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**NATIONAL NEWS**

**PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Namu Bharat RRTS Launched On This Corridor**



On **February 22, 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the final sections of the **82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor**, officially making the entire route operational. This milestone marks the completion of India's first **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)**, designed to bridge the gap between regional travel and urban commuting.

**The "Same Track, Same Station" Innovation**

The most revolutionary aspect of this project is the **integrated transit model** in Meerut. For the first time in India:

- **Infrastructure Sharing:** Both the **Namu Bharat (RRTS)** trains and the **Meerut Metro** operate on the same tracks and use the same stations within Meerut city.
- **Seamless Transfer:** Passengers can switch between the high-speed regional rail (Delhi to Meerut) and the local metro (within Meerut) from the **same platform**, eliminating the need to exit and re-enter the station.

**Key Features of the Corridor**

Feature	Namo Bharat (RRTS)	Meerut Metro
Primary Purpose	High-speed inter-city travel	Frequent intra-city commuting
Design Speed	$180 \text{ km/h}$	$135 \text{ km/h}$
Top Operational Speed	$160 \text{ km/h}$	$120 \text{ km/h}$
Total Route	Sarai Kale Khan (Delhi) to Modipuram (Meerut)	Meerut South to Modipuram
Travel Time	Delhi to Meerut in < 60 minutes	Across Meerut city in ~30 minutes

**Significance for Urban Mobility**

- **Multi-Modal Integration:** The Sarai Kale Khan hub in Delhi now connects the RRTS with the Delhi Metro Pink Line, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, and the ISBT.
- **Economic Impact:** By reducing travel time from several hours to under 60 minutes, the corridor supports the "Twin Cities" vision, allowing people to live in Meerut and work in Delhi comfortably.
- **Sustainability:** The project is expected to significantly reduce road congestion on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway and lower vehicular CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the NCR.

**Note:** The Meerut Metro is now officially India's fastest metro system, reaching speeds of  $120 \text{ km/h}$ , nearly double the average speed of standard metro lines.

**Knowledge Check for Proficiency**

**1. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate India's first Namu Bharat Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) in February 2026?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Meerut
- C) Ghaziabad
- D) Noida

**Answer: B) Meerut**

**2. What is the unique feature of the Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor?**

- A) It is the slowest rail system in India.
- B) It uses underground tunnels only.
- C) Rapid rail and Metro services operate on the same track and station.
- D) It is only for cargo transport.

**Answer: C) Rapid rail and Metro services operate on the same track and station.**

**3. The Namu Bharat project is an integrated transport model designed for:**

- A) Only international travel
- B) Only freight and goods
- C) Both intra-city and inter-city travel
- D) Only rural connectivity

**Answer: C) Both intra-city and inter-city travel**

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Vice-President Launches Tamil & Gujarati Versions of Constitution



The release of these updated editions on International Mother Language Day (February 21st) is a significant step toward "Legal Literacy" for all. By translating the supreme law of the land into Tamil and Gujarati, the government is ensuring that the foundational rights and duties of a citizen are not locked behind a language barrier.

#### Key Highlights of the Release

- **Multilingual Governance:** The Vice President emphasized that the Constitution is not just a legal document but a living framework that should be understood by every citizen in their *Mathrubhasha* (mother tongue).
- **Legal Glossary (8th Edition):** The English-Hindi glossary is a critical tool for the judiciary and administration. It standardizes legal terminology, ensuring that complex English legal concepts are translated into Hindi without losing their precise meaning.
- **Democratic Empowerment:** Making the Constitution accessible in regional languages encourages deeper participation

in the democratic process, as citizens can better understand their constitutional protections.

#### Why This Matters

Point	Significance
<b>Linguistic Heritage</b>	Recognizes that Indian languages are repositories of ancient wisdom and cultural identity.
<b>National Strength</b>	Unlike many nations that enforce a single language, India views its 22 scheduled languages as a collective strength.
<b>Global Precedent</b>	India is among the few countries in the world to offer its primary legal text in such a wide array of official languages.

#### The Eighth Schedule Context

The Constitution itself protects this diversity through the **Eighth Schedule**, which currently recognizes 22 languages. These new editions in Tamil and Gujarati represent the ongoing effort to fulfill the spirit of **Article 351** and **Article 344(1)**, which promote the spread and enrichment of India's linguistic fabric.

"Language is the soul of a culture. By bringing the Constitution to the doorstep of the people in their own language, we are strengthening the soul of our democracy." — *Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan*

#### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. On which occasion did Vice President C P Radhakrishnan release the updated Tamil and Gujarati editions of the Constitution?**

- A) Republic Day
- B) International Mother Language Day

C) Independence Day

D) Constitution Day

**Answer: B) International Mother Language Day**

**2. Along with the Tamil and Gujarati editions of the Constitution, which other document was released?**

A) The 8th Edition of the Legal Glossary (English-Hindi)

B) The New Education Policy manual

C) A history of Indian Languages

D) The Digital India Handbook

**Answer: A) The 8th Edition of the Legal Glossary (English-Hindi)**

**3. What is the primary aim of providing the Constitution in various regional languages?**

A) To increase the weight of the document

B) To make constitutional knowledge accessible and strengthen democratic participation

C) To replace English as the official language

D) To limit the Constitution to specific states

**Answer: B) To make constitutional knowledge accessible and strengthen democratic participation**

**Summary Table: Languages of the Constitution**

Language	Edition Released	Venue
Tamil	Updated Edition	Uprashtrapati Bhavan
Gujarati	Updated Edition	Uprashtrapati Bhavan

Language	Edition Released	Venue
English-Hindi	8th Legal Glossary	Uprashtrapati Bhavan

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India-Brazil Seal 10 Big Deals



This meeting marks a significant strengthening of the **Strategic Partnership** between India and Brazil, two of the largest democracies and economies in the Global South. The discussions held at Hyderabad House emphasize a shift from traditional trade to high-tech and resource-based cooperation.

#### Overview of the India-Brazil Summit

Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** formalised their commitment through **ten key agreements**. The central goal is to diversify their bilateral relationship, which has historically been dominated by agriculture and energy, into more technical and strategic sectors.

**Economic Ambitions**

The leaders set a specific, time-bound target for economic growth:

- **Current Target:** Surpass **\$20 billion** in bilateral trade.
- **Timeline:** Within the next **five years**.
- **Focus Areas:** Trade, defense, health, technology, and critical minerals.

**Key Strategic Pillars**

**1. Digital Governance & Infrastructure**

India aims to share its successful "**India Stack**" model with Brazil. This includes:

- **Digital Governance:** Sharing experiences in implementing large-scale e-governance tools to improve transparency.
- **Digital Identity:** Promoting systems similar to *Aadhaar* to streamline citizen services.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Leveraging UPI-like instant payment technologies to bring more citizens into the formal banking system.

**2. Technology & Global South Leadership**

Both nations are positioning themselves as leaders of the **Global South**.

- They committed to strengthening **technology collaboration** to reduce dependency on Western-centric tech hubs.
- Joint efforts will focus on affordable healthcare solutions and vaccine research.

**3. Critical Minerals & Defense**

- **Critical Minerals:** Cooperation in the exploration and processing of minerals like

Lithium and Cobalt, which are essential for the green energy transition (EV batteries).

- **Defense:** Enhancing military-to-military ties and exploring joint production of defense hardware.

**Summary Table: Sectors of Cooperation**

Sector	Primary Objective
Trade	Reach \$20B+ volume via diversified exports.
Digital Tech	Implement digital ID and financial inclusion systems.
Critical Minerals	Secure supply chains for semiconductors and EVs.
Health	Collaborative R&D in pharmaceuticals and medical tech.
Defense	Strengthen strategic ties and hardware collaboration.

**Knowledge Check for Proficiency**

**1. How many key agreements were signed between India and Brazil during the meeting at Hyderabad House?**

- A) Five
- B) Seven
- C) Ten
- D) Twelve

**Answer: C) Ten**

**2. What is the bilateral trade target set by Prime Minister Modi and President Lula da Silva to be achieved within five years?**

- A) Over \$10 billion
- B) Over \$20 billion
- C) Over \$50 billion
- D) Over \$100 billion

**Answer: B) Over \$20 billion**

**3. In which specific area did India commit to sharing its experience to promote financial inclusion?**

- A) Space exploration
- B) Digital governance and identity systems
- C) Traditional farming
- D) Maritime security

**Answer: B) Digital governance and identity systems**

**Key Sectors of Cooperation**

Sector	Focus Area
Technology	Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Global South collaboration
Economy	Increasing trade to \$20B+
Resources	Critical Minerals & Health
Security	Defense cooperation

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Harsharan Kaur Trehan Becomes PSPCL's First Woman Director**



This is a landmark moment for Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) and a significant step forward for gender representation in India's energy sector. Harsharan Kaur Trehan's appointment breaks a long-standing "glass ceiling" within one of the country's major public utilities.

**Key Appointment Details**

- **Appointee:** Harsharan Kaur Trehan
- **Position:** Director (Commercial)
- **Organization:** Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL)
- **Effective Date:** February 2026
- **Headquarters:** Patiala, Punjab
- **Tenure:** Two Years

**Why This Is a Historic Milestone**

**1. First Woman Technocrat at Board Level**

While women have served in administrative and HR roles, Trehan is the **first woman technocrat**

(an official with high-level technical expertise) to reach the Board of Directors at PSPCL. This highlights a shift toward recognizing technical merit regardless of gender in the engineering-heavy power sector.

## 2. Strategic Leadership in the Commercial Wing

As Director (Commercial), she will oversee critical areas that directly impact the utility's financial health, including:

- **Power Procurement:** Managing the buying of electricity to meet state demand.
- **Tariff Management:** Handling electricity pricing and regulatory compliance.
- **Revenue Protection:** Reducing transmission and distribution losses.

## Impact on India's Public Sector Utilities

Aspect	Significance
<b>Breaking Barriers</b>	Sets a precedent for other State Power Utilities (DISCOMs) to promote women to technical leadership.
<b>Regional Leadership</b>	Strengthens Punjab's position in promoting diverse leadership in infrastructure.
<b>Expertise-Driven</b>	Reinforces the importance of promoting long-term technical veterans to decision-making roles.

## About PSPCL

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited is the state-owned power generating and distributing company of the Government of Punjab. It plays a pivotal role in managing the energy needs of millions of consumers across the state, including the critical agricultural sector.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Who has been appointed as the Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) in February 2026?**

- A) Ravinder Singh
- B) Harsharan Kaur Trehan
- C) Baldev Singh Sran
- D) Preeti Kaur

**Answer: B) Harsharan Kaur Trehan**

**2. What is the historic significance of Harsharan Kaur Trehan's appointment at PSPCL?**

- A) She is the youngest director in the history of PSPCL.
- B) She is the first woman technocrat to reach the board level in PSPCL.
- C) She is the first person from outside Punjab to hold the post.
- D) She is the first private sector employee to be appointed.

**Answer: B) She is the first woman technocrat to reach the board level in PSPCL.**

**3. What is the tenure for which Harsharan Kaur Trehan has assumed charge?**

- A) One year
- B) Two years
- C) Three years
- D) Five years

**Answer: B) Two years**

**Quick Summary Table**

Key Detail	Information
Appointee	Harsharan Kaur Trehan
Designation	Director (Commercial)
Organization	PSPCL (Punjab State Power Corporation Limited)
Headquarters	Patiala
Tenure	2 Years

- **Shooting:** A perfect 20-for-20 performance in gusty conditions.
- **Time:** 39 minutes, 17.1 seconds.
- **Significance:** This officially broke the previous record of 16 gold medals (also held by Norway, set at Beijing 2022).

**Final Medal Tally: Milan Cortina 2026**

Norway didn't stop at 17. They finished the Games as the undisputed champions, setting new all-time benchmarks for both gold and total medals at a single Winter Olympics.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Norway	18	12	11	41
2	United States	12	12	9	33
3	Netherlands	10	7	3	20
4	Italy (Host)	10	6	14	30

**SPORTS**

**Norway Breaks Winter Olympics Record**



That is an incredible piece of history! Norway's performance at the **2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics** was nothing short of legendary. By the time the Games concluded on February 22, 2026, they hadn't just reached 17 golds—they actually pushed the bar even higher.

**The Record-Breaking Moment**

On February 20, 2026, **Johannes Dale-Skjevdal** secured Norway's **17th gold medal** in the biathlon men's 15km mass start. His performance was textbook:

**Key Highlights of Norway's Dominance**

- **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo:** The cross-country skiing star was a force of nature, winning **six gold medals** at these Games alone. This performance made him the most decorated Winter Olympian of all time, surpassing legends like Bjørn Dæhlie and Marit Bjørgen.
- **Total Medal Record:** By finishing with **41 total medals**, Norway also broke their own record of 39 total medals from the 2018 PyeongChang Games.
- **Biathlon Prowess:** Dale-Skjevdal's gold was part of a broader Norwegian sweep, where teammates like **Sturla Holm Lægreid** (who

took silver in that same mass start) also reached individual milestones.

It's safe to say Norway has cemented its status as the "G.O.A.T." of winter sports.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Which country broke the record for the most gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics in 2026?**

- A) Germany
- B) Norway
- C) USA
- D) Canada

**Answer: B) Norway**

**2. At which Winter Olympics did Norway achieve the historic milestone of 17 gold medals?**

- A) Beijing 2022
- B) Pyeongchang 2018
- C) Milan Cortina 2026
- D) Sochi 2014

**Answer: C) Milan Cortina 2026**

**3. Who secured the record-breaking 17th gold medal for Norway?**

- A) Johannes Thingnes Bø
- B) Erling Haaland
- C) Johannes Dale-Skjevdal
- D) Casper Ruud

**Answer: C) Johannes Dale-Skjevdal**

**4. In which sporting event was the 17th gold medal won?**

- A) Ski Jumping
- B) Biathlon men's 15-kilometer mass start
- C) Cross-country skiing
- D) Speed Skating

**Answer: B) Biathlon men's 15-kilometer mass start**

### Quick Fact Table

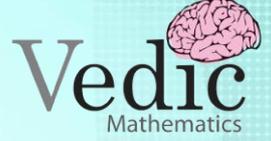
Category	Detail
New Record	17 Gold Medals
Previous Record Holder	Norway (16 Golds in 2022)
Key Athlete	Johannes Dale-Skjevdal
Venue	Milan Cortina, Italy



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## BANKING/ECONOMY

### PhonePe Launches AI-Powered Natural Language Search with Microsoft Foundry



That is correct. In February 2026, PhonePe officially launched this AI-powered natural language search, marking a significant step toward intent-driven fintech in India. Developed in collaboration with Microsoft Foundry, the tool effectively moves the user experience away from traditional "button-mashing" and into a more fluid, conversational flow.

Here is a breakdown of how this new feature functions and its key highlights:

#### Key Features and Capabilities

- Direct Action Routing:** Instead of navigating through multiple menus, users can use commands like "Pay Hemant 20 rupees" or "Recharge FASTag." The AI automatically opens the correct payment screen with the recipient or service pre-selected.
- Comprehensive Task Management:** Beyond just payments, it handles queries like "Show my gold balance" or "Check electricity bill," and can even route users to customer support if it detects a problem-solving intent.

- Multi-Modal Input:** The feature supports both voice and text, making it accessible for users in various environments or those who prefer speaking over typing.

#### Technology and Privacy

- Microsoft Foundry Integration:** The tool leverages Microsoft's specialized AI infrastructure (including Azure OpenAI capabilities) to interpret complex natural language and map it to specific app actions.
- Hybrid AI Model:** To ensure speed and security, the system uses a hybrid inferencing model. This processes some data locally on your device while using the cloud for more complex intent mapping.
- Privacy-First Design:** A major talking point of the launch was that no personal or transactional data leaves the PhonePe environment, addressing common concerns about AI and financial privacy.

#### Why It Matters

This launch coincided with the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, signaling a broader industry shift. For PhonePe—which is currently eyeing an IPO later in 2026—this move helps differentiate the app from competitors like Google Pay and Paytm by lowering the barrier to entry for less tech-savvy users.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which platform was used to build PhonePe's new AI-powered natural language search feature?

- A) Google Vertex AI
- B) Microsoft Foundry

- C) Amazon Bedrock  
D) OpenAI Azure
- 2. What is the primary shift in user experience introduced by this new tool?**
- A) From text-based to icon-based navigation  
B) From menu-based to intent-driven interactions  
C) From biometrics to password-only access  
D) From digital to physical payment tokens

- 3. According to the announcement in February 2026, which of the following tasks can users perform using the new AI feature?**
- A) Recharge and pay bills  
B) Track transactions  
C) Navigate the app via voice commands  
D) All of the above

- 4. What are the three core pillars PhonePe aims to achieve with this conversational interface?**
- A) Speed, Low-cost, and Global Reach  
B) Intuitive, Secure, and Personalized  
C) Offline, Anonymous, and Automated  
D) Gamified, Social, and Rewards-focused

**Answer Key**

Question	Answer
1	B) Microsoft Foundry
2	B) From menu-based to intent-driven interactions

Question	Answer
3	D) All of the above
4	B) Intuitive, Secure, and Personalized

**STATE NEWS**

**Champions of Tamil Nadu Sports Event 2026**



The 'Champions of Tamil Nadu' event held in Chennai marked a significant milestone, celebrating five years of the state's sporting excellence with major welfare and infrastructure announcements.

Here are the key highlights from the event:

**Government Employment & Quota**

- Job Appointments:** Over 175 sportspersons officially received appointment orders for government positions.
- Sports Quota:** These appointments were facilitated under the 3% sports quota reserved for athletes in government employment.

- **Inclusivity:** Notably, **50 para-athletes** were among those who secured government job placements, highlighting the state's commitment to inclusive sporting growth.

A) 25

B) 50

C) 75

D) 100

#### Financial Incentives

- **Reward Total:** A massive sum of **₹33.5 crore** was distributed in cash incentives.
- **Beneficiaries:** The rewards were awarded to **1,172 sportspersons** in recognition of their various achievements on national and international stages.

**3. What was the total amount of incentives awarded to the 1,172 sportspersons at the event?**

A) ₹ 15.5 crore

B) ₹ 25.0 crore

C) ₹ 33.5 crore

D) ₹ 45.2 crore

#### Infrastructure Development

- **International Sports City:** The foundation stone was laid for the ambitious **International Sports City** project in Chennai.
- **Investment:** The project is valued at **₹261 crore** and is expected to provide world-class training facilities, stadiums, and sports science centers to nurture future talent.

**4. Where was the foundation stone laid for the new ₹261 crore International Sports City project?**

A) Madurai

B) Coimbatore

C) Chennai

D) Tiruchirappalli

#### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. What is the percentage of the sports quota under which over 175 sportspersons received government job appointments?**

A) 1%

B) 2%

C) 3%

D) 5%

**2. How many para-athletes were among the sportspersons receiving government job appointment orders?**

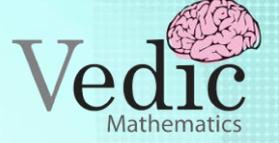
#### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	C) 3%
2	B) 50
3	C) ₹ 33.5 crore
4	C) Chennai

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

**Q.1. Which organization recently lifted the ban on Russian athletes for the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics?**

- A. IOC
- B. IPC
- C. FIFA
- D. WADA

1. B

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has lifted the ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes from participating in the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympic Games. In September 2025, the IPC reinstated the membership of both countries, allowing athletes to compete in the 2026 Games under their national flags and anthems, rather than a neutral flag, albeit with limited quota slots.

**Q.2. How many generative AI use cases have public sector banks recently implemented under EASE 8.0?**

- A. 16
- B. 24
- C. 32
- D. 40

2. C

Under the EASE 8.0 program, seven public sector banks have launched 32 generative AI applications. These applications are being used

in operational and lending processes. This is part of an ongoing reform cycle aimed at advancing technology, governance, and risk control within government institutions.

**Q.3. What mode of toll payment will be available on national highways from April 1, 2026?**

- A. Cash only
- B. FASTag only
- C. FASTag & UPI
- D. Credit Card

3. C

Toll payments on national highways will be entirely digital, specifically through FASTag and UPI, starting April 1, 2026. The NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) is preparing to eliminate cash payments at its more than 1,150 toll plazas across the country to reduce traffic congestion and promote digital transactions.

**Q.4. Axis Bank recently partnered with which airline to launch a co-branded credit card?**

- A. Air India
- B. Vistara
- C. Akasa Air
- D. IndiGo

4. D

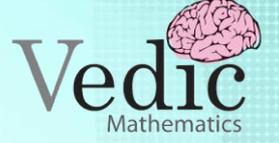
Axis Bank, in partnership with IndiGo, has launched a new range of co-branded credit cards. The card aims to enhance travel rewards and strengthen customer engagement through loyalty-based spending. The launch includes two variants, the IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card



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and the IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card, designed to target different customer segments.

**Q.5. In which district will the recently proposed new international airport in Bihar be built?**

- A. Gaya
- B. Patna
- C. Saran
- D. Muzaffarpur

5. C

The proposed new international (greenfield) airport in Bihar will be built in Sonpur, Saran district. The airport will be built on approximately 4,200 acres in the Dariyapur Chanwar area between Hajipur and Dumaria, about 15 km from Patna, and is targeted for completion by 2030.

**Q.6. With which company did the Gujarat government recently sign an MoU for the AI data center project?**

- A. TCS
- B. Infosys
- C. L&T Vyoma
- D. Wipro

6. C

The Gujarat government has signed a landmark agreement with Larsen & Abro Vyoma to build a large AI data center in the Dholera Special Investment Region. The agreement was signed at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi in the presence of the state's Science and Technology Minister, Arjun Modhwadia.

**Q.7. The recent 10% global tariff was imposed under Section 122 of which US law?**

- A. IEEPA
- B. Trade Act 1974
- C. NAFTA
- D. WTO Agreement

7. D

US President Donald Trump imposed a new global tariff of 10% (later raised to 15%) under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. This move came after the Supreme Court declared the previous tariffs invalid.

**Q.8. ICICI's 'Health Pension Scheme' was recently launched under the sandbox of which organization?**

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. IRDAI
- D. PFRDA

8. D

ICICI Pension Funds Management Company announced the launch of a new pension plan, 'ICICI PF NPS Health Equity Plus', under the National Pension System (NPS). The plan has been developed as a proof-of-concept under the regulatory sandbox framework of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

**Q.9. What was the core sector growth in January 2026?**

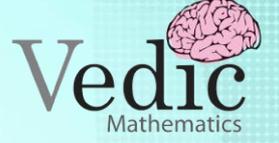
A. 3%



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B. 4%

C. 5%

D. 6%

9. B

Growth in India's eight core sectors slowed to 4.0% (provisional) in January 2026, down from the revised 4.7% in December 2025. Despite strong production, especially cement (10.7%) and steel (9.9%), overall growth was slowed by declines in crude oil and natural gas production.

**Q.10. What is the new base year for India's trade indices?**

A. 2015-16

B. 2018-19

C. 2020-21

D. 2022-23

10. D

The Government of India has changed the base year for India's Merchandise Trade Index from 2012-13 to 2022-23. This change aims to improve the relevance, reliability, and analytical use of trade statistics to provide more accurate information to policymakers, researchers, and industry. The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) initiated this change due to major structural changes in the economy and global trade patterns over the past decade.

**Q.11. Who recently became the new CEO of Microsoft Gaming (Xbox)?**

A. Pichai

B. Asha Sharma

C. Satya Nadella

D. Nadine Song

11. B

Microsoft has appointed Indian-origin Asha Sharma as the new executive vice president and CEO of its gaming division. She will replace Phil Spencer, who is retiring after nearly four decades with Microsoft Gaming.

**Q.12. Who recently became the first female Director (Commercial) of PSPCL?**

A. Ritu Arora

B. Harsharan Kaur Trehan

C. Neelam Kaur

D. Meena Gupta

12. B

Harsharan Kaur Trehan has been appointed Director (Commercial) at Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL). With this appointment, she becomes the first female technocrat to reach the board level at PSPCL. She held this position for two years at the corporation's Patiala headquarters, marking a major milestone for women's leadership in India's public sector power utilities.

**Q.13. What was India's rank in the recent Global AI Brain Race Report 2026?**

A. 4th

B. 5th

C. 6th

D. 7th

13. C



According to a new international study, the US tops the Global AI Brain Race Report 2026, followed by China and Singapore, while India is ranked sixth. The report evaluates more than 100 countries using a structured framework that measures AI research and development, infrastructure, economic integration, talent preparation, governance, responsible AI practices, public opinion, and academic potential. The results reveal a clear trend: countries that have built integrated AI ecosystems are leading the global artificial intelligence race.

**Q.14. Where was the indigenous Td vaccine recently launched?**

- A. Pune
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Kasauli
- D. Chennai

14. C

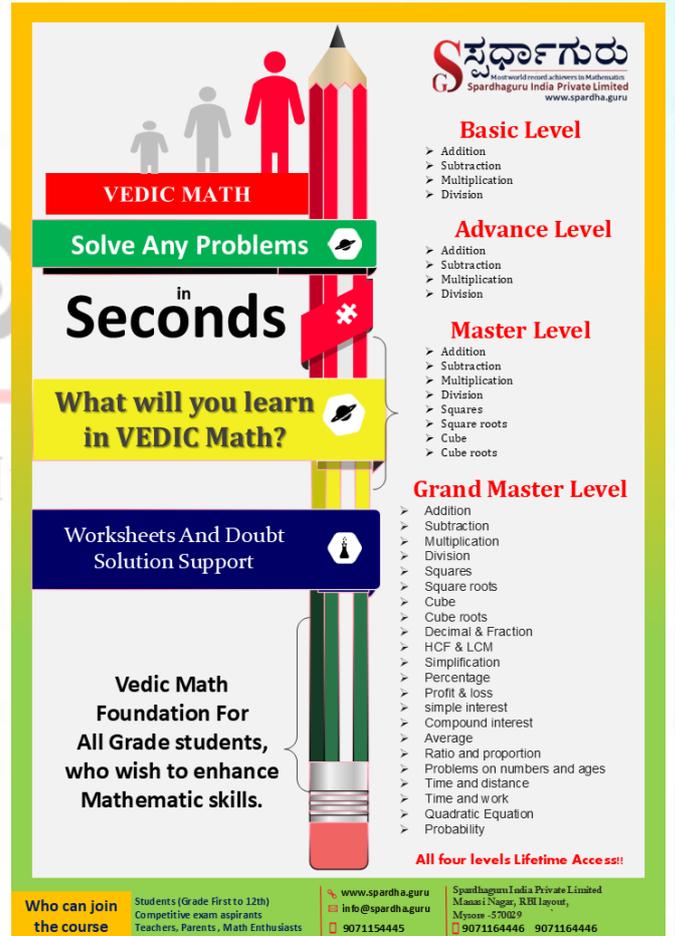
Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the indigenous tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI) in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The vaccine is designed to be included in the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) to increase self-reliance in vaccine production.

**Q.15. Which country did the USA defeat in the recent 2026 Women's Hockey Olympic final?**

- A. Germany
- B. Sweden
- C. Canada
- D. Norway

15. C

The United States defeated Canada 2-1 in the women's ice hockey final in Milan to win the Olympic gold medal. The victory marked the United States' third Olympic gold medal in the sport and its first since 2018. The loss also dashed Canada's hopes of repeating its 2022 victory. The final once again showcased the depth of one of the most exciting competitions in international sports.



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- > Square roots
- > Cube
- > Cube roots

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- > Multiplication
- > Division
- > Squares
- > Square roots
- > Cube
- > Cube roots
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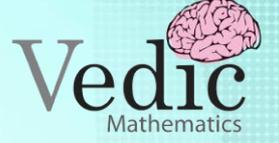
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## FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

That is a fantastic summary of Bharat's global standing! It perfectly captures the blend of ancient heritage and modern-day scale.

To add a bit more "flavor" to your facts, here are a few more unique highlights about India:

### Global Superlatives

- **The Kumbh Mela:** This spiritual gathering is so large that the crowds are visible from space.
- **Floating Post Office:** To match that "largest postal network" title, India even has a floating post office in Dal Lake, Srinagar.
- **Shampoo's Origins:** The word and the concept of 'shampoo' originated in India (derived from the Sanskrit word *champu*, meaning to massage).

### Historical Milestones

- **The Concept of Zero:** Indian mathematician **Aryabhata** is credited with the invention of zero, which revolutionized global mathematics and science.
- **Oldest Living City:** **Varanasi** is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

### Cultural & Economic Impact

- **Yoga & Ayurveda:** India is the birthplace of these holistic wellness systems that are now practiced by millions globally.
- **Global Pharma:** India is often called the "Pharmacy of the World" because it is the largest provider of generic medicines globally.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Based on the provided text, what is India's current global ranking in terms of population?**

- A) Second most populous
- B) Third most populous
- C) Most populous (over 1.4 billion)
- D) Fourth most populous

**2. The roots of India's 5,000-year-old history are traced back to which ancient civilization?**

- A) Mesopotamian Civilization
- B) Indus Valley Civilization
- C) Egyptian Civilization
- D) Mayan Civilization

**3. In terms of global infrastructure and demographics, India holds which of the following records?**

- A) Largest railway network and youngest population
- B) Largest postal network and largest vegetarian population
- C) Most airports and highest literacy rate
- D) Largest coastline and most islands

**4. India is recognized globally as the world's largest:**

- A) Monarchy

B) Authoritarian State

C) Democracy

D) Theocracy

**Answer Key**

Question	Correct Answer
1	C) Most populous (over 1.4 billion)
2	B) Indus Valley Civilization
3	B) Largest postal network and largest vegetarian population
4	C) Democracy

**Dear Aspirants,**

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**Best Wishes**

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