post-Merger Integration:** Following the mega-merger of HDFC Ltd. into HDFC Bank, Bharucha has played a "steady" role, ensuring that the wholesale book and the newly added home loan assets are managed with high synergy.

high-performing banks, especially during periods where credit growth and deposit mobilization are under intense scrutiny.

Closing Date	Share Price (BSE)	Change
Jan 20, 2026	₹931.15	+0.38%

## Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. Who has been reappointed as the Whole-Time Director (Deputy Managing Director) of HDFC Bank in January 2026?

- A) Sashidhar Jagdoshan
- B) Kaizad Bharucha
- C) Atanu Chakraborty
- D) Aditya Puri

2. Which regulatory body is responsible for clearing leadership appointments and reappointments for private sector banks in India?

- A) SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) RBI (Reserve Bank of India)
- D) NITI Aayog

3. According to the announcement, HDFC Bank holds what status in India's banking landscape?

- A) Largest Public Sector Bank
- B) Largest Private Sector Bank

## Market and Regulatory Context

The RBI's "Fit and Proper" criteria for bank directors are exceptionally strict. An approval for another three-year term indicates:

- High Compliance Standards:** No major regulatory or governance concerns were identified under his previous tenure.
- Leadership Stability:** With Sashidhar Jagdoshan leading as CEO, having Bharucha as the Deputy ensures a consistent strategic vision for India's largest private lender.

## Market Reaction

Following the announcement on January 20, HDFC Bank shares showed a stable, positive trend. Markets generally reward "continuity" in

C) India's Central Bank

D) Only Digital-only Bank

**4. What is the primary significance of the RBI's approval for this reappointment?**

A) It marks the beginning of a merger with a public sector bank.

B) It reflects regulatory confidence and ensures management stability.

C) It signals a complete change in the bank's operational strategy.

D) It is a requirement for the bank to list on international stock exchanges.

brings to light complex regulatory and regional issues.



Here is a breakdown of the key factors behind the rejection and the current fallout:

**The Core Conflict: Airspace & National Security**

The MoD's refusal is rooted in the strategic importance of the Hosur region for India's aerospace sector.

- HAL's Operational Needs:** The airspace is used by HAL for test flights, aircraft assembly, and training exercises. These operations, often involving advanced military hardware like the **Tejas fighter jet**, require unrestricted and "sterile" airspace that civilian commercial traffic would disrupt.

- State vs. Centre Technical Dispute:** The Tamil Nadu government submitted a detailed feasibility report in November 2025, providing specific coordinates to prove the airport could operate without hindering HAL. However, the MoD maintained that civilian overlay would create unmanageable safety and operational risks.

**Answer Key**

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Kaizad Bharucha
2	C) RBI (Reserve Bank of India)
3	B) Largest Private Sector Bank
4	B) It reflects regulatory confidence and ensures management stability.

**STATE NEWS**

**Hosur Airport Proposal**

The recent rejection of the **Hosur International Airport** proposal by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in January 2026 has sparked significant debate. While the primary reason cited is the critical need for airspace by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, the decision also

## The "150-km Rule" Hurdle

In addition to the MoD's rejection, the project faces a major hurdle from the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** due to an existing agreement.

- BIAL Concession Agreement:** The agreement with **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** prohibits the construction of any new airport within a **150-km radius** of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) until 2033.
- The Saturation Clause:** Interestingly, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu recently clarified that this rule could be waived if the existing airport (KIA) reaches **saturation**. KIA handled 41 million passengers in FY25, and with a current capacity of 55 million, it could hit saturation within 3-4 years, potentially reopening a window for Hosur.

## Stakeholder Reactions

The rejection has triggered a wave of responses across the political and industrial landscape:

Stakeholder	Perspective
Local Farmers	Conversely, some local farmers in the 12 affected villages of Shoolagiri have protested against the 2,300-acre land acquisition.

## Project Specifications at a Glance

- Proposed Capacity:** 30 million passengers per annum (MPPA).
- Location:** Shoolagiri Taluk (approx. 40 km from Bengaluru's Electronics City).
- Land Requirement:** ~2,300 acres.
- Vision:** To serve as a cargo and passenger hub for the industrial belt of Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri.

## Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

1. Why did the Ministry of Defence (MoD) reject the proposal for the new airport at Hosur?

- A) Lack of environmental clearances.
- B) Proximity to the existing Kempegowda International Airport.
- C) Requirement of controlled airspace by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- D) Insufficient land allocation by the state government.

2. What is the proposed annual passenger capacity for the Hosur International Airport?

- A) 10 million passengers

Stakeholder	Perspective
Tamil Nadu Govt	Expressed "big disappointment"; Industries Minister TRB Rajaa noted that civil and defence airports co-exist in other Indian cities (like Pune or Srinagar).
DMK MP P. Wilson	Termed the 150-km rule "illegal" and "discriminatory," arguing it prioritizes private commercial interests over public development.
Industry Leaders	Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw called it a setback for residents of South Bengaluru, who would have benefited from a closer airport than KIA.



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B) 20 million passengers

C) 30 million passengers

D) 50 million passengers

3. In which specific taluk of Tamil Nadu is the proposed 2,300-acre project site located?

A) Shoolagiri

B) Hosur

C) Denkanikottai

D) Krishnagiri

4. When did the Tamil Nadu government previously seek airspace relaxation for this project, only to be rejected?

A) January 2024

B) June 2025

C) December 2025

D) January 2026

### Quick Summary Table

Feature	Details
Primary Reason for Rejection	HAL's need for controlled airspace
Proposed Size	2,300 acres
Capacity Goal	30 million passengers
Location	Shoolagiri taluk, Tamil Nadu

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

Q.1. India's electronics exports recently exceeded \$47 billion in 2025, driven by which sector?

A. Semiconductor exports

B. Laptop manufacturing

C. Smartphone exports under PLI

D. Consumer appliances

1. C

India's electronics exports are projected to grow to over \$47 billion by 2025. This is largely driven by smartphone manufacturing (especially iPhones), supported by the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the 'Make in India' initiative. This will make it India's third-largest export sector, contributing approximately \$30 billion.

### Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C (HAL requires the controlled airspace)
2	C (30 million passengers)
3	A (Shoolagiri)
4	B (June 2025)





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**Q.2. Which state recently approved the ₹4,775 crore Bembla River Irrigation Project?**

A. Madhya Pradesh

B. Maharashtra

C. Telangana

D. Chhattisgarh

2. B

The Maharashtra Cabinet has taken two important policy decisions aimed at rural development and youth employment. The Cabinet approved the ₹4,775 crore Bembla River Irrigation Project in Yavatmal district, which will provide permanent irrigation to a large area and increase agricultural yields and farmers' incomes. The state government also approved the creation of a new state agency, MAHIMA, to facilitate employment opportunities abroad for skilled youth. It will help connect Maharashtra's youth to the global labor market through skill mapping, coordination, and implementation.

waste (tailings) to reduce environmental pollution and ensure the safety of people living near mines, which is essential for the sustainable use of mineral resources.

**Q.4. India's first open-sea marine fish farming project recently began in which sea?**

A. Arabian Sea

B. Bay of Bengal

C. Andaman Sea

D. Lakshadweep Sea

4. C

India's first open-sea marine fish farming project has commenced operations in the Andaman Sea, launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh near North Bay, Sri Vijayapuram. This is a major step towards promoting India's blue economy. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NIOT (National Institute of Ocean Technology), and aims to generate employment and income by sustainably utilizing marine resources.

**Q.3. India's first tailings policy recently relates to which sector?**

A. Agricultural waste

B. Mining waste

C. Nuclear waste

D. Plastic waste

3. B

India's first Tailings Policy is related to the mining sector, which aims to create guidelines for the safe management and disposal of mining

**Q.5. Which RPF officer recently received the Indian Railways' highest award for preventing child trafficking?**

A. Rekha Sharma

B. Chandana Sinha

C. Alka Pandey

D. Neha Verma

5. B



Indian Railways has honored Chandana Sinha, a dedicated officer of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), with the Railways' highest award. She is being honored for her quiet but effective work in preventing child trafficking at railway stations and trains. Her efforts have saved the lives of hundreds of vulnerable children and highlight the railways' vital role in protecting minors during travel.

D. Olympic Council of Asia

7. C

Vijender Singh was recently appointed a member of the Asian Boxing Council, strengthening India's representation in the development and administration of Asian boxing. This appointment will allow him to shape the future of boxing on the continent, leveraging his experience at the highest level of the sport.

Q.8. In which city will India's largest trade festival 2026 be held?

A. Patna

B. Bhopal

C. Surat

D. New Delhi

8. D

India's largest trade festival, the 'Bharat Vyapar Mahotsav 2026', will be held from May 1-4, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organized by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), it aims to promote the vision of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global'.

Q.9. Which team recently won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time?

A. Saurashtra

B. Tamil Nadu

C. Vidarbha

D. Karnataka

9. C

Q.6. What rank did India recently receive in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026?

A. 4th

B. 5th

C. 6th

D. 7th

6. C

India ranked sixth in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026, demonstrating continued progress but also highlighting gaps in competitiveness. The ranking compares major Asian manufacturing economies based on key structural and policy indicators. While India remains a significant manufacturing destination, the index shows that strong reforms and rapid implementation are needed to keep pace with Asian countries.

Q.7. Vijender Singh was recently appointed a member of which organization?

A. International Boxing Federation

B. Boxing Federation of India

C. Asian Boxing Council

Vidarbha achieved a historic milestone in Indian domestic cricket by winning the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time. The team achieved this feat by defeating Saurashtra by 38 runs in the final in Bengaluru. Strong top-order batting and disciplined bowling helped Vidarbha win the prestigious List A title for the first time.

State Bank of India (SBI) recently signed MoUs with the Tamil Nadu government (for PSUs) and the Puducherry government to improve corporate salary packages. These agreements offer state employees enhanced benefits such as insurance, loan waivers, and family accounts. Similar agreements have also been signed with companies such as Konkan Railway and FCI.

**Q.10. Recently, the World Bank approved \$286 million for the health improvement program of which state?**

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam
- 10. C

The World Bank recently approved a \$286 million (approximately ₹2,380 crore) loan for the West Bengal State Health Reform Program. Its aim is to improve access and quality of health services in the state, particularly focusing on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and maternal and child health.

**Q.12. Recently, IGGEFIL, a subsidiary of IREDA, provided its first international loan in which sector?**

- A. Thermal Energy
- B. Nuclear Energy
- C. Green Energy
- D. Hydro Energy
- 12. C

IREDA subsidiary IGGEFIL (IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited) has approved its first international loan of \$22.5 million (approximately Rs 187 crore) for Swarna Solar Limited's 100 MW solar project in Zambia, marking a major step in global green financing. The loan was disbursed through the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City and will expand India's green financing reach beyond domestic borders.

**Q.13. In which country was the 17th trilateral Coast Guard exercise 'Dosti 17' between India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka recently held?**

- A. India
- B. Maldives
- C. Sri Lanka

**Q.11. Recently, SBI signed an MoU with which state government for corporate salary packages?**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- 11. B

D. None of these

13. B

The 17th trilateral Coast Guard Exercise 'Dosti-17' between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka was held in Male, the capital of Maldives, with the aim of strengthening maritime security and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

**Q.14. Who was recently reappointed as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank?**

A. Uday Kotak

B. Sandeep Bakhshi

C. Shaktikanta Das

D. Rajiv Sabharwal

14. B

Sandeep Bakhshi has been reappointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank. His term has been extended for a period of two years from October 4, 2026 to October 3, 2028, as approved by the bank's Board of Directors in January 2026.

**Q.15. Which city will host India's first city-led initiative to promote climate action as a fundamental right of children?**

A. Mumbai

B. Kochi

C. Bhopal

D. Patna

15. A

Mumbai Climate Week 2026 is set to be a landmark urban climate event, showcasing

climate action through a children's rights lens. This three-day event, taking place from February 17th to 19th, is India's first city-led initiative focusing on citizen-based climate solutions, prioritizing the participation of children and youth. The event aims not only to discuss the climate crisis but also to offer a practical model that integrates social justice, local governance, and youth leadership.

## FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

The **Nagarjuna Sagar Dam** stands as one of the most significant engineering marvels of post-independence India. Your historical note about the **1903 survey** highlights a fascinating and often overlooked chapter: while the dam was built by a young Indian republic, its "architectural soul" was conceived much earlier during the colonial and princely era.

Here is a closer look at the historical timeline and the technical scale of this "modern temple":

### The 1903 Survey: A Royal Vision

You are correct that the roots of the project trace back to **1903**. The **Nizam of Hyderabad** (Mir Mahbub Ali Khan) was the first to recognize the potential of the Krishna River's surplus water.

- The British Involvement:** The Nizam engaged British engineers to conduct the initial surveys to investigate sites for a massive reservoir.
- The "Nandikonda" Connection:** At the time, the project was known as the **Nandikonda**



Project, named after the village that would eventually be submerged by the dam.

- The Delay:** Despite the early survey, the project stalled for decades due to lack of funding and political disagreements between the **Hyderabad State** and the **Madras Presidency**. It wasn't until the persistent lobbying of local leaders like the **Raja of Muktyala** (who donated substantial land and wealth) that the project gained the momentum needed for its 1955 inauguration.

## Technical and Operational Profile

Today, the dam is a critical lifeline for agriculture in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Feature	Specification
Dam Type	Masonry Dam (World's largest at the time of construction)
Height	150 meters (490 feet)
Length	1.6 kilometers (0.99 miles)
Spillway Gates	26 Gates (Each 42ft wide and 45ft tall)
Storage Capacity	11.472 Billion Cubic Metres (312 TMC)
Irrigation Reach	Over 1 million acres on both Right and Left canals

## The Two Canals:

- Jawahar Canal (Right):** Primarily serves the Guntur and Prakasam districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri Canal (Left):** Primarily serves the Nalgonda, Khammam, and Krishna districts in Telangana and AP.

## Cultural Preservation: Nagarjunakonda

One of the most poignant aspects of the dam's construction was the submergence of **Nagarjunakonda**, once a flourishing capital of the **Ikshvaku Dynasty** and a renowned Buddhist center.

- The Rescue:** In an unprecedented archaeological effort, monuments and Buddhist relics were excavated and relocated to higher ground.
- The Island Museum:** Today, these treasures are housed in an **island museum** situated in the middle of the reservoir, which remains one of the only "island museums" in the world.

## Recent Context (2025-2026)

Following the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (2014)**, the management of the dam has often been a point of high-level administrative discussion. As of **2026**, the dam remains under the supervision of the **Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)**, ensuring that water release for both states is balanced according to seasonal requirements.





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## Quick Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

D) 1947

1. The Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is constructed across which river?

- A) Godavari
- B) Kaveri
- C) Krishna
- D) Tungabhadra

5. How many flood gates does the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam feature?

- A) 12
- B) 18
- C) 26
- D) 32

2. Between which two Indian states does the dam serve as a border?

- A) Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- B) Telangana and Maharashtra
- C) Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

## Quick Technical Summary

Feature	Detail
Type	Masonry Dam
Height	490 feet (150 m)
Length	0.99 miles (1.6 km)
Construction Period	1955 – 1967

3. What is the gross storage capacity of the reservoir created by the dam?

- A) 5.500 billion cubic metres
- B) 9.125 billion cubic metres
- C) 11.472 billion cubic metres
- D) 15.000 billion cubic metres

4. In what year did the initial survey work for the dam begin under the direction of the Nizam?

- A) 1955
- B) 1967
- C) 1903





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We wish best for your studies & Exams

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