

## National News & Government Schemes

### • 'Make in India' Completes 12 Years of Implementation:

- **Context:** On 25 September 2026, the flagship 'Make in India' initiative completed 12 years since its official launch on 25 September 2014.
- **Key Highlights:**
- **Make in India 2.0:** Expanded focus across 27 sectors, comprising 15 manufacturing sectors and 12 service sectors.
- **Key Milestones:** Electronics production expanded nearly sevenfold between FY 2014-15 and FY 2025-26. Domestic defense production reached ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.
- **Supporting Ecosystem:** Key enabling policies include the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, National Single Window System (NSWS), and India Industrial Land Bank.
- **PFRDA Issues Operational Guidelines for NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme:**
  - **Context:** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), invoking powers under Section 14 of the PFRDA Act, 2013, released framework guidelines for the NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme.
  - **Key Details:**
  - **Concept:** Integrates retirement savings with health insurance coverage.
  - **Coverage:** Designed as a family floater scheme covering the subscriber, spouse, and up to two dependent children (excluding parents).

- **Age Limits:** Entry age ranges from 18 to 70 years, with renewal option extended up to age 85.
- **Components:** Structured into two primary tiers—an NPS Swasthya Investment Account and a Super Top-up Health Insurance Policy.
- **MSDE Approves ₹320 Crore Kurukshetra ITI Cluster under PM-SETU:**
  - The National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) approved a ₹320 crore Strategic Investment Plan for the **Kurukshetra ITI Cluster** in Haryana.
  - **Scheme:** Approved under the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** to modernize industrial training institutes and align TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) with industry 4.0 standards.
- **NITI Aayog Releases India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025-26:**
  - Published in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI) India.
  - **Rankings:**
  - **Overall Top Performer:** Union Territory of **Delhi** topped the overall index with a score of 84.
  - **Large States Category:** **Maharashtra** ranked 1st, followed by **Karnataka** (2nd) and **Tamil Nadu** (3rd).
  - **Hilly & Northeastern States:** **Manipur** secured 1st position (score 46), followed by Tripura and Assam.

## International News

- **OAG Global Airport Connectivity Megahubs Index 2026:**



- **Top Global International Megahub: Istanbul Airport (IST)**, Turkiye ranked #1 in global connectivity with connections to 337 international destinations.
- **Follow-up Rankings:** London Heathrow Airport (LHR, UK) ranked 2nd, while Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS, Netherlands) ranked 3rd.
- **Low-Cost Megahubs Ranking:** Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL), Malaysia secured the 1st position with nearly 15,000 low-cost connections across 154 destinations.
- **IEA Electrification Special Report 2026:**
  - The International Energy Agency (IEA) projected that India's overall electrification rate will rise from **19% to 32% by 2035**.
  - **Key Drivers:** Rapid adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs), expansion of electric mass transit, and policy push towards clean energy transition, reducing energy import costs by up to 30%.
- **Top Wealth Holder: Gautam Adani & family** topped the list with an estimated net worth of **₹9.23 lakh crore**, followed by Mukesh Ambani & family.
- **Entertainment & Sports Segment: Shah Rukh Khan & family** led with a net valuation of ₹10,000 crore.
- **City Breakdown: Mumbai** recorded the highest concentration of individuals on the list with 465 entries, followed by New Delhi and Bengaluru.
- **ICAI Notifies Standard on Sustainability Assurance (SSA) 5000:**
  - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) issued **SSA 5000** (General Requirements & Framework for Sustainability Assurance Engagements).
  - **Alignment:** Aligns national reporting guidelines with the International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000 issued by the IAASB to mitigate greenwashing and ensure verified ESG reporting.

## Economics, Banking & Financial News

- **India's REIT Market Overtakes Hong Kong to Become 4th Largest in Asia:**
  - **Context:** The valuation of India's Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) market reached **\$17.7 Billion**, overtaking Hong Kong to become the **4th largest REIT market in Asia**.
  - **Regulatory Action:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised valuation and capital allocation directions for REITs and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) held by All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).
- **M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026 Released:**

## Defense & Security News

- **DRDO & Zero mK India Sign Deep Tech Pact under TDF Scheme:**
  - **Context:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed a high-value deep-tech agreement under its Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme with Zero mK India Pvt. Ltd.
  - **Objective:** Indigenously design and construct a **20 mK (millikelvin) Dilution Refrigerator** for quantum computing applications.
  - **Significance:** Directly supports the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** by providing sub-kelvin cryogenic infrastructure (0.02 Kelvin near absolute zero) to operate quantum

processors without reliance on foreign imports.

- **Inaugural Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission:**
  - **Context:** Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) **Shaunak** departed Chennai for Perth, Australia to participate in the inaugural Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission.
  - **Participants:** Quad navies and maritime forces (India, Australia, Japan, United States).
  - **Designation:** Six officers were designated as **Sea Riders** on board ICGS Shaunak to enhance maritime interoperability across the Indo-Pacific region.

## Appointments & Resignations

- **Luke J. Lindberg Appointed Executive Director of World Food Programme (WFP):**
  - **Context:** Appointed for a **5-year term** as the head of the United Nations World Food Programme.
  - **Predecessor:** Succeeds Cindy McCain.
  - **Headquarters:** WFP is headquartered in Rome, Italy (founded in 1961).

## Awards & Honors

- **Mizoram Farmer ZT Lalrithangi Selected for FAO Recognition:**
  - Progressive organic farmer ZT Lalrithangi from Mizoram was selected for recognition by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for pioneering sustainable hill farming practices.
- **UNEP Cool Coalition Announces 'Cool Leaders' Recognition:**
  - The UNEP Cool Coalition instituted the global Cool Leaders initiative to honor

public and private leadership advancing sustainable cooling and heat resilience.

## MoUs & Business Partnerships

- **IIST Shibpur Partners with TCS for AI Centre of Excellence:**
  - Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), Shibpur (West Bengal) signed an MoU with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to establish a state-of-the-art **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence**.
- **APEDA Flags Off GI-Tagged Gulbarga Tur Dal to Maldives:**
  - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the export of a 1 MT trial consignment of GI-tagged **Gulbarga Tur Dal** (Karnataka) to the Maldives.

## Important Days, Festivals & Art/Culture

- **World Environmental Health Day — 26 September 2026:**
  - **Organized By:** International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH, founded 1986, HQ: London).
  - **2026 Theme:** "Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities".
  - **Background:** Established in 2011 to raise global awareness on environmental hazards and public health protection.
- **Unveiling of Vishweshwara Tirtha Swamiji Birth Centenary Logo:**
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the official logo marking the birth centenary of the revered seer Sri Vishweshwara Tirtha Swamiji of Pejavara Matha, Udipi.

## Exam-Focused Daily Current Affairs MCQs

**Q1. The 'Make in India' initiative completed 12 years of implementation on 25 September 2026. Under the 'Make in India 2.0' framework, how many total sectors are covered?**

- A) 21 sectors (12 manufacturing, 9 services)
- B) 25 sectors (15 manufacturing, 10 services)
- C) 27 sectors (15 manufacturing, 12 services)
- D) 30 sectors (18 manufacturing, 12 services)

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Make in India 2.0 covers **27 sectors**, including 15 manufacturing sectors (e.g., Aerospace & Defense, Automotive, Medical Devices) and 12 service sectors (e.g., IT, Financial Services, Tourism).

**Question2. Under the newly released operational guidelines for the 'NPS Swasthya Pensi on Scheme' by PFRDA, what is the permissible entry age range for subscribers?**

- A) 18 to 60 years
- B) 18 to 65 years
- C) 18 to 70 years
- D) 21 to 65 years

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Under the PFRDA guidelines, the entry age allowed for the NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme ranges from **18 to 70 years**, with policy renewal permissible up to **85 years**.

**Question 3 Which Indian state/UT topped the overall NITI Aayog 'India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025-26'?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Delhi
- C) Karnataka

D) Gujarat

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Delhi topped the overall IEMI index with a score of 84. Among the 'Large States' category, **Maharashtra** ranked 1st, followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

**Question 4 Which airport emerged as the world's most connected international airport according to the OAG Global Megahubs Ranking 2026?**

- A) London Heathrow Airport (LHR)
- B) Istanbul Airport (IST)
- C) Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS)
- D) Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Istanbul Airport (IST)** in Türkiye emerged as the world's most connected international airport with direct flights to 337 global destinations, followed by London Heathrow and Amsterdam Schiphol.

**Question 5 DRDO signed a deep-tech agreement with Zero mK India under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to indigenously manufacture a 20 mK Dilution Refrigerator. This infrastructure directly supports which national mission?**

- A) National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)
- B) National Quantum Mission (NQM)
- C) Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)
- D) India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The 20 mK (millikelvin) Dilution Refrigerator operates near absolute zero (0.02 Kelvin), providing critical cryogenic environment required for quantum processor chips under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**.



**Question 6 Which Indian Coast Guard vessel set sail from Chennai to Perth for the inaugural 'Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission'?**

- A) ICGS Samudra Paheridar
- B) ICGS Shaunak
- C) ICGS Vikram
- D) ICGS Varaha

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** ICGS Shaunak was deployed for the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission involving observer officers ("Sea Riders") from India, Australia, Japan, and the United States.

**Question 7 Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for a 5-year tenure?**

- A) Cindy McCain
- B) Luke J. Lindberg
- C) Tedros Adhanom
- D) Catherine Russell

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Luke J. Lindberg was appointed as the Executive Director of WFP for a 5-year term, succeeding Cindy McCain.

**Question 8 What is the designated official theme for 'World Environmental Health Day 2026', commemorated globally on September 26?**

- A) Clean Air, Healthy People
- B) Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities
- C) Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction
- D) Global Environmental Governance for Sustainable Future

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) designated "Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities" as the theme for World Environmental Health Day 2026.

**Question 9 Which Indian academic institute collaborated with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to establish a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence?**

- A) IIT Kharagpur
- B) IIST Shibpur
- C) NIT Trichy
- D) BITS Pilani

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** IIST Shibpur (West Bengal) signed an MoU with TCS to set up a campus-based Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI.

**Question 10 Which city registered the highest number of wealthy individuals in the 'M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026'?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) New Delhi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Hyderabad

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Mumbai led the country with 465 individuals featured on the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026, followed by New Delhi and Bengaluru.

**30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) with Answers & Explanations**

**1. Which nationwide campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26 September 2026 to ensure 100% saturation of flagship welfare schemes?**

- A) PM Gramin Vikas Abhiyan

- B) Viksit Bharat Sampark Abhiyan
- C) Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra 2.0
- D) Mission Antyodaya 2026

**Answer: B Explanation:** PM Narendra Modi launched the *Viksit Bharat Sampark Abhiyan (VBSA)* on 26 September 2026, spanning 6.5 lakh Gram Panchayats over 45 days to connect households with 30 key central schemes.

**2. The Union Cabinet approved the creation of which Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Sagarmala 2.0 to boost India's Blue Economy?**

- A) National Ocean Development Authority
- B) National Maritime Development Corporation (NMDC)
- C) Sagarmala Infrastructure Development Board
- D) Indian Port Logistics Corporation

**Answer: B Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved the formation of the National Maritime Development Corporation (NMDC) under Sagarmala 2.0 to accelerate maritime trade and port capacity.

**3. Which Indian state became the first to achieve 100% saturation under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana by September 2026?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: C Explanation:** Rajasthan registered over 22.4 lakh artisans across 18 crafts, becoming the first state to reach 100% target saturation under PM Vishwakarma Yojana.

**4. What is the operational range of the Hypersonic Cruise Missile Vehicle Technology**

**(HCMVT) demonstrator successfully tested by DRDO on 26 September 2026?**

- A) 800 km
- B) 1,000 km
- C) 1,500 km
- D) 2,500 km

**Answer: C Explanation:** DRDO tested the HCMVT demonstrator at ITR Chandipur, Odisha, achieving speeds exceeding Mach 5 and a maximum range of 1,500 km.

**5. What is the name of the lead ship of Project 17B (P17B) stealth guided-missile frigates commissioned into the Indian Navy at Mumbai on 26 September 2026?**

- A) INS Taragiri
- B) INS Nilgiri
- C) INS Himgiri
- D) INS Dunagiri

**Answer: B Explanation:** INS Nilgiri, the lead ship of the Project 17B class of stealth guided-missile frigates, was formally commissioned into active naval service in Mumbai.

**6. Where is the Indian Air Force conducting its premier multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2026'?**

- A) Air Force Station Ambala
- B) Air Force Station Jodhpur
- C) Air Force Station Gwalior
- D) Air Force Station Kalaikunda

**Answer: B Explanation:** Tarang Shakti 2026 is being hosted at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan, involving 8 foreign partner nations and 32 observer countries.

**7. Which American 5th-generation stealth fighter jet participated for the first time in an**

**Indian multinational air exercise during Tarang Shakti 2026?**

- A) F-22 Raptor
- B) F-15EX Eagle II
- C) F-35 Lightning II
- D) F/A-18 Super Hornet

**Answer: C Explanation:** US F-35 fighter aircraft participated in Tarang Shakti 2026 at AFS Jodhpur, marking the F-35's debut in an Indian-hosted exercise.

**8. PFRDA's new 'NPS Swasthya' health-linked pension scheme allows policy renewal up to what maximum age?**

- A) 70 years
- B) 75 years
- C) 80 years
- D) 85 years

**Answer: D Explanation:** NPS Swasthya permits entry between 18 and 70 years and allows policyholders to renew coverage up to a maximum age of 85 years.

**9. Which entity signed an agreement with DRDO under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to indigenize a 20 mK Dilution Refrigerator?**

- A) Larsen & Toubro
- B) Zero mK India Private Limited
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited
- D) Centum Electronics

**Answer: B Explanation:** DRDO partnered with Zero mK India Private Limited to build an indigenous 20 mK Dilution Refrigerator for quantum computing under the National Quantum Mission.

**10. According to recent market figures, what is the size of India's Real Estate Investment Trust**

**(REIT) market, which surpassed Hong Kong as Asia's 4th largest?**

- A) \$10.5 Billion
- B) \$14.2 Billion
- C) \$17.7 Billion
- D) \$22.1 Billion

**Answer: C Explanation:** India's REIT market size reached \$17.7 billion, making it Asia's 4th largest market behind Japan, Singapore, and Australia.

**11. Which standard was issued by ICAI in September 2026 to govern sustainability assurance and ESG reporting frameworks in India?**

- A) SSA 3000
- B) SSA 4500
- C) SSA 5000
- D) SSA 6000

**Answer: C Explanation:** ICAI issued Standard on Sustainability Assurance (SSA) 5000 to align domestic ESG assurance practices with international standards.

**12. As per the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Electrification Special Report 2026, India's electrification rate is projected to reach what percentage by 2035?**

- A) 25%
- B) 32%
- C) 40%
- D) 50%

**Answer: B Explanation:** The IEA report projects India's electrification rate to grow from 19% in 2025 to 32% by 2035, driven by transport electrification and electric vehicles.

**13. Which Chief Minister launched 'Bharat Taxi' and 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana' on 26 September 2026?**

- A) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- B) Yogi Adityanath
- C) Himanta Biswa Sarma
- D) Bhajan Lal Sharma

**Answer: B Explanation:** UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched both Bharat Taxi and Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana in Lucknow.

**14. India's first Victim Rights Centre was inaugurated in which city by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant?**

- A) Ranchi
- B) Patna
- C) Lucknow
- D) New Delhi

**Answer: B Explanation:** CJI Justice Surya Kant inaugurated the nation's first Victim Rights Centre in Patna, Bihar, to provide specialized support to crime victims.

**15. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) approved a ₹320 Crore Strategic Investment Plan for the ITI cluster of which city under PM-SETU?**

- A) Varanasi
- B) Kurukshetra
- C) Ludhiana
- D) Mysuru

**Answer: B Explanation:** MSDE approved a ₹320 Crore Strategic Investment Plan for the 'Kurukshetra ITI Cluster' in Haryana under the PM-SETU scheme.

**16. On which date was the flagship 'Make in India' initiative originally launched in 2014?**

- A) 15 August 2014

- B) 25 September 2014
- C) 2 October 2014
- D) 25 December 2014

**Answer: B Explanation:** Make in India was launched on 25 September 2014 and completed 12 years of implementation in September 2026.

**17. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established in which year?**

- A) 1938
- B) 1942
- C) 1947
- D) 1952

**Answer: B Explanation:** CSIR was established on 26 September 1942, marking 26 September as its official Foundation Day.

**18. According to the OAG Megahubs 2026 report, what is the global ranking of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi?**

- A) 15th
- B) 28th
- C) 39th
- D) 45th

**Answer: B Explanation:** Delhi's IGI Airport jumped 11 places to rank 28th among the top 50 global megahubs in the OAG 2026 report.

**19. IIST Shibpur partnered with which IT major to set up an AI Centre of Excellence on its campus?**

- A) Infosys
- B) Wipro
- C) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- D) HCLTech

**Answer: C Explanation:** IIST Shibpur (West Bengal) signed an MoU with TCS to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence.



**20. Who served as the President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in September 2026?**

- A) Dennis Francis
- B) Csaba Kőrösi
- C) Khalilur Rahman
- D) Philemon Yang

**Answer: C Explanation:** Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh served as President of the 81st UNGA session.

**21. On which date is World Environmental Health Day observed globally?**

- A) 16 September
- B) 21 September
- C) 26 September
- D) 30 September

**Answer: C Explanation:** World Environmental Health Day is celebrated every year on 26 September to raise environmental health awareness.

**22. What is the speed threshold for a weapon system to be classified as 'hypersonic'?**

- A) Greater than Mach 2
- B) Greater than Mach 3
- C) Greater than Mach 5
- D) Greater than Mach 10

**Answer: C Explanation:** Hypersonic weapons travel at speeds of Mach 5 or higher (5 times the speed of sound, ~6,174 km/h).

**23. Under Sagarmala 2.0, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways operates as the nodal administrative ministry for which new CPSE?**

- A) Inland Waterways Corporation
- B) National Maritime Development Corporation (NMDC)

- C) Marine Logistics India Limited
- D) Coastal Economic Zone Authority

**Answer: B Explanation:** NMDC was approved as a CPSE under Sagarmala 2.0 under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

**24. How many traditional trades are recognized and covered under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana?**

- A) 12
- B) 15
- C) 18
- D) 25

**Answer: C Explanation:** PM Vishwakarma Yojana supports 18 traditional artisan and craftsman trades, including carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, and weavers.

**25. Which regulatory body oversees the operational guidelines of the National Pension System (NPS)?**

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

**Answer: C Explanation:** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulates the NPS framework in India.

**26. In temperature measurement for quantum applications, 1 millikelvin (1 mK) is equal to what fraction of a Kelvin?**

- A)  $10^{-2}$  K
- B)  $10^{-3}$  K
- C)  $10^{-6}$  K
- D)  $10^{-9}$  K

**Answer: B Explanation:** 1 millikelvin (1 mK) equals  $10^{-3}$  Kelvin (0.001 K), representing

ultra-low cryogenic operating conditions required for quantum computing.

**27. The European Day of Languages is celebrated annually on which date?**

- A) 24 September
- B) 25 September
- C) 26 September
- D) 27 September

**Answer: C** **Explanation:** European Day of Languages is celebrated on 26 September every year to foster plurilingualism and intercultural understanding.

**28. Which Indian university/institute is host to the newly approved AI Centre of Excellence partnered with TCS?**

- A) IIT Kharagpur
- B) IIST Shibpur
- C) NIT Durgapur
- D) Jadavpur University

**Answer: B** **Explanation:** The Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), Shibpur, West Bengal, collaborated with TCS for the AI CoE.

**29. What is the target year for India's overarching 'Viksit Bharat' national development vision?**

- A) 2030
- B) 2035
- C) 2040
- D) 2047

**Answer: D** **Explanation:** The Viksit Bharat vision aims to transform India into a fully developed nation by 2047, coinciding with 100 years of independence.

**30. Which apex body conducts research across 37 national laboratories in areas such as**

**hydrogen energy, carbon capture, and quantum materials?**

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) CSIR
- D) DAE

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) operates a network of 37 national labs leading scientific and technological R&D in India.

