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## NATIONAL NEWS

### CISF Launches Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon 2026



That sounds like a massive undertaking! Covering 6,500 kilometers in just 25 days is no small feat—that averages out to about **260 km per day**. For context, that's roughly the length of a professional Tour de France stage, but performed back-to-back for nearly a month.

It's a powerful way to highlight the scale of India's coastline while promoting the CISF's role in maritime and industrial security.

### Quick Stats: Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon 2026

Feature	Details
Total Distance	Approximately 6,500 km
Duration	25 Days
Start Points	Lakhpat Fort, Gujarat (West) & Bakkhali, West Bengal (East)

Feature	Details
End Point	Kochi (Cochin), Kerala
Objective	Coastal security awareness & National patriotism

## Why the Routes Matter

The choice of starting points is quite symbolic:

- Lakhpur Fort (Gujarat):** Represents the westernmost edge of the Indian coastline, bordering the Rann of Kutch.
- Bakkhali (West Bengal):** Sits on the edge of the Sundarbans in the east.
- Kochi (Kerala):** Meeting at the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" serves as a perfect midpoint for both teams to unite their journeys.

Beyond the physical challenge, these events usually involve "Nukkad Nataks" (street plays) and interaction with local fishing communities to strengthen the "eyes and ears" network vital for coastal defense.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. Which organization is responsible for organizing the second edition of the Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon 2026?

- A) Indian Coast Guard
- B) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- C) Border Security Force (BSF)
- D) Indian Navy

2. Who virtually flagged off the 25-day national outreach initiative from New Delhi?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Nityanand Rai
- D) Narendra Modi

3. The two CISF cyclist teams started their simultaneous journeys from which two locations?

- A) Mumbai (West) and Kolkata (East)
- B) Lakhpur Fort (West) and Bakkhali (East)
- C) Porbandar (West) and Puri (East)
- D) Kutch (West) and Haldia (East)

4. What is the approximate total distance to be covered by the teams during this cyclothon?

- A) 4,500 km
- B) 5,000 km
- C) 6,500 km
- D) 7,200 km

5. At which location is the Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon 2026 scheduled to culminate?

- A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- B) Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

C) Cochin, Kerala

D) Panaji, Goa

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
2	C) Nityanand Rai
3	B) Lakhpat Fort (West) and Bakhali (East)
4	C) 6,500 km
5	C) Cochin, Kerala

The scale mentioned by Mr. Santanu is also impressive—reaching two million lives through 400 projects highlights how the **Smile Foundation** uses the visibility of the film festival to fuel their broader humanitarian mission.

### SIFFCY 2026: At a Glance

Feature	Details
Duration	7 Days
Location	New Delhi
Organizer	Smile Foundation
Core Themes	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
Key Partner	Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

## NATIONAL NEWS

### SIFFCY 2026 Begins in New Delhi With Inclusion Focus



It is inspiring to see SIFFCY hitting its 12th milestone. By partnering with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the festival is clearly moving beyond simple entertainment to tackle real-world accessibility and representation.

### Why This Edition Stands Out

- Inclusive Cinema:** By collaborating with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the festival likely features specialized screenings (such as audio-described or closed-captioned films) to ensure cinema is accessible to *all* youth.
- Cinema as a Mirror:** The focus on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) suggests that the curated films likely highlight stories of marginalized voices, helping young audiences develop empathy and social consciousness.
- Massive Social Footprint:** The festival serves as a flagship for the Smile Foundation's work, which spans **27 Indian states**,

connecting the glamor of filmmaking with the grassroots reality of welfare projects.

C) Environmental Conservation

D) Skill Development for Youth

**4. How many live welfare projects is the Smile Foundation currently operating across India?**

A) Over 200

B) Over 300

C) Over 400

D) Over 500

**5. In how many states across India are the Smile Foundation's welfare projects active?**

A) 22 states

B) 25 states

C) 27 states

D) 28 states

**6. Approximately how many children and families are impacted by these welfare projects every year?**

A) One million

B) Two million

C) Three million

D) Five million

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Smile Foundation

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Which organization is responsible for organizing the 12th edition of SIFFCY?**

A) Ministry of Culture

B) Smile Foundation

C) Children's Film Society of India

D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**2. The SIFFCY festival was organized in collaboration with which government department?**

A) Department of School Education and Literacy

B) Department of Youth Affairs

C) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

D) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

**3. What is the central focus of this year's SIFFCY according to Mr. Santanu?**

A) Digital Innovation and Technology

B) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Question	Correct Answer
2	C) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
3	B) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
4	C) Over 400
5	C) 27 states
6	B) Two million

"self-regulation" to state-mandated enforcement.

### Key Legislative Details

Feature	Details
Status	Passed by National Assembly (130-21); moving to the Senate.
Target Implementation	September 1, 2026 (Start of the academic year).
Existing Accounts	Platforms must deactivate non-compliant accounts by Dec 31, 2026.
School Policy	Extends the 2018 middle-school phone ban to all <b>high schools</b> .
Exemptions	Online encyclopedias (Wikipedia), educational platforms, and private messaging (WhatsApp).

### Strict Enforcement & EU Compliance

A major hurdle for similar laws in the past has been **age verification**. France is tackling this through:

- Privacy-Preserving Tech:** Using "Zero-Knowledge Proofs" (ZKP) and an EU-wide prototype app. This allows a user to prove they are over 15 without sharing their name or birthdate with the platform.
- The Digital Services Act (DSA):** The European Commission has confirmed France's right to set a "digital majority" age, meaning the EU will help enforce these rules against tech giants (Meta, TikTok, etc.) as part of their safety obligations.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### France Moves Bill to Ban Social Media for Under-15s to Protect Mental Health



France's move to ban social media for those under 15 is a significant escalation in the global "tech-lash" against addictive algorithms. This legislation, approved by the National Assembly on **January 26, 2026**, positions France as a European pioneer in digital safety, trailing only Australia's recent under-16 ban.

The law is not just about the age limit; it represents a fundamental shift from corporate

- **Usage Limits for Teens:** Beyond the ban for under-15s, the law suggests time-based restrictions for those aged 15–18 to curb "algorithmic addiction."

**2. Which of the following concerns was NOT specifically mentioned as a reason for this move?**

- A) Online bullying
- B) Mental health issues
- C) Impact of excessive screen time
- D) Data privacy violations for advertising

**3. Which of these platforms is specifically subject to this new regulation?**

- A) LinkedIn
- B) TikTok
- C) Reddit
- D) Discord

**4. How are the affected platforms required to ensure compliance with the new law?**

- A) By charging a registration fee
- B) By requiring parental signatures via mail
- C) By implementing age-verification systems compliant with EU laws
- D) By requiring a government-issued ID for every login

**5. The new legislation extends existing smartphone bans in schools to include which level of education?**

- A) Primary schools
- B) Middle schools

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. What is the primary age limit set by the new French legislation for accessing social media platforms?**

- A) Under 13
- B) Under 15
- C) Under 16
- D) Under 18

C) High schools

D) Universities

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Under 15
2	D) Data privacy violations for advertising
3	B) TikTok
4	C) By implementing age-verification systems compliant with EU laws
5	C) High schools

What makes this particularly special is the "community-protected" aspect. In Nagaland, many forests are managed by local indigenous communities rather than the central government; this discovery validates their traditional conservation methods as highly effective.

### Profile: *Hoya nagaensis*

Category	Details
Genus	<i>Hoya</i> (commonly known as "Wax Plants")
Location	High-altitude forests of Nagaland, India
Discovered By	Researchers from Nagaland University
Habitat	Remote, community-protected forest areas
Significance	First record of this specific species globally

## NATIONAL NEWS

### New Plant Species Discovered in Nagaland Forests



This is a fascinating discovery for the botanical world! The identification of *Hoya nagaensis* is a testament to the fact that the Eastern Himalayas and the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot still hold many secrets.

### Why this discovery matters

- Taxonomic Milestone:** The genus *Hoya* is famous for its waxy leaves and star-shaped, often fragrant flowers. Adding a new species from Nagaland enriches our understanding of the plant's evolutionary journey in Southeast Asia.
- Biodiversity Hotspot:** Nagaland sits at a geographical crossroads. Discoveries like *Hoya nagaensis* provide scientific data to support stronger international conservation status for the region.
- The Power of Local Stewardship:** Much of Nagaland's "green cover" is actually

**Community Conserved Areas (CCAs).** This discovery highlights that when local tribes protect their ancestral lands, they aren't just preserving culture—they are safeguarding rare biological assets that haven't been seen anywhere else on Earth.

### Understanding the *Hoya* Genus

*Hoya* plants are epiphytic (they often grow on other plants) and are highly prized by collectors worldwide for their intricate, porcelain-like floral umbels. Finding a new high-altitude variant suggests this species may have unique adaptations to cooler, misty climates compared to its tropical cousins.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. Researchers from which university recorded the discovery of a new plant species in Nagaland?**

- A) Mizoram University
- B) Nagaland University
- C) Sikkim University
- D) Gauhati University

**2. What is the scientific name of the newly identified plant species?**

- A) *Hoya nagaensis*
- B) *Hoya indica*
- C) *Nagalandia floris*
- D) *Rhododendron naga*

**3. In what type of environment was the new species primarily recorded?**

- A) Coastal mangroves
- B) High-altitude forests
- C) Tropical grasslands
- D) Arid desert shrublands

**4. The discovery highlights the conservation role of which specific type of forest management?**

- A) Reserved Forests
- B) Community-protected forests
- C) Industrial plantations
- D) National Parks

**5. The recording of this new species reinforces the status of India's northeastern region as a:**

- A) Carbon sink
- B) Biodiversity hotspot
- C) Geological anomaly
- D) Monsoon gateway

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	B) Nagaland University
2	A) <i>Hoya nagaensis</i>
3	B) High-altitude forests

Question	Correct Answer
4	B) Community-protected forests
5	B) Biodiversity hotspot

## ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings (January 2026)

Rank	Player	Points	Notable Achievements
1	Abhishek Sharma (IND)	929	Just 2 points shy of his career-best; holds a massive 80-point lead.
2	Phil Salt (ENG)	849	The closest challenger to the top spot.
3	Tilak Varma (IND)	781	Retains his spot despite being sidelined with an injury.
...	...	...	...
7	Suryakumar Yadav (IND)	717	Jumped 5 places; top run-scorer of the NZ series (171 runs).

### Highlights of the Rankings Shift

- Abhishek Sharma's Dominance:** Abhishek is nearing history. His current rating of 929 is on the verge of breaking his own career-best (931), which is the highest rating ever attained by a T20I batter.
- The Comeback Trail:** Suryakumar Yadav's jump into the Top 10 follows a lean patch in 2025. His 82\* in the second T20I was his first fifty in 24 innings.
- Other Indian Gainers:**
  - Hardik Pandya:** Rose to 3rd in the T20I All-rounder rankings.
  - Jasprit Bumrah:** Climbed four places to 13th in the bowling rankings.

## SPORTS

Suryakumar Yadav climbs five places to reach seventh position in the latest ICC T20I rankings



Suryakumar Yadav's climb in the rankings comes at a crucial time, as India prepares for its **T20 World Cup 2026** title defense starting on February 7. His recent scores of 32, 82\*, and 57\* in the first three matches of the New Zealand series have not only re-established his form but also reinforced India's dominance in the shortest format.

While India led the series 3-0 at the time of the rankings update, New Zealand managed to claw back a victory in the **4th T20I at Visakhapatnam** on January 28, 2026, winning by 50 runs to make the series 3-1.

- Varun Chakravarthy: Continues to lead as the No. 1 T20I bowler in the world.

D) Yashasvi Jaiswal

**4. What is the current standing of the five-match T20I series between India and New Zealand?**

- India leads 2-1
- India leads 3-0
- Series is tied 2-2
- New Zealand leads 2-1

**5. Which Indian batter is currently placed third in the rankings with 781 points?**

- Shubman Gill
- Abhishek Sharma
- Tilak Varma
- Hardik Pandya

### Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer
1	C) Five places
2	D) Seventh
3	C) Abhishek Sharma
4	B) India leads 3-0
5	C) Tilak Varma

**2. What is Suryakumar Yadav's current position in the ICC Men's T20I rankings?**

- First
- Third
- Fifth
- Seventh

**3. Who currently holds the number one spot in the ICC Men's T20I rankings with 929 points?**

- Suryakumar Yadav
- Tilak Varma
- Abhishek Sharma

## MISCELLANEOUS

### India's Solid Waste Management Rules 2026



On January 28, 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026**. Replacing the decade-old 2016 framework, these new regulations officially come into force on April 1, 2026, aiming to turn waste into a resource through a "circular economy" model.

The update introduces several high-stakes changes, moving India from advisory guidelines to a deterrence-based enforcement system.

#### Key Pillars of SWM Rules 2026

Feature	Details
Mandatory Segregation	<b>4-Way Source Segregation:</b> Wet, Dry, Sanitary, and Special Care waste.
Bulk Waste Generators	Now defined by size (20,000 sqm+), water use (40k L/day), or output (100kg/day).

Feature	Details
Polluter Pays	Introduction of <b>Environmental Compensation</b> for non-compliance and false reporting.
Industrial Mandate	Cement/Power plants must replace 5-15% of fuel with <b>Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)</b> .
Online Tracking	A new Centralised Online Portal by the CPCB to track waste from bin to burial.

#### Major Regulatory Shifts

- Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR):** For the first time, large entities (societies, malls, universities) are legally responsible for their waste. They must process wet waste on-site or procure an "EBWGR certificate" to prove they've paid for professional processing.
- Landfill Restrictions:** Landfills are now strictly the "last resort," reserved only for non-recyclable and non-combustible inert materials. To discourage dumping, **higher landfill fees** will be levied on local bodies for sending unsegregated waste to pits.
- Special Ecological Zones:** The rules now empower local bodies in **hilly areas and islands** to levy user fees on tourists and even limit tourist inflow based on the area's waste-handling capacity.
- Legacy Waste:** Cities must map all "garbage mountains" (legacy sites) by October 2026 and implement time-bound **biomining and bioremediation** to clear them.

## What the "4-Way" Streams Include

- Wet Waste:** Kitchen, fruit, and meat waste (for composting/bio-gas).
- Dry Waste:** Plastic, paper, glass, and metal (for Material Recovery Facilities).
- Sanitary Waste:** Diapers and napkins (must be wrapped securely and kept separate).
- Special Care Waste:** Paint cans, batteries, bulbs, and expired medicines

B) By combining environmental responsibility with enforceable compliance.

C) By delegating all responsibility to individual households without oversight.

D) By focusing exclusively on voluntary participation rather than regulation.

### 3. Which of the following best describes the "sustainable urban living" approach mentioned in the framework?

A) Shifting from a linear "throwaway" model to a more circular, resource-efficient system.

B) Increasing the export of solid waste to neighboring countries.

C) Prioritizing energy-intensive waste incineration over recycling.

D) Limiting waste management services to rural areas only.

## Answer Key

Question	Correct Answer	Reasoning
1	B	The text explicitly mentions reducing landfill pressure and improving recycling.
2	B	The framework integrates responsibility with "enforceable compliance measures."
3	A	Sustainable urban living in this context refers to reducing waste

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

### 1. What is the primary objective of India's updated solid waste governance framework as described in the text?

A) To increase the number of landfill sites across urban areas.

B) To reduce landfill pressure and enhance recycling efforts.

C) To privatize all municipal waste collection services.

D) To focus solely on industrial waste while ignoring domestic waste.

### 2. According to the new rules, how is accountability ensured across the waste management chain?

A) By removing compliance measures for small businesses.

Question	Correct Answer	Reasoning
		and improving the recycling lifecycle.

## STATE NEWS

### India's Diabetes Epidemic Hotspot



The findings from the ICMR-INDIAB study are a sobering reminder of the metabolic health crisis unfolding in India. While the national figures—**101 million** with diabetes and **136 million** with prediabetes—are staggering, the data from Tamil Nadu highlights a specific "hotspot" where the epidemic is accelerating at twice the speed of previous years.

In Tamil Nadu, the prevalence has doubled in just over a decade, with **rural areas (120% rise)** actually seeing a faster increase than urban centers. This suggests that lifestyle shifts are no longer just a "big city" problem.

### The Tamil Nadu Crisis: By the Numbers

Metric (Age >20)	2008–2010	2022–2023	% Increase
Diabetes Prevalence	11.1%	22.7%	104%
Prediabetes Prevalence	12.2%	24.8%	103%
Rural Diabetes	8.3%	18.3%	120%

### Why the Sharp Rise?

According to the study's lead researchers, including Dr. V. Mohan and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, the surge is driven by a combination of "low-quality" dietary habits and a sedentary lifestyle:

- **The "Carbohydrate Trap":** In Tamil Nadu, carbohydrates account for roughly **65% of total calories**, primarily from polished white rice. This has a high glycemic index, causing rapid blood sugar spikes.
- **Protein Deficiency:** Protein intake is significantly low (around 10%) compared to the recommended 15–20%.
- **Physical Inactivity:** Rapid motorization and the replacement of manual labor with machines (even in rural farming) have significantly dropped daily energy expenditure.
- **The PDS Factor:** Experts noted that the Public Distribution System (PDS) provides staples like rice and sugar but often lacks diverse proteins (pulses, legumes) and vegetables, contributing to a "nutritional imbalance" for lower socio-economic groups.

## The Silver Lining: Reversibility

The study emphasizes that the high rate of **prediabetes (24.8%)** is actually a window of opportunity. Prediabetes is often reversible with:

1. **Macro-nutrient Shift:** Replacing just 5% of carbohydrate intake with plant-based proteins can significantly lower risk.
2. **The "ABCD" Mantra:**
  - **A:** HbA1c below 7%.
  - **B:** Blood pressure below 140/90 mmHg.
  - **C:** Cholesterol/LDL within normal limits.
  - **D:** Discipline (diet, exercise, and regular check-ups).

**Expert Insight:** Those with prediabetes in India progress to full-blown diabetes much faster than other populations—often within just **four years**—making immediate intervention critical.

## Knowledge Check for Proficiency

**1. According to the ICMR-INDIAB study, what is the estimated number of people living with prediabetes in India?**

- A) 101 million
- B) 11.1 million
- C) 136 million
- D) 22.7 million

**2. By what percentage did the prevalence of diabetes increase in Tamil Nadu between the 2008–2010 and 2022–2023 periods?**

- A) 11.1%
- B) 22.7%
- C) 50%
- D) 104%

**3. What was the recorded prevalence rate of diabetes among adults above 20 years in Tamil Nadu during the 2022–2023 study period?**

- A) 10.1%
- B) 22.7%
- C) 11.1%
- D) 13.6%

## Answer Key & Data Summary

Question	Correct Answer	Key Stat Reference
1	C	136 million people in India have prediabetes.
2	D	The rise from 11.1% to 22.7% represents a <b>104% increase</b> .
3	B	The current prevalence in Tamil Nadu is <b>22.7%</b> .



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

Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA-India). It was developed in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT).

### Q.1. Which ministry recently released the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026?

- A. Ministry of Coal
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
- D. Ministry of Finance

1. B

The Indian government's Ministry of Power has released the draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026. This policy, which will replace the 2005 framework, aims to reform the power sector and promote sustainable energy in line with India's goal of becoming a developed country by 2047.

### Q.3. During which summit were the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations recently concluded?

- A. G20 Summit
- B. BRICS Summit
- C. 16th India-EU Summit
- D. WTO Ministerial Conference

3. C

India and the European Union have reached a significant milestone in diplomatic and economic engagement. During the 16th India-EU Summit, the two sides formally announced the conclusion of negotiations on a much-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Hosted by Narendra Modi, the summit marks a turning point in India-EU relations, after nearly two decades of negotiations.

### Q.4. In which global event did India recently participate as a partner country for the first time?

- A. World Food India
- B. Gulfood 2026
- C. SIAL Paris
- D. Expo Dubai

4. B

### Q.2. Who recently launched the 'ACASA-India' atlas for South Asia in collaboration with the Borlaug Institute?

- A. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- D. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

2. A

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) recently launched the Atlas of Climate





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For the first time, India has officially participated as a "Country Partner" at Gulfood 2026. The world's largest food and beverage trade show will be held in Dubai. This special participation aims to showcase India's food processing capabilities, agricultural exports, and global market presence through over 600 companies.

It is a matter of pride for Northeast India that the Sikkim Police has been awarded the President's Police Colours for their outstanding service, professionalism, and dedication to duty. This award is considered one of the highest and most prestigious honors given to a police force in India, recognizing long-standing outstanding performance and dedication to public service.

**Q.5. Which government department was recently named a finalist for the 2026 Franz Edelmann Award for its Food Cycle initiative?**

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Department of Food and Public Distribution
- D. Ministry of Consumer Affairs

5. C

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has been selected as a finalist for the 2026 Franz Edelmann Award for its Anna Chakra initiative. Anna Chakra is a supply chain optimization tool developed within India's public distribution system that improves the transportation of grain.

**Q.7. Who recently received the Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025?**

- A. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- B. Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya
- C. Dr. Randeep Guleria
- D. Dr. Devi Shetty

7. B

Indian public health expert Chandrakant Lahariya has been awarded the prestigious Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025. He becomes the first Indian to receive this international recognition. The award recognizes his continued contributions to health policy research and its real-world impact beyond academia.

**Q.6. Which police force recently received the President's Police Flag (Nishan)?**

- A. Kerala Police
- B. Punjab Police
- C. Sikkim Police
- D. Assam Police

6. C

**Q.8. With which state government did Drip Capital recently sign an agreement?**

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

8. C





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Drip Capital has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra. The partnership, signed during the World Economic Forum in Davos, aims to provide Maharashtra's MSME exporters with collateral-free trade finance and digital solutions worth ₹10,000 crore over the next five years (2026-2031).

principle approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate as a Payment Service Provider (PSP) at GIFT IFSC.

**Q.11. With which institution did the Indian Army recently sign an agreement for AI system development?**

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. DRDO
- C. IISc Bengaluru
- D. ISRO

11. C

The Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, to develop a fully indigenous artificial intelligence-based system through collaborative research and innovation. The MoU aims to address emerging challenges in the digital information landscape.

**Q.12. Zoho recently launched a new ERP platform primarily for which segment?**

- A. Large Corporates
- B. Startups only
- C. Government PSUs
- D. Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

12. D

Zoho has launched its new AI-native ERP platform specifically for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and fast-growing

**Q.9. Who recently became the first batsman to score a century in WPL history?**

- A. Harmanpreet Kaur
- B. Smriti Mandhana
- C. Meg Lanning
- D. Nat Sciver-Brunt

Nat Sciver-Brunt created history by scoring the first century in the Women's Premier League in WPL 2026. She achieved this feat while playing for Mumbai Indians against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Vadodara.

**Q.10. BioForex recently received in-principle approval for which role?**

- A. Payment Bank
- B. NBFC
- C. Payment Service Provider (PSP)
- D. Small Finance Bank

10. C

Buyforex, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EbixCash World Money, has received in-



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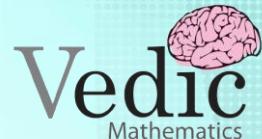
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businesses, with an initial focus on the Indian market. This new ERP aims to fill a significant gap in the market by providing an affordable and complete alternative to bulky, expensive, and consultant-dependent legacy systems like SAP, Oracle, and Tally.

According to a report by Swiss Re, India will be the world's fastest-growing large insurance market between 2026 and 2030. Indian insurance premiums are projected to grow at an average (real) annual rate of 6.9% during this period. This growth rate is significantly higher than China (approximately 4%) and the United States (approximately 2%).

**Q.13. Which state recently received World Bank assistance under the Water Conservation Haryana Project?**

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

13. D

The World Bank has approved ₹5,700 crore in assistance to the state of Haryana under the "Water Conservation Haryana Project." The project, which will run from 2026-2032, aims to make the state water-sufficient through canal repair, micro-irrigation, waterlogging management, and groundwater recharge.

**Q.15. Where was the 56th World Economic Forum recently held?**

- A. Geneva
- B. Zurich
- C. Davos-Klosters, Switzerland
- D. Paris

15. C

The 56th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting took place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. Nearly 3,000 leaders from more than 130 countries attended the meeting, which was themed "The Spirit of Dialogue."



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**Q.14. According to a recent Swiss Re report, India will be the fastest-growing insurance market over which period?**

- A. 2024-2028
- B. 2025-2030
- C. 2026-2030
- D. 2027-2032

14. C



## FACTS ABOUT BHARAT

That is a fantastic snapshot of Delhi's layers! It's incredible to think that the same ground where modern policy is made has a history stretching back to the Iron Age.

To add a little more flavor to your timeline, here are a few more "Bharat Facts" regarding the evolution of our capital:

### The Seven Cities of Delhi

Delhi isn't just one city; it's historically considered to be made up of **seven major cities** (though some historians count more) built by different rulers over centuries:

1. **Qila Rai Pithora** (Prithviraj Chauhan)
2. **Mehrauli** (Qutubuddin Aibak)
3. **Siri** (Alauddin Khilji)
4. **Tughlaqabad** (Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq)
5. **Firozabad** (Feroz Shah Tughlaq)
6. **Shergarh** (Sher Shah Suri)
7. **Shahjahanabad** (Shah Jahan - now known as Old Delhi)

### Key Milestones

- **The Lutyens Legacy:** When the British moved the capital in 1911, British architects **Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker** designed the "New Delhi" we see today, known for its wide avenues and grand colonial structures like Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **The Iron Pillar Mystery:** Located in the Qutub Complex, the 7-meter-high **Iron Pillar**

of Delhi has stood for over 1,600 years without rusting—a testament to the advanced metallurgy of ancient Bharat.

- **The Name "Delhi":** Legend suggests the name comes from **Raja Dhilu**, a king who reigned in the 1st century BCE, though others believe it comes from the Persian word *Dehleez* (threshold), signifying its role as the gateway to the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

### Knowledge Check for Proficiency

1. According to the epic Mahabharata, what was the ancient name of the area now known as Delhi?

- A) Hastinapur
- B) Indraprastha
- C) Pataliputra
- D) Ayodhya

2. In which year did the Delhi Sultanate begin after the legions of Muhammad of Ghori captured the town?

- A) 1192
- B) 1803
- C) 1206
- D) 1911

3. When did the British Empire officially take control of the city of Delhi?

- A) 1947 AD

- B) 1803 AD
- C) 1911 AD
- D) 1206 AD

**4. Before moving the capital to Delhi in 1911, which city served as the capital of British India?**

- A) Bombay
- B) Madras
- C) Calcutta
- D) Lahore

**5. Which specific area was officially declared the capital of India after the country gained independence in 1947?**

- A) Old Delhi
- B) New Delhi
- C) Indraprastha
- D) Gurgaon

**Answer Key**

Question	Answer
1	B) Indraprastha
2	C) 1206
3	B) 1803 AD
4	C) Calcutta
5	B) New Delhi

**Dear Aspirants,**

"We trust that this current affairs preparation will be beneficial for your upcoming examination. Consistent daily study of current affairs is highly recommended. Should you have any suggestions for improvement or feedback regarding the class, please feel free to communicate them. Your ideas are valuable, and we welcome your assistance in helping us to provide enhanced support in the future."

We wish best for your studies & Exams

**Best Wishes**

Murthy sir (MSM)

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