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NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Railways to Double Originating Train Capacity in 48 Cities by 2030



In late December 2025, the Ministry of Railways announced a transformative plan to double the originating train capacity in 48

major cities across India by 2030. This initiative is designed to tackle the rapid growth in passenger demand and reduce heavy congestion at existing urban hubs.

The plan will be implemented in phases over the next five years, with actions categorized as immediate, short-term, and long-term to ensure that passengers see benefits progressively rather than only at the 2030 deadline.

Key Strategic Pillars

The project moves beyond simple station upgrades to a holistic urban rail network strategy:

- **Integrated Urban Planning:** Rather than focusing only on a single "main" station, the plan integrates nearby satellite stations. For example, in Pune, capacity will be expanded not just at the main station but also at Hadapsar, Khadki, and Alandi to balance traffic.
- **New Terminal Development:** To decongest city centers, new terminals will be developed in peri-urban areas. A prime example is the new Perambur terminal in



Chennai, designed to ease the load on Chennai Central and Egmore.

Infrastructure Augmentation:

- Platforms & Lines: Adding more platforms, stabling lines (parking), and pit lines (maintenance).
- Mega Coaching Complexes: Large-scale maintenance facilities to handle the increased fleet.
- Sectional Capacity: Upgrading signaling and multitracking to allow more trains to run on the same routes safely.

Cities Identified for Expansion

The 48 cities cover major metropolitan areas, regional hubs, and cultural centers:

Region	Major Cities Included
Metros	Delhi, Mumbai (CR & WR), Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Pune
North Central	Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Agra, Mathura, Ayodhya, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jammu, Bareilly
East / Northeast	Patna, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Ranchi, Tatanagar, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Guwahati
South West	Nagpur, Vadodara, Surat, Madgaon, Kochi (Ernakulam),

Region	Major Cities Included
	Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Mysore, Coimbatore

Recent Highlights (December 2025)

- Southern Railway:** Specific plans were unveiled for Chennai, Coimbatore, and Ernakulam, including "airport-like" redevelopment for Chennai Egmore.
- Maintenance Focus:** Expansion includes heavy investment in Yard Remodeling (e.g., Bareilly Junction) to allow stations to handle 24-coach trains efficiently.
- Suburban vs. Non-Suburban:** The plan specifically addresses the unique requirements of both local commuters and long-distance travelers.

NATIONAL NEWS

NATGRID to be Integrated with NPR for Strengthened Criminal Investigation Framework



In late December 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officially integrated the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) with the

National Population Register (NPR). This move represents a significant expansion of India's



internal security capabilities, providing 11 central agencies and state police forces with real-time access to the demographic data of approximately 119 crore (1.19 billion) residents.

The Core of the Integration

The linkage allows investigators to move beyond individual identification to relational mapping. By accessing NPR's family-wise records, agencies can now instantly identify a suspect's household members, relatives, and social networks.

Key Components and Tools

- **Gandiva Analytics:** Named after Arjuna's mythical bow, this upgraded AI tool serves as the "brain" of NATGRID. It enables:
 - **Entity Resolution:** Determining if disparate records (e.g., a bank account and a travel booking) belong to the same person.
 - **Facial Recognition:** Matching images against a database that includes over 100 crore facial entries, including advanced tech that can identify faces even with masks.
- **Unified Data Access:** NATGRID now acts as a bridge for over 24 categories of data, including:
 - **Financial:** Banking transactions, credit card usage, and tax records.
 - **Travel:** Passport/Visa details, immigration logs, and railway/airline itineraries.

- **Communication:** Telecom KYC and Call Detail Records (CDR).
- **Identity:** Aadhaar, PAN, and now family-linked NPR data.

Security vs. Privacy: The Debate

While the government emphasizes the tool's necessity for counterterrorism and pre-empting terror plots, the integration has sparked significant discussion regarding civil liberties.

Pros (Security Benefits)	Cons (Privacy Concerns)
Eliminating Silos: Breaks the barriers between central and state intelligence agencies.	Mass Surveillance: Critics fear the potential for profiling without sufficient legal oversight.
Speed: Reduces the time to verify a suspect's background from weeks to minutes.	No FIR Requirement: Agencies can access personal data without a formal police case being registered.
Network Analysis: Crucial for identifying terror sleeper cells and money laundering trails.	Data Protection Gaps: Concerns persist as India works to fully operationalize its data protection laws.

Operational Safeguards

To prevent misuse, the MHA has established several internal protocols:





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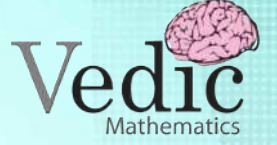
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1. Strict Access Logs: Every query made by an officer is digitally recorded with a mandatory stated purpose for the search.
2. Hierarchical Oversight: Access is restricted to authorized personnel, typically of Superintendent of Police (SP) rank or above.
3. Data Sensitivity Levels: Information is categorized into "Non-sensitive," "Sensitive," and "Highly Sensitive" (e.g., banking), with the latter requiring higher authorization levels.

Official Government Statement on NATGRID and NPR Linkage

This video provides a breakdown of how the Home Ministry justifies the linkage for real-time intelligence gathering and the specific tools like Gandiva used in the process.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India to Lead the Prestigious Kimberley Process Beginning January 2026



In late December 2025, the Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary selected India to assume the prestigious Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process starting January 1, 2026. This decision ends a year-long leadership impasse and places India, the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing hub, at the center of global diamond governance.

India is currently serving as the Vice Chair (effective December 25, 2025) and will succeed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the Chair in the new year.

India's Strategic Priorities for 2026

As a major player that polishes nearly 90% of the world's rough diamonds, India has outlined a tech-forward and ethical roadmap for its tenure:

- Digital Certification & Traceability: Moving away from paper-based systems to digital platforms (potentially utilizing blockchain) to reduce fraud and enable real-time verification of diamond origins.
- The "5th C" – Conflict-Free: India aims to shift the industry standard beyond the traditional 4 Cs (Cut, Clarity, Color, Carat) to include a "5th C" for Conflict-Free status, boosting consumer trust.
- Strengthening Governance: Enhancing peer-review mechanisms and rule-based compliance among the 60 participants (representing over 80 countries).
- Modernizing the Scope: India will lead delicate discussions on expanding the definition of "conflict diamonds" to include broader human rights abuses and





environmental damage, a topic of growing global demand.

Key Facts: Kimberley Process (KP)

The KP is a unique tripartite initiative that brings together three distinct groups to ensure rough diamonds do not fund rebel movements:

Feature	Details
Objective	To prevent the trade of "conflict diamonds" (blood diamonds) used to finance wars against legitimate governments.
Reach	60 participants (including the EU as one) accounting for 99% of the global rough diamond trade.
India's History	This is India's third time as Chair (previously in 2008 and 2019).
Mechanism	The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) mandates that no rough diamond can be traded without a government-validated certificate.

Significance for India

The appointment is seen as a diplomatic victory and a boost for the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). It allows India to:

1. Lead during Geopolitical Shifts: Navigate complex trade issues, such as the G7 sanctions on Russian-mined diamonds.
2. Protect Industry Interests: As a massive importer of rough diamonds, India can

ensure that new regulations are practical and inclusive of manufacturing hubs.

3. Reinforce "Viksit Bharat" Goals: Demonstrating leadership in ethical trade and global supply chain transparency.

Note: The KP currently covers less than 0.1% of the world's diamond production in terms of conflict, a massive drop from the 1990s when conflict diamonds made up nearly 15% of the trade.

APPOINTMENT

Coal India Appoints CMD B Sairam as Chief Executive Officer

In late December 2025, the Board of Coal India Limited (CIL) officially appointed B. Sairam as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).



This appointment is historic, as it marks the first time in the company's 50-year history that the role of a CEO has been formally created and filled.





Mr. Sairam, who had already taken charge as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) on December 15, 2025, will now hold both the CMD and CEO positions. This dual role is designed to streamline executive authority and accelerate decision-making at a time when the "Maharatna" PSU is chasing ambitious production targets.

Strategic Importance of the Move

The government's decision to consolidate leadership under a CEO role reflects a shift toward modern corporate governance within state-owned enterprises:

- **Leadership Agility:** By combining the CMD and CEO roles, the government aims to eliminate coordination gaps between board-level strategy and operational execution.
- **Production Targets:** The move comes as Coal India works toward an aggressive target of 875 million tonnes for the 2025-26 financial year to ensure national energy security.
- **Diversification:** Under Sairam's leadership, the company is pivoting toward critical minerals, coal gasification, and renewable energy initiatives to remain relevant in a changing energy landscape.

About B. Sairam: A Mining Veteran

With over 30 years of experience in the coal sector, B. Sairam is widely regarded as an expert in balancing large-scale industrial goals with community welfare.

Feature	Details
Education	Graduate Mining Engineer from NIT Raipur; MBA in Energy Management from NTPC School of Business, Delhi.
Past Roles	Former CMD of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and Director (Technical) at Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).
Key Achievement	Led the Jayant expansion project, one of the largest mining rehabilitation and resettlement programs in India, successfully relocating an urban township within just one year.
Expertise	Mine operations, project planning, coal logistics, and securing complex environmental/forest clearances.

The Road Ahead (2026-2030)

As the new CEO, Sairam's tenure (which runs until his superannuation in March 2028) will focus on three major pillars:

1. **First Mile Connectivity (FMC):** Expanding eco-friendly coal transportation via conveyor belts and rail to reduce road-based pollution.
2. **Technological Upgradation:** Implementing AI and digital twins in mine planning to increase efficiency.





3. Stakeholder Trust: Continuing his track record of resolving land acquisition and resettlement issues through proactive community engagement.

AWARDS

President of India Presents Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025



On December 26, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2025 upon 20 extraordinary children at a ceremony in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The date coincides with Veer Baal Diwas, a day dedicated to honoring the courage of the Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh.

The 2025 cohort includes children from 18 States and Union Territories, recognized for their life-saving bravery, cutting-edge

innovation, and world-record-breaking sporting feats.

2025 Awardees: Highlights by Category

1. Bravery (4 Awards)

- Vyoma Priya (Posthumous, 9), Tamil Nadu: Sacrificed her life to save a six-year-old from an electrical accident.
- Kamlesh Kumar (Posthumous, 11), Bihar: Lost his life while rescuing another child from drowning in the Durgawati River.
- Muhammed Sidan P (11), Kerala: Saved two friends from electrocution through quick thinking.
- Ajay Raj (9), Uttar Pradesh: Fearlessly saved his father from a crocodile attack near their village river.

2. Sports (9 Awards)

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (14), Bihar: A cricket prodigy, the youngest IPL player (Rajasthan Royals), and the fastest Indian centurion in List A cricket.
- Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika (7), Gujarat: Under-7 World Chess Champion with a perfect 9/9 score.
- Dhinidhi Desinghu (15), Karnataka: Youngest Indian athlete at the Paris 2024 Olympics and national record-holding swimmer.
- Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti (16), Telangana: The youngest to complete the Seven Summits Challenge (climbing the highest peak on every continent).



3. Science, Technology & Innovation

- Arnav Anupriya Maharshi (17), Maharashtra: Developed "FAIR Chance," an AI-based rehabilitative tool for paralysis patients, inspired by his own recovery from a near-fatal accident.
- Aishi Prisha Borah (14), Assam: Recognized for promoting sustainable natural farming and eco-friendly mulching techniques.

4. Art, Culture & Social Service

- Esther Lalduhawmi Hnamte (9), Mizoram: A singing sensation whose patriotic renditions (like "Maa Tujhe Salaam") have bridged cultural gaps across India.
- Shvan Singh (10), Punjab: Recognized for "Operation Sindoor," where he supported frontline soldiers during critical supply runs.
- Vansh Tayal (17), Chandigarh: Dedicated himself to the rehabilitation of children with special needs.

Key Benefits for Awardees

Each recipient of India's highest civilian honor for children received:

- A Medal and a Certificate.
- A cash prize of ₹1 Lakh.
- Book vouchers worth ₹10,000.
- The opportunity to participate in the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2026.

"The greatness of a country is certain when its children are filled with patriotism and high ideals." — President Droupadi Murmu

APPOINTMENT

Three New Additional Solicitors General for Supreme Court Appointed By Centre



In late December 2025, the Central Government significantly bolstered its legal team before the Supreme Court by appointing three prominent senior advocates as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs). The notification, issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on December 22, 2025, approved these appointments for a tenure of three years.

These appointments are strategic, bringing together experts in constitutional law, white-collar crime, and legislative policy to represent the Union of India in high-stakes litigation.

The Three New Additional Solicitors General

Name	Background & Expertise
Devinder Pal Singh	A veteran with over 35 years of experience. He has previously served as the



Name	Background & Expertise
	Additional Advocate General for both Punjab and Haryana and has acted as a Special Public Prosecutor for the CBI and ED in major economic offense cases.
Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar	A former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from the Telugu Desam Party (2018-2024). He has extensive experience in inter-state river water disputes and has represented the government of Andhra Pradesh in the Supreme Court.
Anil Kaushik	A senior advocate with over 24 years of practice across diverse domains, including Taxation, Revenue, and Constitutional Law. He has served as the Additional Advocate General for Haryana and as Senior Counsel for Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Role and Significance in the Legal Hierarchy

The ASG is the third-ranking law officer of the Government of India, following the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. Their primary responsibility is to appear in the Supreme Court (or High Courts) on behalf of the Union of India

in matters involving complex constitutional interpretations and public policy.

Why These Appointments Matter Now:

- **Decongesting the Apex Court:** With a mounting backlog of constitutional bench matters, these appointments ensure the government is represented by specialized counsel in every courtroom.
- **Expertise in Economic Offenses:** The inclusion of D.P. Singh, a specialist in PMLA (Money Laundering) and SEBI matters, suggests a focus on defending the government's stance on financial regulations and anti-corruption laws.
- **Parliamentary Insight:** K. Ravindra Kumar's transition from the Rajya Sabha to the ASG office brings a unique legislative perspective to the government's legal arguments, particularly in matters of federalism and inter-state relations.

Administrative Details

- **Appointing Authority:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- **Tenure:** Three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders.
- **Ministry:** Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

STATE NEWS

Keezhadi Flood Sediments





In late December 2025, a groundbreaking scientific study published in *Current Science* added a new environmental chapter to the history of the Keezhadi settlement. While previous excavations focused on the age of the structures themselves (dating back to the 6th century BCE), this new research identifies exactly when and why parts of this "Vaigai Valley Civilization" were lost to nature.

The Scientific Breakthrough: OSL Dating

Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) and the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology used Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating to analyze the sediment that buried the site.

- **How it works:** Unlike Radiocarbon dating, which dates organic matter (like charcoal or bone), OSL dates the last time mineral grains (like quartz) were exposed to sunlight.
- **The Result:** The study determined that a massive, high-energy flood event occurred approximately 1,155 years ago (around the late 9th or early 10th century CE), sealing the ancient urban layers under thick deposits of sand and silt.

Geological Evidence of the Flood

The stratigraphic layers at Keezhadi tell a story of a catastrophic hydrological event:

- **The Layer Cake:** Excavation pits (specifically KDI-1 and KDI-2) showed a clear sequence: coarser sand was found immediately beneath the brick structures, while fine silty clay was deposited above them.
- **High-Energy Event:** The coarse sand indicates a "high-energy" flood—a wall of water moving with enough force to carry heavy sediment. The silty clay above it suggests a period of "calmer deposition" as the floodwaters receded and stagnant water allowed fine particles to settle.
- **River Migration:** The Vaigai River currently flows several kilometers away from the Keezhadi mound. This study suggests that the 1,155-year-old flood might have been the catalyst for stream avulsion (the river abruptly changing its course), leading the population to eventually abandon or relocate the settlement.

Archaeological Significance

Before this discovery, it was unclear if Keezhadi's decline was due to political shifts or environmental factors. This evidence aligns the site's history with known Late Holocene climate variability in South India.

Feature	Significance
Urban Infrastructure	The flood buried advanced brick structures, drainage canals, and storage vats,





Feature	Significance
	preserving them like a "Southern Pompeii."
Sangam Corroboration	The findings validate Sangam literature descriptions of wealthy urban centers on the Vaigai that faced the wrath of seasonal floods.
Preservation	Ironically, the catastrophic flood acted as a protective seal, keeping artifacts like Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds and ivory dice safe from surface erosion for over a millennium.

Keezhadi: A Quick Context

- Location: Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu (12 km from Madurai).
- Significance: Proved that an advanced, secular, urban civilization existed in South India as far back as 600 BCE, challenging the notion that urbanization was restricted to the Gangetic plains.
- Key Finds: Industrial-scale weaving tools, dyeing vats, high literacy (Tamil-Brahmi script), and trade links with the Roman Empire.





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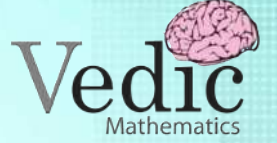
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Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Which new individual, non-linked, non-participating life insurance savings plan has SBI Life Insurance recently launched?

- A. Smart Shield Plus
- B. New Jeevan Lakshya
- C. New Smart Samriddhi
- D. Saral Pension Plan

1. C

SBI Life Insurance recently launched a new individual, non-linked, non-participating life insurance savings plan called SBI Life - New Smart Samriddhi. This plan is designed for disciplined savings with a guaranteed addition. It offers a combination of life cover and accumulating wealth, along with features like limited premium payment terms and no medical exam.

Q.2. Which organization recently launched the npci.org.in portal to manage UPI Autopay standing instructions?

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- D. SEBI

2. C

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the npci.org.in

(upihelp.npci.org.in) portal to manage UPI AutoPay standing instructions. This will allow users to easily view, manage, and control their AutoPay subscriptions, thereby bringing transparency to billing.

Q.3. Which states are experiencing the fastest growth in GST and direct taxes recently?

- A. Large industrial states
- B. Union Territories
- C. Smaller and mid-sized states
- D. Coastal states

3. C

Odisha and Telangana are emerging as significant contributors to India's tax landscape, with Odisha leading in GST growth and Telangana leading in direct tax collection. This shift challenges the dominance of traditional economic powerhouses like Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Q.4. Which organization recently released the Global Economics Analyst: Macro Outlook 2026 report?

- A. World Bank
 - B. IMF
 - C. Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
 - D. Asian Development Bank
4. C

Financial institution Goldman Sachs has released the report, "Global Economics Analyst: Macro Outlook 2026." The report forecasts strong global growth and identifies India as one of the fastest-growing large economies.





Q.5. Which instruments has SEBI recently excluded from the valuation limits for BSDA eligibility?

- A. Government Bonds only
 - B. Corporate Bonds
 - C. Zero Coupon Zero Principal bonds & delisted securities
 - D. Sovereign Gold Bonds
5. C

SEBI has excluded Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds and securities delisted from stock exchanges from the valuation limit for Basic Service Demat Account (BSDA) eligibility. This will increase financial inclusion for small investors and help them accurately assess the true value of their portfolios, as these are less traded and liquid.

Q.6. Which institution will launch the NGIF and NCF funds in January 2026?

- A. RBI
 - B. SIDBI
 - C. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
 - D. NITI Aayog
6. C

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will launch the NABARD Green Impact Fund (NGIF) and the NABARD Carbon Fund (NCF) in January 2026. The NABARD Green Impact Fund (NGIF) aims to support early-stage agritech and climate innovation startups with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore. The NABARD Carbon Fund (NCF) focuses

on carbon developers and startups working in emission reduction and carbon capture areas with a corpus of ₹300 crore.

Q.7. Who has become the chairperson of the BWF Athletes' Commission for 2026-2029?

- A. Saina Nehwal
 - B. Carolina Marin
 - C. Tai Tzu-ying
 - D. P. V. Sindhu
7. D

Indian badminton icon Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu) has achieved a major milestone off the court as well. Two-time Olympic medalist and former world champion PV Sindhu has been elected Chairperson of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2029 term. This appointment is being seen as a significant step towards her leadership in global sports governance.

Q.8. Which country recently unveiled its first 8,700-tonne class nuclear submarine?

- A. China
 - B. Russia
 - C. North Korea
 - D. Iran
8. C

North Korea recently unveiled its first 8,700-ton-class nuclear submarine, which Kim Jong-un inspected at a construction facility, boosting its military capabilities and raising tensions in the region.





Q.9. Which startup recently developed India's first indigenous MRI scanner?

- A. Tata Medical Systems
- B. DRDO
- C. Bharat Electronics
- D. VoxelGrids

9. D

In a significant step towards strengthening India's healthcare ecosystem, Bengaluru-based start-up Voxelgrids has developed the country's first fully indigenous MRI scanner. This achievement marks a significant milestone in reducing India's dependence on expensive imported medical equipment and advancing the "Make in India" initiative in high-end healthcare technology.

Q.10. From which nuclear submarine did India recently successfully test-fire the K-4 SLBM?

- A. INS Arihant
- B. INS Chakra
- C. INS Arighaat
- D. INS Kalvari

10. C

India has test-fired its K-4 intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighat in the Bay of Bengal, the first known launch of the missile from this platform.

Q.11. Minamitori Island, which was recently in the news, is located in which ocean?

- A. Pacific Ocean

B. Atlantic Ocean

C. Indian Ocean

D. Arctic Ocean

11. A

Japan is planning to test mine rare-earth mud from the deep seabed near Minamitori Island. Minamitori Island, also known as Marcus Island, is an isolated coral atoll in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. It is Japan's easternmost point and the first place the sun rises in the country. The island is approximately 1,950 kilometers southeast of central Tokyo. It is the summit of a large seamount on the Marcus-Necker Ridge and sits on the Pacific Plate. The island has a transitional tropical-subtropical oceanic climate, with an average temperature of approximately 25.6°C. The waters surrounding the island contain valuable marine minerals, such as rare-earth mud and a cobalt-rich crust.

Q.12. Which state in India is the leading state in rooftop solar with a recent installed capacity of 1,879 MW?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

12. D

Gujarat has once again cemented its leadership role in India's renewable energy transition. The state has installed solar rooftops on over half a million homes, bringing the total installed capacity to 1,879 MW. This achievement not only places Gujarat at the top nationwide, but





also demonstrates the state's policy and public participation in the transition to clean energy.

Q.13. To which country did India recently announce a \$450 million aid package following Cyclone Ditwah?

- A. Maldives
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Myanmar

13. C

India has announced a \$450 million humanitarian assistance and reconstruction package for Sri Lanka following the devastating devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwa. The assistance was announced during a high-level meeting in Colombo, further strengthening India's role as a major aid provider and trusted neighbor in the Indian Ocean region. The announcement was made during Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka as Narendra Modi's Special Envoy. Sri Lankan leaders described the assistance as a strong symbol of deepening India-Sri Lanka ties.

Q.14. In which state was Hansi recently declared a new district?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttar Pradesh

14. C

In a major administrative reform, the Haryana government has officially declared Hansi a new

district, making it the state's 23rd. The decision, which came into effect after an official government notification was issued, aims to improve governance and accelerate development work in the area.

Q.15. Where in Uttar Pradesh was the 'Rashtriya Prerna Sthal' recently inaugurated?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Varanasi
- C. Gorakhpur
- D. Ayodhya

15. A

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The complex is located on the banks of the Gomti River and spans 65 acres. The lotus-shaped museum spans 98,000 square feet, with five galleries and 12 interpretation walls showcasing the lives and thoughts of the leaders.

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