

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 2026

E-MAGAZINE

Our Courses

LATEST VACANCIES 2026

EXAMS	POSTS	LAST DATE
RRB (Assistant Loco Pilot)	11,127	14 Jun 2026
RRC (South Central Railway Apprentice)	2,801	11 Apr 2026
UP Co-operative Bank	116	15 Apr 2026
SSC CGL	14,582	30 Apr 2026
SSB Head Constable	233	20 Apr 2026
Ministry of Railways Assistant (HR)	15	27 Apr 2026

Upcoming Exam Date 2026

Civil Services (Preliminary)	24 May 2026
IFS (Preliminary)	24 May 2026
C.D.S. Exam (I)	12 Apr 2026
Combined Graduate Level Exam	May-June 2026

SUBSCRIBE & FOLLOW



Panacea Tutor



panacea.tutor



Panacea Bharti Institute



Panacea Tutor

Download Our App



IAS PCS

SSC/BANK
All Govt. Jobs

UGC NET/JRF
CTET/PSTET

CUET-UG
CLAT/LLB

CAT/ IPMAT
MBA Tests

CET PAU
Nursing Test

VIII, IX, X,+1,+2
Jr. IAS &
Personality Dept.

Career
Counselling



PANACEA BHARTI[®]
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054407407, 9888405906

www.panaceatutor.com

OUR LEGACY OF SUCCESS

Gallery

UPSC Civil Services PRATIBHA SETU 2025



Ketan Singla
Assistant Director
Ministry of Youth Affairs



Amanpreet Singh
Assistant Director
Sports Authority of India



Lovish Garg
IPS, Rank 184



Himanshu Gupta
IAS, Rank 7

My association with PANACEA for about 5 months was very fruitful. I got good motivation to achieve my goals. Thank you bharti sir for your constant support. I suggest students to make a goal in life and PANACEA is a good centre to guide you.
Himanshu



Aditya Uppal
IAS, Rank 19

I came to bharti sir when I was at the crossroads of my career. It was his motivation coupled with guidance that I took the decision to appear for the civil services and finally cracked it in my very first attempt. I owe my success to him a lot. Thank you sir for being the guiding light for me and many others like me.
Aditya uppal (civil services exam 2013 AIR 202) (Indian revenue service) 1:54 pm



SOME OF OUR PCS PUNJAB SUCCESS



Sachin Pathak
SDM, Rank 3



Deepkaran Toor
DSP, Rank 21



Harpinder Kaur
DSP



Dr. Ankit Bansal
PCS



Meenakshi Gupta
PCS (J)



Geeta Bishambu
PCS



Dr. Lalit
PCS



Dr. Aman Gupta
PCS



PANACEA Civil Services Batches

Mission IAS/PCS

For Undergraduates, Graduates & above

Foundation IAS/PCS

For Class XI, XII & Undergraduates

Jr. IAS & Personality Devt.

For 12-16 yrs. (Sunday Only)



Grow gradually with us

- Expert Team of Faculty
- Classroom & Online Batches
- Regular Pre cum Mains batch
- Foundation Batch
- Mentorship Batch
- Complete Notes
- Recorded Video Portal
- Regular Tests
- Consistent Success Records
- Career Guidance

Jr. IAS & Personality Development Program

Age 12-16 years

Sunday: 11 - 1 PM

Useful for future competitive exams like NTSE, CUET, CLAT, NDA, UG Tests & Civil Services

Plan your career early & get guided by mentors to achieve success



Jr. IAS Class



Lovish Garg in 2013
Jr. IAS Group



Lovish Garg, **IPS**
AIR 184, UPSC 2022

Jr. IAS & Personality Development Activities

GK & Current Affairs

Mental Aptitude

Communication Skills

Science & Technology

Presentation Skills

Career Counselling

CRASH COURSE 2026



CET PAU

AAT

ICAR CUET

B.Sc. Nursing

Offline & Online Batches

PAU CET COURSES

5 Yrs. Integrated M.Sc.

- B.Sc. (Ag.)
- B.Sc.(Horticulture
- B.Tech.(Food Tech
- B.Tech.(Ag. Engg.)
- B.Tech (Biotech.)
- B.Sc.(H) Nutrition & Diatetics
- B.Sc.(H) Agribusiness Mgt.
- Biochemistry
- Botany
- Zoology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Microbiology

Excellent Success Record since 2012

**Under guidance of Dr. D K Bharti,
Former Agril. Scientist, ICAR, Govt. of India**



PANACEA BHARTI[®]
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054407407, 9888405906

www.panaceatutor.com

OUR RECENT CET PAU SUCCESS



Gurleen
Rank 5



Bhumika
Rank 12



Simarjeet
Rank 37



Navseerat
Rank 43



Manraj
Rank 60



Sanya
Rank 66



Khushdeep
Rank 73



Gurmanvir
Rank 90



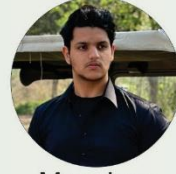
Navroop
Rank 91



Anureet
Rank 92



Amandeep
Rank 120



Mansher
Rank 128



Jashanpreet
Rank 133



Ishmeet
Rank 139



Sahil
Rank 143



Anisha
Rank 170



Tanveer
Rank 178



Chetna
Rank 189



Jaandeep
Rank 194



Kunal
Rank 197



Bani Ish
Rank 215



Jasraj
Rank 223



Tarunpreet
Rank 238



Jujhar
Rank 238



Paramvir
Rank 275



Nitin Sharma
Rank 280



Anaitvir
Rank 301



Mehakdeep
Rank 314



Dhronika Jindal
Rank 315



Tania
Rank 360



Harmanjit
Rank 362



Bhavkirat
Rank 363



Anna
Rank 398



Aishveer Singh
Rank 411



Navreet Kaur
Rank 422



Raaviya
Rank 422



Aryan
Rank 431



Naman
Rank 498



Vidhi
Rank 503



Anmol
Rank 515



Gurman
Rank 530



Ramanpreet
Rank 539



Yuvraj
Rank 539



Harman
Rank 547



Kawanpreet
Rank 564



Khushwant
Rank 613



Sehajpreet
Rank 649



Ravinder
Rank 656



Arshdeep
Rank 680

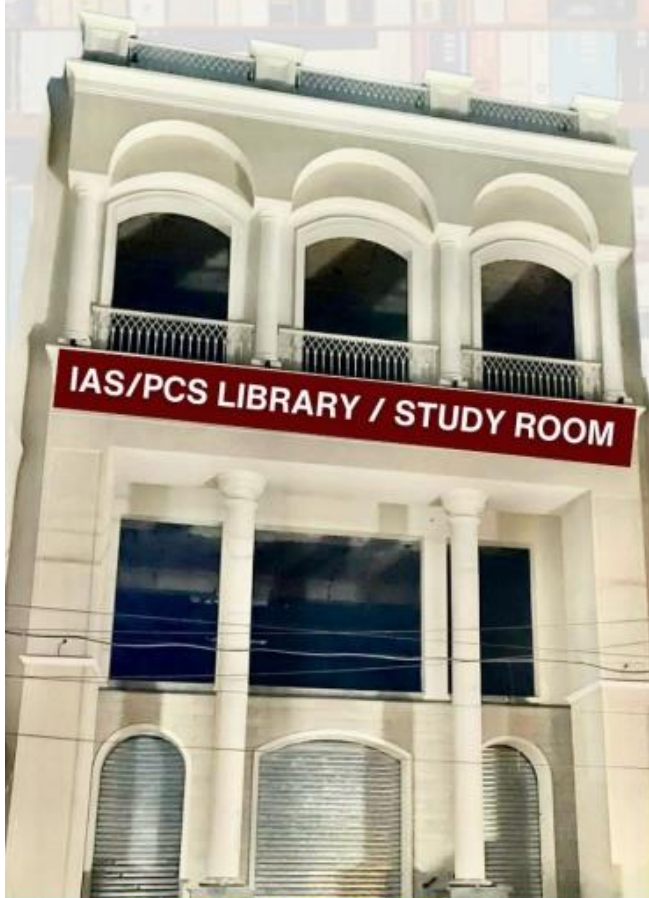


PANACEA BHARTI®
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana
M: 8054407407, 9888405906 panaceatutor.com

PANACEA IAS/PCS LIBRARY / STUDY ROOM

- ✓ Starting from November 10, 2025
- ✓ Timing 8 AM to 6 PM
- ✓ Monthly Fee Rs. 1,000 & Rs. 5,000 for Six Months
- ✓ Exclusively for Panacea IAS/PCS Students only
- ✓ Individual sitting without group discussion
- ✓ Strict discipline & silence.
- ✓ Register before availing facility
- ✓ Limited seats available
- ✓ Free membership after clearing Prelims till Mains



PANACEA BHARTI
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

• B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054407407, 9888405906

www.panaceatutor.com

INDEX

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Census 2027 Digital Tools Launch
2. 40th AAHAR – International Food & Hospitality Fair
3. Darknet Drug Network “Team Kalki” Busted
4. Savitribai Phule
5. Passive Euthanasia in India
6. Blue Book in India
7. Supreme Court Expands Maternity Rights for Adoptive Mothers
8. UIDAI Launches Bug Bounty Programme for Aadhaar Security
9. 24 Speed Post Service by India Post
10. Sujal Gaon ID Initiative
11. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 Passed
12. Brand Ambassador of Census 2027
13. Rising Honeybee Attacks
14. National Dental Commission (NDC) Established
15. 5-Minute In-Flight Yoga Routine Launched
16. PM Narendra Modi Becomes Longest-Serving Elected Head

2. STATE NEWS

17. Rajasthan Renames Three Places
18. Vanjeevi Didi Initiative
19. Karbi Anglong Ginger
20. Losar Festival 2026
21. Tamil Nadu’s First Dark Sky Park
22. Indian Orchid Festival 2026
23. Madurai Airport Gets International Status
24. Lake and Air Watch Initiative
25. #SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk Initiative
26. Nirbhaya Nisha Initiative
27. Karnataka’s Proposal to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

28. Dol Purnima (Dol Yatra)
29. Asia’s Largest Tulip Garden Opens in Srinagar
30. Gujarat’s Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccination Drive
31. Project GANGA: Expanding Digital Connectivity in Uttar Pradesh
32. GI-Tagged Joha Rice
33. India’s First Ring Metro Inaugurated in Delhi
34. Maharashtra Oleum Gas Leak Incident (Palghar)
35. H-FAST (Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team)
36. Kishangarh Dumping Yard: “Switzerland of Rajasthan”
37. Purple Potato: A ‘Purple Revolution’ in Agriculture
38. Sugam Digital Gujarat: Digitising Public Services
39. Gujarat Passes Uniform Civil Code (UCC)
40. BPCL Launches India’s First LPG ATM
41. Tamil Nadu Tops Textile Exports in FY25

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

42. Hexagon of Alliances
43. Iran–Israel–US Conflict
44. Barbie Dream Team 2026
45. Afghanistan–Pakistan Conflict
46. TIME Women of the Year 2026
47. INS Trikand Joins Mauritius National Day Celebrations
48. Test of Indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)
49. Balen Shah Set to Become Nepal’s Prime Minister
50. Ralph Lauren Faces Backlash Over Jhumka Design
51. Mojtaba Khamenei Appointed Supreme Leader of Iran

52. Exercise Cold Response 2026
53. Qatar LNG Disruption & Force Majeure
54. Kharg Island: Iran's Strategic Oil Hub
55. Mahatma Gandhi Bust Unveiled at University of Montana
56. Scotland Legalises Water Cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)
57. Argentina Exits World Health Organization (WHO)
58. Exercise Kakadu 2026
59. Diego Garcia & Strategic Maritime Routes
60. Port of Fujairah

4. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

61. Kailash Satyarthi's "Karuna: The Power of Compassion" Released

5. BANKING / ECONOMY

62. SEBI AI System "Sudarshan"
63. LPG Shortage and Supply Concerns in India
64. Bank of Baroda Green Infrastructure Bonds
65. Jio Launches AI-Powered Financial App "Finsider"
66. RBI '.bank.in' Domain Initiative
67. Essential Commodities Act, 1955
68. Coconut Promotion Scheme (Union Budget 2026-27)
69. PRISM-SG Portal: Streamlining Bridge Approvals
70. Reform Express Initiative Launched by Ministry of Railways
71. New GDP Series (Base Year FY23)

6. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

72. India Becomes 3rd-Largest Hub for Billionaires

73. SIPRI Report 2025: India 2nd Largest Arms Importer
74. Global AI Brain Race Report 2026
75. Raisina Dialogue 2026
76. International Day of Happiness & World Happiness Report 2026
77. World Air Quality Report 2025
78. Global Terrorism Index 2026
79. National DMF Summit 2026

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

80. Vikram Doraiswami Appointed India's Ambassador to China
81. Bhumika Shrestha: First Transgender Woman MP in Nepal
82. First Woman to Head a Functional Nuclear Power Plant

8. DEFENCE NEWS

83. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)
84. Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)
85. Gravity Bombs
86. AVATAAR: India's First Amphibious Surveillance Drone
87. Exercise Sea Dragon 2026
88. Sejil Missile: Iran's 'Dancing Missile'
89. Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026
90. Vayu Baan Project Launched by Indian Air Force
91. INS Taragiri: Stealth Frigate Commissioned
92. Kalari Leap Exercise
93. Tomahawk Cruise Missile
94. U.S. Tests Minuteman III "Doomsday" Missile
95. Exercise Vayushakti-26

9. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 96. Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026
- 97. 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)
- 98. Stockholm Water Prize 2026
- 99. Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

10. SCIENCE AND TECH

- 100. Moonshot Project
- 101. Hutchinson–Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS)
- 102. Tuberculosis (TB)
- 103. Xylazine (“Zombie Drug”)
- 104. Desalination Plants

11. SPORTS NEWS

- 105. Indian Women’s Cricket Team Nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year 2026
- 106. ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026
- 107. Former Indian Footballer Syed Habibul Hasan Hameed Passes Away
- 108. Aarav Dengla Becomes India’s 93rd Grandmaster
- 109. Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

12. IMPORTANT DAYS

- 110. National Science Day 2026
- 111. International Women’s Day
- 112. World Obesity Atlas 2025
- 113. No Smoking Day
- 114. Jan Aushadhi Diwas
- 115. World Sparrow Day 2026
- 116. World Sleep Day 2026
- 117. International Day of Mathematics 2026

- 118. World Consumer Rights Day (15 March)
- 119. International Day to Combat Islamophobia (15 March)
- 120. National Vaccination Day (16 March)
- 121. World Puppetry Day
- 122. Shaheed Diwas
- 123. World Meteorological Day
- 124. World Poetry Day
- 125. World Glacier Day
- 126. International Day of Forests
- 127. World Down Syndrome Day
- 128. Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)
- 129. World Water Day 2026

13. GOVT. SCHEMES

- 130. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

14. ENVIRONMENT

- 131. Gentoo Penguin and H5N1 Avian Influenza
- 132. Blue-and-White Flycatcher Spotted in Gujarat
- 133. NABARD Launches National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge
- 134. Dusky Eagle-Owl Sighting
- 135. New Fish Species Discovered in West Bengal

15. OBITUARY

- 136. K.G. George, Vir Chakra Awardee, Passes Away
- 137. Raja Singh Oberoi (TV Man of India)

OUR PUNJAB PCS PRELIM SUCCESS 2026

- 1. Prabhjot Singh**
- 2. Ayush Raina**
- 3. Ketan Singla**
- 4. Ramanpreet Kaur**
- 5. Shubham Sharma**
- 6. Parteek Saini**
- 7. Mehak Sood**
- 8. Shruti Bharti**
- 9. Chhavi**
- 10. Pinki Saini**
- 11. Harshi Gagat**
- 12. Renu Bala**
- 13. Amanpreet Kaur**
- 14. Gurtej Singh**
- 15. Gurbax Singh**
- 16. Manav Nahar**
- 17. Mohit Bhatt**

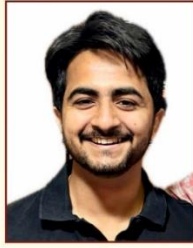
SOME OF OUR RECENT *Success*



Varun Kaushal
IBPS PO



Amay Singh
IBPS PO



Sourav
Assistant Director,
Ministry of MSME



Ramanpreet Kaur
Labour Inspector
Govt. of Punjab



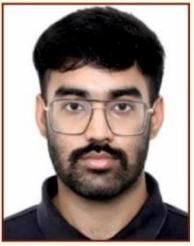
Kartik
IBPS PO



Yashika
SSC CGL, IBPS PO



Gagandeep Kaur
Intelligence
Assistant
Punjab Police



Manraj Singh
Assistant
Env. Engg.,
Govt. of Punjab



Yatish Bali
Revenue Patwari



Shivam
CRPF Constable



Karanveer
SBI PO



Akashdeep
Asst. Director, PPSC



Lovish Bisht
SSC CGL, 160
SO, MEA



Harpreet Singh
Asstt. Commandant



Samridhi Jain
IBPS PO



Sukhmanpreet Kaur
ADO



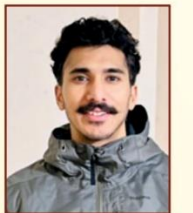
Mahima
SBI PO



Aakash
IBPS PO



Karanveer Singh
ADO



Gagandeep Singh
ADO



Tanveen
SO, GST



Gursharan
IBPS PO



Renuka
SBI PO



Manisha
Pb. & Haryana
HC Clerk



Baljit Singh
ADO



Gurwinder
SBI



Ravinder
LIC DO



SBI PO



Sohail
FCI Manager



Aditi
IBPS PO



SBI PO



Harpinder Singh
ADO

Central Govt. & State Govt. Jobs APTITUDE TEST

Bank Exams

- IBPS - PO & Clerk
- IBPS - RRB PO & Clerk
- IBPS - Specialist Officer
- SBI - PO & Clerk
- RBI - Officer & Assistant
- NABARD - Grade A & B
- SEBI - Grade A Officer

Insurance Exams

- LIC AAO & Assistants
- GIC AO & Assistants

State Govt. Exams

- Food & CS Inspectors
- Co-operative Inspectors
- High Court Clerks
- Taxation Inspectors
- Police SI & Constables
- PUDA, GLADA & PSPCL
- Tehsil Welfare Officer etc.
- Revenue Patwari
- Naib Tehsildar
- Municipal Corporation
- Agricultural Devt. Officer
- Labour Inspector
- Section Officer

Central Govt. Exams

- SSC - CGL
- SSC - CHSL for +2
- Intelligence Bureau
- EPF Clerk
- EPF Asstt. Commissioner
- FCI
- PSUs & Railway
- Delhi Police SI/ASI
- Constable/Head Constable
- Assistant Commandant
- Post Office Jobs
- CDS
- AFCAT
- NDA
- CAPF
- CISF
- Agniveer
- Other Govt. Jobs

**5000+ SUCCESS RECORDS
IN DIFFERENT
COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

SUCCESS STRATEGIES For Aptitude Based Jobs

1

UNDERSTAND CONCEPTS & LEARN TRICKS

Build a strong foundation by thoroughly understanding key concepts. Learn shortcuts and tricks to improve speed and accuracy during aptitude tests.



EXERCISE WHAT YOU LEARN

2

Reinforce your learning through daily practice of previously learned concepts and tricks. Consistency sharpens your skills and boosts confidence.



3

CLEAR DOUBTS PROMPTLY

Clarify every doubt and understand tricky points in detail. Never let confusion pile up – small clarifications lead to big improvements.





TEST YOURSELF REGULARLY

4

Attempt weekly sectional tests and start daily mock tests at least a month before exams. Regular assessments help track your progress and build exam stamina.

5

IDENTIFY AND IMPROVE WEAKNESSES

Analyze your performance to find weak topics. Work on them repeatedly until you're confident – this step is key to cracking competitive exams.



KEEP LEVELING UP

6

Once you achieve a goal, set your sights higher. Use your success as a stepping stone for better opportunities and higher job roles.



1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Census 2027 Digital Tools Launch

Amit Shah launched four digital tools and unveiled the mascots “Pragati” and “Vikas” for the Census of India 2027 in New Delhi in March 2026. The initiative marks preparations for India’s first fully digital census, aimed at modernising the population enumeration process.



Significance:

The mascots Pragati (female) and Vikas (male) symbolize the equal participation of women and men in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047. The digital tools are intended to improve data collection, accuracy, and efficiency in the census process.

2. 40th AAHAR – International Food & Hospitality Fair



The 40th edition of the AAHAR – International Food & Hospitality Fair was inaugurated in New Delhi by Piyush Goyal. The event is organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

Event Details

The fair is being held from 10–14 March 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It is considered one of Asia’s largest B2B trade fairs for the food and hospitality sectors.

Key Features

The exhibition showcases food products, beverages, food-processing technology, hospitality equipment, packaging, and related services. Italy participated as the partner country for the 2026 edition, highlighting international collaboration in the food and hospitality industry.

3. Darknet Drug Network “Team Kalki” Busted

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) dismantled a pan-India darknet drug trafficking network named “Team Kalki” in New Delhi. The network operated through darknet marketplaces and encrypted messaging apps to sell narcotic and psychotropic substances across India.

Seizures and Investigation

During the operation, authorities seized drugs from 13 domestic parcels and 2 international parcels originating from the Netherlands. The case revealed how online anonymous platforms were used to



distribute illegal drugs across different parts of the country.

What is the Darknet?

The darknet is a hidden part of the internet that cannot be accessed through normal search engines or standard web browsers. It provides high anonymity by hiding users' identity and location through encryption, which can sometimes be exploited for illegal activities such as drug trafficking.

4. Savitribai Phule



Tribute was paid to Savitribai Phule on her death anniversary (10 March) in recognition of her significant contributions to women's education and social reform in India.

Early Contributions

Savitribai Phule was a 19th-century social reformer, poet, and India's first female teacher. She played a pioneering role in promoting education and social equality during a time when women's education was widely opposed.

Promotion of Girls' Education

In 1848, Savitribai Phule and Jyotirao Phule opened India's first girls' school in Pune at Bhide Wada. She worked actively to promote education for girls, Dalits, and other marginalized communities, and strongly opposed child marriage and caste discrimination.

Death and Legacy

Savitribai Phule died on 10 March 1897 while helping patients during a plague outbreak, symbolizing her dedication to humanitarian service and social welfare. Her legacy continues to inspire efforts for education, equality, and social justice in India.

5. Passive Euthanasia in India

In March 2026, the Supreme Court of India allowed passive euthanasia for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man who had been in a permanent vegetative state since 2013 after a severe fall. The Court permitted the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, marking the first practical application of passive euthanasia guidelines in India



Euthanasia refers to the painless ending of life of a person suffering from an incurable and painful disease or an irreversible coma. In India, euthanasia has been a major ethical and legal debate linked to the concept of "dying with dignity."

Constitutional Basis

The legal debate on euthanasia is connected to Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The Supreme Court has interpreted this to

include the right to live with dignity, which in certain medical circumstances can extend to the idea of dying with dignity.

Types of Euthanasia in India

Active euthanasia involves actively causing death, such as through a lethal injection, and it remains illegal in India.

Passive euthanasia refers to withdrawing or withholding life-support treatment, and it is allowed in rare cases under strict safeguards.

Important Supreme Court Judgments

India does not have a specific law governing euthanasia, so the system mainly relies on Supreme Court judgments. Key cases include Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011) and Common Cause v. Union of India (2018).

The Aruna Shanbaug case was historic because it first recognised passive euthanasia in India, initiated the legal debate on the right to die with dignity, and provided guidelines for end-of-life decisions. Later, the Common Cause judgment recognised living wills and advanced medical directives, allowing individuals to refuse life-support in certain situations.

Harish Rana Case

The issue recently gained attention in the case of Harish Rana, a BTech student from Panjab University who suffered a severe brain injury in 2013 after falling from his PG accommodation. He entered a permanent vegetative state with no chance of recovery and for more than 12 years was kept alive through Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) provided through a feeding tube.

Legal Complexity

Earlier court rulings mainly dealt with patients on ventilators or life-support machines. However, Harish Rana was not on a ventilator and depended only on a feeding tube, creating legal uncertainty about whether removing CANH should be considered passive euthanasia or active euthanasia. Because of this ambiguity, hospitals and courts hesitated to permit withdrawal of treatment.

Legal Significance

Although the court did not allow euthanasia in this particular case, it clarified important legal principles and reinforced that passive euthanasia can be permitted in India under strict safeguards. The decision highlighted the continuing evolution of India's legal framework regarding end-of-life medical decisions and the right to die with dignity.

6. Blue Book in India

The Blue Book came into news following a protocol row during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Bagdogra Airport, where questions were raised about adherence to VVIP reception protocols.

The “Blue Book” is a confidential manual issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that lays down the protocol and security guidelines for visits of VVIPs such as the President, Vice-President, and Prime Minister of India.

Purpose

The manual provides detailed instructions regarding reception arrangements, security measures, logistics, and coordination between the Centre and State governments during VVIP visits.

According to the Blue Book, the Governor and the Chief Minister (or a designated minister) should receive the dignitary during official visits.

7. Supreme Court Expands Maternity Rights for Adoptive Mothers



The Supreme Court of India recently struck down the restrictive provision under Section 60(4) of the Code on Social Security, 2020 that limited maternity leave for adoptive mothers to cases where the adopted child was below three months of age. Declaring the provision unconstitutional, the Court held that maternity benefits cannot be made contingent upon the age of the adopted child. It affirmed that adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave irrespective of the child’s age.

Recognition of Adoptive Motherhood

The Court emphasized that adoptive mothers must be treated on par with biological mothers in terms of rights and responsibilities. It observed that motherhood is not merely biological but also involves caregiving, emotional bonding, and nurturing. Therefore, denying equal maternity benefits to adoptive mothers was arbitrary and discriminatory.

Child Welfare and Social Reality

Highlighting the importance of child welfare, the Court noted that laws must reflect the realities of childcare and emotional bonding. The age of the adopted child does not diminish the need for care, attention, and adjustment within the family. Hence, maternity benefits should support the best interests of the child.

Direction on Paternity Leave

In a progressive step, the Court also directed the Central Government to recognize paternity leave as a part of social security. This acknowledges the shared responsibility of parenting and promotes greater involvement of fathers in childcare.

8. UIDAI Launches Bug Bounty Programme for Aadhaar Security



The Unique Identification Authority of India has launched a structured Bug Bounty Programme to enhance the security of the Aadhaar ecosystem. The initiative aims to proactively identify vulnerabilities and strengthen trust in India’s digital infrastructure.

What is a Bug Bounty Programme?

A bug bounty programme is a cybersecurity initiative where ethical hackers (white-hat hackers) are invited to identify and report system vulnerabilities responsibly. Participants are rewarded based on the severity and impact of the flaws discovered.

Key Features

The programme involves around 20 selected ethical hackers and cybersecurity experts. It covers critical platforms such as the UIDAI website, the myAadhaar portal, and the Secure QR Code application. A risk-based reward system has been adopted, categorizing vulnerabilities into Critical, High, Medium, and Low levels.

Implementation and Collaboration

The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with ComOlho IT Pvt. Ltd., reflecting a public-private partnership approach to strengthen digital security.

9. 24 Speed Post Service by India Post



The India Post launched 24 Speed Post on 17 March 2026 as a premium next-day (D+1) delivery service. Initially available in six major cities—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad—the service offers features such as OTP-secured delivery, real-time tracking, and a money-back guarantee. This initiative enhances efficiency in postal services and strengthens India Post's competitiveness in the express logistics sector.

10. Sujal Gaon ID Initiative

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Sujal Gaon ID, a unique digital identifier assigned to every rural piped drinking water supply scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0. This initiative enables digital mapping of rural water infrastructure, improves transparency, and enhances service delivery. By assigning a distinct ID to each scheme, it ensures better monitoring, planning, and governance in rural water management.



11. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 Passed



Recently, Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, after approval by the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha had earlier cleared the Bill through a voice vote amid an Opposition walkout.

The amendment introduces significant changes to

the definition of “transgender,” notably removing the provision of self-perceived gender identity. It also excludes certain socio-cultural identities and transmasculine individuals from its scope, marking a shift from earlier provisions. However, the changes have also raised concerns regarding inclusivity and rights, as the removal of self-identification provisions is seen as a departure from earlier legal recognition frameworks.

12. Brand Ambassador of Census 2027

Recently, preparations for Census 2027 have gained attention with the appointment of renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik as the brand ambassador by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This will be India’s 16th Census and the 8th since independence, and notably, the first digital census.

The exercise will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Registrar General of India. It will also feature mascots—Pragati (female) and Vikas (male)—to promote awareness and participation.



13. Rising Honeybee Attacks



Recently, multiple states have reported rising honeybee attacks, raising safety concerns. These attacks usually occur when hives are disturbed, triggering aggressive swarming behavior.

The main species involved is *Apis dorsata* (giant rock bee), which forms large open colonies. Their stings release pheromones that attract more bees, intensifying attacks. Safety measures include seeking enclosed spaces, covering the face, removing stingers, and seeking medical help in severe cases.

14. National Dental Commission (NDC) Established

Recently, the government established the National Dental Commission (NDC) on March 19, 2026, replacing the Dental Council of India. It is a statutory body responsible for regulating dental education and the profession.

The commission aims to improve quality, transparency, and affordability in dental education and services, while also handling regulation, assessment, fee guidelines, and standards.



15. 5-Minute In-Flight Yoga Routine Launched

Recently, the Ministry of Ayush introduced a 5-minute in-flight yoga routine during Yoga Mahotsav 2026 to promote wellness among air travellers. The routine has been developed by

the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) and is designed for easy practice while seated in an aircraft.

It aims to address common travel-related issues such as stiffness, fatigue, poor blood circulation, stress, and the risk of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT). The routine includes light stretches, joint movements, simple seated yoga postures, pranayama techniques like Anulom Vilom and Bhramari, and short meditation.

Overall, the initiative helps improve blood flow, reduce anxiety, and manage fatigue and jet lag, while promoting preventive healthcare and integrating yoga into daily life—even during travel.



16. PM Narendra Modi Becomes Longest-Serving Elected Head

Narendra Modi has become India’s longest-serving elected head of government, completing 8,931 days in office. He surpassed Pawan Kumar Chamling, marking a significant milestone in India’s political history.



CLAT 2026 - 27

Join New Regular/ Weekend
Batches by Expert Team



Jappan



Yeshmeen

RGNU, Patiala

OUR CLAT 2024 SUCCESS

PANACEA BHARTI INSTITUTE

M : 9888405906

A PANACEA FOR YOUR DREAM CAREER

CAT

Common Admission Test

XAT

IIFT

NMAT

SNAP

TISS

CMAT

CET

Others



Coaching by Expert Team



PANACEA BHARTI[®]
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054 407 407, 9888 405 906 www.panaceatutor.com

2. STATE NEWS

17. Rajasthan Renames Three Places

The government of Rajasthan announced the renaming of three historic towns to better reflect their cultural and historical heritage. The decision was announced by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma during discussions on the Finance Bill in the state assembly.

Changes:

- Mount Abu → Abu Raj (the state's only hill station in the Aravalli Range)
- Kaman → Kamvan, highlighting its Braj and Krishna heritage
- Jahazpur → Yagyanpur, reflecting its historical and ritual significance

18. Vanjeevi Didi Initiative



The Vanjeevi Didi initiative was launched at the Palamu Tiger Reserve to promote community-based forest and wildlife conservation. Educated women from nearby villages are selected as “Vanjeevi Didis” and act as forest ambassadors to spread awareness about biodiversity protection.

The programme encourages villagers to avoid poaching, illegal hunting, and deforestation. It was launched on 17 February 2026 in the Garu range of the reserve. Each participant receives a monthly incentive of ₹3,000 and also helps spread awareness about education and government welfare schemes.

19. Karbi Anglong Ginger

Karbi Anglong Ginger is a premium ginger variety grown in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. It received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015 and is mainly cultivated in the Singhasan Hills using traditional Jhum (shifting) and Tila cultivation methods.



Features and Significance:

The ginger is known for its strong aroma, high pungency, and rich essential oil content. It is widely used in culinary, pharmaceutical, and medicinal applications. Recently, Assam exported GI-tagged Karbi Anglong ginger to London for the first time, boosting farmers' income and promoting regional agricultural branding.

20. Losar Festival 2026



The Losar was celebrated from 18–20 February 2026 in McLeod Ganj, marking the beginning of the Fire Horse Year in the Tibetan lunar calendar. The year occurs once every 60 years in Tibetan astrology and symbolizes strength, energy, and transformation.

Significance:

The celebrations gained spiritual importance as Dalai Lama visited McLeod Ganj during the festival. Losar represents renewal, purification, and cultural identity for Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist communities in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet.

21. Tamil Nadu's First Dark Sky Park

Tamil Nadu inaugurated its first Dark Sky Park at Aiyur Shola Reserve Forest in the Kolli Hills of Namakkal district in February 2026.

Significance:

Dark Sky Parks aim to reduce light pollution and promote astronomical observation and eco-tourism. India's first Dark Sky Park was established at Pench Tiger Reserve in 2024 under the International Dark Sky Places Programme.



22. Indian Orchid Festival 2026



The Indian Orchid Festival 2026 concluded in Pakyong, Sikkim and witnessed a huge crowd of visitors. The festival was organised by the ICAR–National Research Centre for Orchids (ICAR-NRCO).

The festival was a four-day event and celebrated the rich diversity and beauty of orchids found in India. The theme of the festival was “Orchids for Beauty & Prosperity.” The event aimed to promote awareness, conservation, and appreciation of orchids while highlighting their economic and ornamental value.

23. Madurai Airport Gets International Status

The Union Cabinet approved international status for Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu. The date of approval was 10 March 2026.

Significance

Granting international status will allow the airport to operate regular international flights and handle immigration, customs, and international passengers. This move is expected to improve connectivity between southern Tamil Nadu and foreign destinations,



especially regions such as the Gulf and Southeast Asia.

24. Lake and Air Watch Initiative

The Lake and Air Watch Initiative has been launched by the Gujarat Urban Development Mission under the state Urban Development Department. The initiative aims to monitor lake health and air quality using satellite technology and real-time monitoring systems to support sustainable urban development.



Lake Monitoring

Under the initiative, authorities will track the condition of urban lakes, including lake area, algae growth, waste accumulation, and overall water quality. This helps in better management and conservation of urban water bodies.

Air Quality Monitoring

The programme also focuses on monitoring air quality by installing AQI stations across the state. These stations will be set up in 17 municipal corporations and 152 municipalities to track pollution levels and improve environmental management.

25. #SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk Initiative



The #SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk was organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2026. The initiative aimed to promote women’s leadership and support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Participation and Activities

The event witnessed the participation of over 3,000 women from more than 200 sectors. Participants included women from the armed forces, police, healthcare, sports, media, and education sectors.

Route and Cultural Events

The walk was conducted from India Gate to Vijay Chowk and featured cultural performances, celebrating women’s achievements and encouraging greater participation of women in nation-building.

26. Nirbhaya Nisha Initiative



The Nirbhaya Nisha Initiative has been launched by the Kerala Police to improve women’s safety during night hours. The programme aims to provide immediate police assistance and strengthen night-time policing.

Key Features

The initiative operates from 9 PM to 5 AM, with increased police patrols in vulnerable areas to ensure better safety and surveillance. Women can seek help through the 112 emergency helpline or by using the SOS feature in the Pol-App. The initiative is designed to ensure quick police response and safer night travel for women.

27. Karnataka's Proposal to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

Karnataka's proposal to ban social media access for children under 16 years is in the news following the announcement in the 2026–27 Budget by the Government of Karnataka.

Purpose

The proposal aims to restrict access to social media platforms for children below 16 years in order to protect minors from online risks, including cyberbullying, harmful content, and excessive digital exposure.

28. Dol Purnima (Dol Yatra)



Dol Purnima, also known as Dol Yatra, is a festival celebrating the divine love of Radha and Krishna. It marks the arrival of spring and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. The festival is celebrated on the full moon day (Purnima) and is closely associated with Holi celebrations, especially in eastern parts of India.

29. Asia's Largest Tulip Garden Opens in Srinagar

Asia's largest tulip garden, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, has opened in Srinagar, marking the arrival of the spring season in Kashmir. The garden was inaugurated by Omar Abdullah on 16 March 2026.



Location and Setting

The garden is situated at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range and overlooks the iconic Dal Lake. Its scenic terraced layout enhances its visual appeal and makes it a major attraction for tourists.

Key Features

Spread over 74 acres, the garden showcases around 1.8 million tulips in bloom. It hosts nearly 70–75 varieties of tulips, many of which are imported from the Netherlands. The vibrant floral display attracts visitors from across India and abroad.

Tourism Significance

The opening of the tulip garden signals the beginning of Kashmir's spring tourism season. It serves as a major boost to local tourism and highlights the region's natural beauty,

playing a crucial role in promoting Srinagar as a premier travel destination.

30. Gujarat's Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccination Drive

The state of Gujarat is conducting a statewide vaccination drive against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) from March 1 to April 15. The initiative is part of the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP).



About FMD

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and pigs.

It is caused by the Aphthovirus and spreads rapidly through infected animals, as well as contaminated feed, equipment, vehicles, and even human clothing.

Symptoms and Impact

The disease is characterized by fever and the formation of painful blisters on the mouth, tongue, hooves, and teats. While mortality is generally low in adult animals, it is significantly higher in young ones. FMD leads to a sharp decline in milk production and overall productivity, causing substantial economic losses for farmers.

Transmission and Classification

FMD is classified as a Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD), meaning it can spread across borders and impact international trade in livestock and animal products.

Prevention and Significance

Vaccination remains the most effective preventive measure against FMD. Gujarat's intensive drive aims to protect livestock health, reduce economic losses for farmers, and contribute to India's broader goal of eradicating FMD and boosting dairy production and exports.

31. Project GANGA: Expanding Digital Connectivity in Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched Project GANGA (Govt Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement) to expand high-speed broadband connectivity across the state, particularly targeting rural and underserved areas.

Objectives

The project aims to provide high-speed internet access to around 20 lakh households over the next 2–3 years. It is also expected to generate over 1 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Implementation and Partnership

An MoU has been signed between the State Transformation Commission and One OTT Entertainment Ltd for the execution of the project, highlighting a public–private partnership approach.

Key Features

The initiative focuses on inclusive growth, with around 50% participation targeted for women. It seeks to promote digital entrepreneurship by enabling individuals to explore online income opportunities such as content creation, digital services, and e-commerce.

Sectoral Impact

Project GANGA is expected to boost key sectors like telemedicine, online education, e-commerce, and digital skill development. Improved connectivity will enhance access to essential services and economic opportunities in rural regions.

32. GI-Tagged Joha Rice



GI-tagged Joha rice, indigenous to Assam, has recently been exported (25 MT) to countries like the UK and Italy. It received Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2017. Known for its short-grain and aromatic nature, Joha rice also has nutraceutical value, containing omega fatty acids and antioxidants. The GI tag enhances its market value, boosting exports and improving income for local farmers.

33. India's First Ring Metro Inaugurated in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Ring Metro in Delhi as part of the expansion of the Delhi Metro network.



Corridors Launched

The development includes two key corridors:

- Pink Line – forming the country's first Ring Metro, connecting major parts of Delhi in a loop
- Magenta Line Extension – from Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park

Key Features

The Ring Metro is designed to improve connectivity across different parts of the city without requiring travel through central hubs. It enhances route flexibility and reduces congestion on existing metro lines.

Impact on Urban Mobility

The project significantly reduces travel time and improves ease of commuting for daily passengers. It also helps decongest roads and promotes the use of public transport.

34. Maharashtra Oleum Gas Leak Incident (Palghar)



A major gas leak incident occurred in Maharashtra at a chemical unit in Palghar district, leading to the evacuation of around 2,600 people as a precautionary measure.

Location and Source

The leak was reported at a unit of Bhageria Industries Ltd. located in the Boisar MIDC industrial area.

Nature of the Gas (Oleum)

Oleum is a highly corrosive, fuming form of sulphuric acid. When exposed to air, it releases toxic sulphur trioxide (SO₃) fumes, which can cause severe irritation to the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

Impact and Response

Authorities promptly evacuated nearby residents and workers to prevent exposure. Emergency response teams were deployed to control the leak and ensure public safety.

35. H-FAST (Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team)

It is an initiative launched to tackle food adulteration in Hyderabad by closely monitoring supply chains and identifying sources of contamination. It focuses on commonly used items such as paneer, tea, and ginger-garlic paste, ensuring food safety at the consumer level.

Recently, the team seized around 3,892 kg of adulterated dairy products worth ₹11.1 lakh, highlighting the scale of the issue and the effectiveness of enforcement. It also provides a toll-free number (8712661212) to encourage public participation and reporting of food adulteration cases.



36. Kishangarh Dumping Yard: “Switzerland of Rajasthan”

The Kishangarh Dumping Yard near Ajmer, often called the “Switzerland of Rajasthan” or “Moonland of Rajasthan,” is known for its snow-like white landscape. This appearance is not natural but is formed due to the accumulation of marble slurry and fine dust from marble processing industries, making it the largest marble dumping yard in Asia. Over time, artificial white mounds and small blue water pools have formed, creating a visually striking terrain.

Recently, the site has gained popularity as a tourist attraction and a filming location for Bollywood movies, music videos, and social media content. However, despite its scenic appeal, it poses significant health risks, as the fine marble dust can cause respiratory issues. Thus, it represents a mix of visual beauty and environmental concern.



37. Purple Potato: A ‘Purple Revolution’ in Agriculture

Purple potatoes are gaining attention due to their high nutritional value, mainly because they are rich in anthocyanins—a water-soluble pigment responsible for red, purple, and blue colors in fruits and vegetables. These compounds are known for their antioxidant properties and associated health benefits.



Recently, a Punjab farmer, Gurjot Singh from Faridkot, has been successfully cultivating this unique crop and earning premium returns, as purple potatoes are sold at ₹200–300 per kg. Originally traced to South America, particularly Peru and Bolivia, this crop is now emerging as a profitable and innovative option in Indian agriculture.

38. Sugam Digital Gujarat: Digitising Public Services

Sugam Digital Gujarat is an initiative launched to digitise 20 high-demand public services as part of administrative reforms in the state. It aims to promote faceless, paperless, and cashless governance, making service delivery more efficient and transparent.

Recently, the initiative has been rolled out to simplify access to key services such as caste, income, and EWS certificates, as well as ration card-related services. It covers multiple departments including Revenue, Social Justice, Food & Civil Supplies, and Tribal Development.

The platform leverages digital tools like Aadhaar authentication, DigiLocker, eSign, and UPI payments to streamline processes. Certificates are issued with QR code verification, and some services are even accessible through WhatsApp, enhancing convenience and accessibility for citizens.

39. Gujarat Passes Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

Gujarat has become the second state after Uttarakhand to pass the Uniform Civil Code in March 2026. The law provides a common legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships across religions. It mandates registration of live-in relationships, prohibits bigamy, and includes penalties for non-compliance, while excluding Scheduled Tribes and certain customary groups.



40. BPCL Launches India's First LPG ATM



Recently, BPCL launched India's first LPG ATM in Gurugram, Haryana, under the 'BharatGas Insta LPG' pilot project. The facility enables 24×7 automated LPG cylinder dispensing for registered BharatGas customers. It operates through a digital system using mobile OTP verification and payments via UPI or debit card. The ATM provides lightweight composite cylinders (~15 kg), compared to traditional heavier cylinders, and has a storage capacity of about 10 cylinders with auto-alert for refilling. The initiative aims to ensure quick, safe, and convenient LPG access, especially during supply disruptions.

41. Tamil Nadu Tops Textile Exports in FY25

According to NIRYAT data for FY25, Tamil Nadu has retained its position as India's leading textile exporter. The state recorded textile exports worth approximately USD 7,997 million, accounting for around 21.8% of the country's total textile exports.

Gujarat ranked second, followed by Maharashtra in third place, highlighting strong regional competition in the textile sector.

NIRYAT, launched in 2022, is a real-time trade data platform designed to enhance transparency and enable data-driven policymaking. It plays a crucial role in monitoring India's foreign trade performance and supporting export-oriented strategies.



3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

42. Hexagon of Alliances



Israel recently proposed the "Hexagon of Alliances", a strategic framework aimed at connecting moderate powers across the Indo-Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, Gulf, and Africa. The initiative seeks to strengthen cooperation among countries facing common security challenges in the Middle East and surrounding regions.

Objective:

The alliance aims to counter two major threats: the "Axis of Resistance" led by Iran (including groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis), and the radical Sunni extremist networks, including remnants of ISIS and groups linked to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Key Partners:

India is expected to be a central pillar of the framework along with Israel, Greece, and Cyprus. Other countries such as United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia may also participate.

Focus Areas & Significance:

The proposed grouping would emphasise defence cooperation, intelligence sharing, technology collaboration, diplomacy, and security coordination. It builds on existing partnerships such as the Abraham Accords and the I2U2, potentially linking the Indo-Pacific to the Mediterranean. However, critics question its feasibility, while countries like Turkey and Pakistan view it as politically sensitive.

43. Iran–Israel–US Conflict



Tensions between Iran and Israel intensified after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which ended their earlier strategic cooperation. Iran’s leadership under Ali Khamenei has often opposed Israel and the United States, while disputes over Iran’s nuclear programme and regional influence have deepened rivalry.

Operations and Military Action

Recent escalation included Operation Epic Fury led by the United States with support from Israel targeting Iranian military infrastructure. Israel also conducted Operation Roaring Lion against Iranian-linked targets. Reports suggest advanced weapons such as the Blue Sparrow missile were used in strikes near Tehran.

Reasons for the Attack

Key factors behind the escalation include:

- Pre-emptive security strike against perceived threats.
- Concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme.
- Geopolitical rivalry in the Middle East.
- Activities of Iran-backed militant groups.
- Failure of diplomatic negotiations.

Iran’s Strategic Response

Iran has responded by targeting regions hosting US military bases, including states such as Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The strategy aims to pressure US allies, deter further attacks, and potentially disrupt global energy supply routes like the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20% of global oil trade passes.

Maritime Law Context

An incident involving the Iranian warship IRIS Dena reportedly occurred near Sri Lanka in international waters. Such situations fall under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica, which governs maritime rights and freedoms, including navigation in the high seas.

44. Barbie Dream Team 2026

Mattel launched the Barbie Dream Team 2026 initiative to mark International Women's Day. The programme honours influential women across different fields by representing them as Barbie dolls, celebrating their achievements and impact on society.



Objective:

The initiative aims to highlight stories of women who have broken barriers and made significant contributions in their professions. It seeks to inspire young girls globally by showcasing role models who promote empowerment, leadership, and gender equality.

45. Afghanistan–Pakistan Conflict

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have escalated due to militant activities along their border. Pakistan accuses the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) of carrying out terrorist attacks inside Pakistan from bases in Afghanistan and claims the Afghan Taliban are sheltering or supporting these militants.

Recent Developments:

Pakistan conducted airstrikes inside Afghanistan targeting suspected TTP hideouts. However, Afghanistan's Taliban government said the strikes violated its sovereignty and caused civilian casualties. In response, Afghan forces launched retaliatory attacks on Pakistani border posts, further escalating tensions.



Durand Line Issue:

A major source of dispute is the Durand Line, a 2,600-km boundary separating the two countries. It was drawn in 1893 during British rule in India. Pakistan recognises it as the

official border, while Afghanistan has historically disputed the boundary, contributing to recurring tensions in the region.

46. TIME Women of the Year 2026

TIME selected 16 women for its Women of the Year 2026 list, recognising leaders who are advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment worldwide.



Indian / Indian-origin Honourees:



Safeena Husain

– Founder of Educate Girls, helped bring over 2 million out-of-school girls back to education.

Reshma Kewalramani

– CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, known for breakthroughs in treatments for cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, diabetes, and kidney disease.



Reshma Saujani

– Founder of Girls Who Code and Moms First, promoting women’s participation in technology, leadership, and public life.

47. INS Trikand Joins Mauritius National Day Celebrations



INS Trikand (F51) is a Talwar-class stealth guided-missile frigate of the Indian Navy. It was built by Yantar Shipyard in Russia and was commissioned on 29 June 2013. A frigate is a medium-sized warship used by navies for escort, patrol, and combat missions.

Visit to Mauritius

INS Trikand, an Indian Navy stealth frigate, arrived at Port

Louis, Mauritius, and participated in the 58th National Day celebrations of Mauritius on 12 March 2026. Mauritius celebrates National Day on 12 March to mark its independence from the United Kingdom in 1968 and its transition to a republic in 1992.

Shtil Surface-to-Air Missile System

INS Trikand is equipped with the Shtil Surface-to-Air Missile System, a medium-range, ship-based vertical-launch surface-to-air missile developed by Russia. The system is designed to protect warships from helicopters, fighter aircraft, anti-ship cruise missiles, and drones. It also has the capability to track and engage up to 12 targets simultaneously.

48. Test of Indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)



The DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the Indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC-150) from a P-8I aircraft. The system is designed to deliver supplies weighing up to 150 kg to remote or maritime locations.

Purpose and Use

The ADC-150 can deliver critical supplies such as spare parts, medicines, and emergency equipment to naval vessels during deep-sea missions. This capability helps support ships operating far from shore by ensuring quick delivery of essential materials when required.

49. Balen Shah Set to Become Nepal's Prime Minister

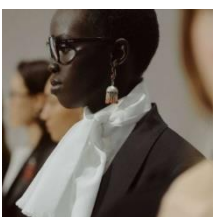
Balen Shah, a former rapper and the Mayor of Kathmandu, is set to become the Prime Minister of Nepal. He belongs to the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

Youngest Prime Minister

At the age of 35, Balen Shah will become the youngest Prime Minister of Nepal. His rise to the position highlights a significant shift in the country's political landscape, with a relatively young leader taking the top executive role.



50. Ralph Lauren Faces Backlash Over Jhumka Design



The fashion brand Ralph Lauren faced criticism after showcasing South Asian-style jhumka earrings at Paris Fashion Week. Some critics argued that the design resembled traditional South Asian jewellery and raised concerns about cultural appropriation and lack of attribution. Others viewed it as an example of cross-cultural inspiration in global fashion.

About Jhumka

Jhumkas are traditional bell-shaped earrings widely worn in South Asia, especially in India. They became prominent during the Chola Dynasty, particularly through temple jewellery traditions.

Cultural Significance

Jhumkas represent an important part of India's jewellery heritage. Since the design evolved collectively over centuries within traditional craftsmanship, it is difficult to patent or claim ownership of the design.

51. Mojtaba Khamenei Appointed Supreme Leader of Iran

Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as the Supreme Leader of Iran in March 2026 by the Assembly of Experts. He became the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, succeeding Ali Khamenei.



52. Exercise Cold Response 2026



Exercise Cold Response 2026 is a biennial Arctic military exercise conducted by the NATO. It is one of the alliance's major drills focused on operations in extreme cold-weather environments.

Duration and Location

The exercise was held from 9 to 19 March 2026 in Arctic conditions, primarily in Norway and surrounding northern regions, known for their harsh climate and challenging terrain.

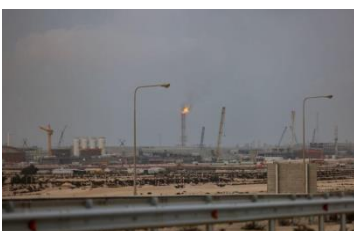
Objectives

The exercise aims to test military capabilities in extreme cold, including troop mobility, logistics, communication systems, and operational coordination. It simulates real-world scenarios to ensure readiness in difficult environmental conditions.

Strategic Focus

Cold Response emphasizes collective defence preparedness under NATO's security framework, particularly in the Arctic region, which is gaining geopolitical importance due to changing climate conditions and emerging strategic interests.

53. Qatar LNG Disruption & Force Majeure



Recent Iranian strikes on energy infrastructure in Qatar have disrupted around 17% of its LNG production capacity, with the impact expected to last

up to five years. This has led QatarEnergy to extend a force majeure declaration, affecting global LNG supplies and buyers.

Force majeure is a legal clause used in commercial contracts that allows parties to suspend obligations due to uncontrollable events such as wars, natural disasters, or major disruptions. The term originates from French, meaning “superior force,” and is widely used in global trade to protect parties from penalties during unforeseen crises.

54. Kharg Island: Iran’s Strategic Oil Hub



Kharg Island, located in the northern Persian Gulf, is the backbone of Iran’s oil exports, handling nearly 90% of its crude oil shipments. Often referred to as the “crown jewel” or “lifeline” of Iran’s oil economy, the island is critical to global energy markets.

Oil extracted from major Iranian fields is transported via pipelines to Kharg Island, where it is processed, stored, and loaded onto tankers for export. Any disruption to this hub can significantly impact global oil prices, supply chains, and geopolitical stability, making it a highly sensitive and strategic location.

55. Mahatma Gandhi Bust Unveiled at University of Montana



The first bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the U.S. state of Montana has been unveiled at the Mike Mansfield Center, marking a significant cultural milestone.

Event Details

The bust was unveiled on 4 March 2026 at the University of Montana. The ceremony was attended by Montana Governor Greg Gianforte and India’s Consul General Prakash Gupta.

Symbolism and Contribution

The bust was gifted by the Government of India and symbolizes Mahatma Gandhi’s enduring ideals of peace, non-violence, and moral leadership. It serves as a reminder of his global influence and relevance.

56. Scotland Legalises Water Cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)



Scotland has become the first nation in the UK to legalise water cremation, also known as alkaline hydrolysis or aquamation. This marks a significant reform in funeral practices, the most notable since flame cremation was introduced in 1902.

What is Water Cremation?

Water cremation is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burial and flame cremation. It involves using water, heat (around 150°C), and potassium hydroxide to break down the body.

Process

The procedure dissolves soft tissues, leaving only bones, which are then processed into ash-like remains and returned to the family. The entire process typically takes about 90 minutes.

Environmental Benefits

Water cremation produces significantly lower carbon emissions compared to conventional cremation. It also avoids the release of harmful substances such as carbon dioxide and mercury (from dental fillings). The remaining liquid is safely treated according to environmental standards.

Global Context

The method is already legal in several countries, including the United States (in multiple states), Canada, and Australia.

57. Argentina Exits World Health Organization (WHO)

In a major global health development, Argentina announced its withdrawal from the World Health Organization in 2026. The decision was driven by sovereignty concerns, policy disagreements, and funding-related issues. This move may impact global health cooperation, increase geopolitical tensions, and pose challenges for coordinated international responses to health crises.



58. Exercise Kakadu 2026



INS Nilgiri participated in Exercise Kakadu 2026 held in Australia, aimed at strengthening Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation. Exercise Kakadu is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy.

The 2026 edition marked the 17th iteration of the exercise, with participation from over 19 countries and around 6,000 personnel. It was

conducted across a vast maritime stretch from Jervis Bay to Darwin, showcasing large-scale naval coordination.

The exercise included multiple phases such as harbour activities, sea exercises, and a fleet review at Sydney Harbour, commemorating 125 years of the Royal Australian Navy. Notably, India's INS Nilgiri won the Kakadu Shield Trophy during the harbour phase events, highlighting its operational excellence.

59. Diego Garcia & Strategic Maritime Routes



Recently, Iran carried out a long-range missile attempt targeting Diego Garcia, a key US–UK military base in the Indian Ocean, highlighting rising geopolitical tensions and the strategic importance of the region.

Diego Garcia is located in the central Indian Ocean and serves as a crucial military and logistics hub for operations across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Its location allows monitoring of vital sea lanes and rapid deployment of forces, making it highly significant for global security dynamics.

The region's importance is further amplified by nearby critical chokepoints such as the Strait of Malacca and Bab-el-Mandeb. These narrow maritime passages handle a large share of global trade and energy shipments. Any disruption in these routes can significantly impact international trade and energy security.

Thus, the recent developments underline both the growing reach of missile capabilities and the strategic value of Indian Ocean bases and sea lanes in global geopolitics.

60. Port of Fujairah

Recently, missile and drone attacks on the Port of Fujairah in the UAE disrupted oil loading and gas operations, highlighting its strategic significance.

The port is a major deep-water hub for global oil storage and bunkering, located on the Gulf of Oman. Its location provides direct access to the Arabian Sea, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. It is also connected to Abu Dhabi through the ADCOP pipeline, ensuring secure crude oil export routes.



4. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

61. Kailash Satyarthi's "Karuna: The Power of Compassion" Released



Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi has released his new book *Karuna: The Power of Compassion* in March 2026. The book highlights compassion as a powerful and transformative force capable of addressing inequality, violence, and global conflicts.

A key idea introduced in the book is the concept of "Compassion Quotient (CQ)," which aims to measure and promote compassion in individuals and societies. Satyarthi argues that nurturing compassion can play a critical role in building a more just and peaceful world.

Kailash Satyarthi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, which he shared with Malala Yousafzai, for their efforts against child labour and for advocating children's right to education.

5. BANKING / ECONOMY

62. SEBI AI System "Sudarshan"



Background:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an in-house AI system called "Sudarshan" to monitor financial content across digital platforms. The system has already helped remove over 1.2 lakh misleading posts shared by unregistered financial influencers.

Key Features:

The AI system scans large volumes of audio, video, and text content on social media and online platforms. It identifies misleading investment advice and unregistered advisory activities that violate securities regulations, strengthening digital surveillance and investor protection in India's financial markets.

Finfluencers:

Finfluencers (financial influencers) are content creators on platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok who share advice on saving, investing, and budgeting. While they can improve financial awareness, many lack formal qualifications, raising risks of misinformation, market manipulation, and regulatory concerns, prompting increased scrutiny by SEBI.

63. LPG Shortage and Supply Concerns in India



India recently faced concerns regarding LPG supply shortages, which led to disruptions in some regions, including reports of hotel closures in Kochi, Kerala due to limited availability of LPG. Authorities advised people to avoid panic buying of LPG cylinders, stating that sufficient stock is available.

India's LPG Import Dependence

India imports a significant portion of its LPG. Approximately 60% of India's LPG is imported from the Gulf region, making the country highly dependent on international supply routes. Qatar is India's largest LPG supplier.

Strategic Supply Route

A major global waterway affecting LPG supply is the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large share of oil and gas shipments from the Gulf region passes. Any disruption in this route can directly affect India's LPG imports.

Government Measures

To manage domestic gas supply during crises, the government can invoke the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which allows regulation of production, supply, and distribution of essential goods.

Naval Protection of Energy Shipments

To ensure the safety of energy shipments in the region, India has activated Operation Sankalp, a naval mission aimed at protecting Indian-flagged vessels and securing sea lanes in the Gulf region.

64. Bank of Baroda Green Infrastructure Bonds



Bank of Baroda (BoB) became the first bank in India to raise ₹10,000 crore through Green Infrastructure Bonds. The funds will be used to finance renewable energy projects and sustainable infrastructure initiatives under the bank's green financing framework, supporting environmentally sustainable development.

65. Jio Launches AI-Powered Financial App "Finsider"

Jio Financial Services, through its subsidiary Jio Finance Platform and Service Ltd (JFPSL), has launched an AI-powered mobile app called "Finsider." The app aims to provide smart and personalised financial services to users through advanced artificial intelligence technologies.



Early Access Programme

Currently, the Finsider app is available in an early access stage, where a limited number of users can test the platform and provide feedback before its full public launch. This phase helps improve the app based on user experience and performance.

Technology Used

Finsider uses agentic AI and neural networks to function as a smart financial assistant. The system can analyse financial data and offer intelligent insights and recommendations to users.

Personalised Financial Services

The app studies factors such as user behaviour, risk appetite, and life stage to provide hyper-personalised financial advice and tailored recommendations for better financial planning.

Significance

Finsider aims to simplify digital wealth management in India and help users make informed financial decisions through AI-driven insights and automation.

66. RBI '.bank.in' Domain Initiative

The Reserve Bank of India has introduced the “.bank.in” domain, a secure and exclusive internet domain for RBI-licensed banks. Launched in February 2025, with mandatory adoption by October 2025, the initiative enhances cybersecurity and reduces online fraud risks. It has also been recognized as the “Initiative of the Year” (2026). India becomes the first country to implement such a dedicated banking domain, strengthening trust in digital banking systems.



67. Essential Commodities Act, 1955

The government recently invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to divert natural gas to priority sectors such as PNG (Piped Natural Gas), CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), and LPG production. This step was taken due to supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, with the aim of ensuring the availability of essential fuels in the country.

Purpose and Goal

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allows the government to regulate the production, supply, and prices of essential goods. Its main goal is to ensure the availability of these commodities at fair prices for consumers.

Key Functions

The Act helps prevent hoarding, black marketing, and artificial shortages of essential items. It covers commodities such as food items, fuel, medicines, and certain industrial and agricultural goods. Under the Act, the government also has the power to set stock limits and control prices when necessary.

Implementation

While the law is enacted by the central government, its enforcement is mainly carried out by state governments, which monitor supply and take action against violations.

68. Coconut Promotion Scheme (Union Budget 2026–27)



India, the world’s largest producer of coconuts with about 30.37% of global production, has announced a Coconut Promotion Scheme in the Union Budget 2026–27. The initiative aims to boost production, improve productivity, and strengthen India’s leading position in the coconut sector. It focuses on enhancing value chains, supporting farmers, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

69. PRISM-SG Portal: Streamlining Bridge Approvals

PRISM-SG (Portal for Rail-Road Inspection and Stages Management – Steel Girders) is a digital platform launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to improve the approval process for road over bridges involving railways.

Recently, the portal has been introduced to significantly reduce approval timelines from nearly 12 months to just 3–4 months by enabling end-to-end online documentation, inspection tracking, and coordination.



The platform integrates key stakeholders such as Indian Railways, contractors, and other agencies, ensuring better coordination and real-time monitoring. Overall, it enhances transparency, efficiency, and speed in infrastructure project execution.

70. Reform Express Initiative Launched by Ministry of Railways



Recently, the Ministry of Railways launched the “Reform Express” initiative as part of its plan to implement reforms aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and service delivery in the railway sector.

Under this initiative, five key reforms have been introduced. In freight operations, stainless steel containers have been deployed for salt transport to reduce losses and enhance rail share. For the automobile sector, specialised wagon designs with flexible dimensions have been introduced to improve capacity and logistics efficiency.

In the construction sector, stricter contractor norms, bid security measures, and reduced subcontracting have been implemented to ensure quality and timely project execution. To curb black marketing of Tatkal tickets, the Railways has revised cancellation and refund rules, introduced automated refunds, and implemented Aadhaar-based OTP authentication.

Additionally, passenger convenience has been enhanced by allowing digital boarding changes and class upgrades up to 30 minutes before train departure. These reforms collectively aim to modernise railway operations and improve user experience.

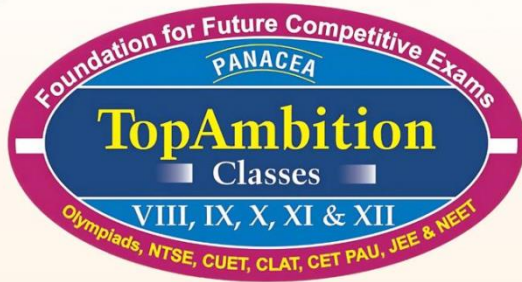
71. New GDP Series (Base Year FY23)

India has revised the base year for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2011–12 to 2022–23 (FY23) to better capture changes in the structure of the economy.

The new series will provide more accurate GDP estimates, improve representation of digital and service sectors, and ensure more reliable and smoother quarterly growth calculations.

panaceatutor.com

TopAmbition Classes



Board Exams with Competitive Tests ✨

From School to Successful Career

Grow gradually with us



PANACEA BHARTI Institute Pvt. Ltd.
 • B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana
 M: 8054407407, 9888405906 www.panaceatutor.com

Our Courses

Class VIII, IX & X

- ▶ Science ▶ SST
- ▶ English ▶ Maths
- ▶ Hindi ▶ Punjabi



Foundation for competition NTSE · Olympiad

Our Speciality :-

Individual Attention to Every Student

Concept Clarity



Regular Tests



Regular Feedback



"Build a Strong Foundation Today for a Brighter Tomorrow!"

Enroll Now & Empower Your Child's Future!

Dear Parents, What do you prefer?

TopAmbition Classes	Traditional Tutions
Standard Study Environment	Casual Environment
Specialist Team	Single Tutor
All Subjects Covered	Selected Subjects
Smart Classes	Traditional Methods
GK & Aptitude Focus	Not Provided
Communication Skills	No Provision
Career Counselling	No Guidance
Regular Progress Reports	No Regularity
Competitive Environment	Alone Study



Career Planning

From Class VIII to Career Success

Complete Guidance for Stream Selection

Medical

Non-Medical

Commerce

Humanities



Career Planning at the Right Time:



What to Do - Career Awareness



Why to Do - Motivation



How to Do - Guidance & Grooming

Plan Today
Succeed Tomorrow



6. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

72. India Becomes 3rd-Largest Hub for Billionaires



According to the Hurun Rich List 2026, India has become the third-largest hub for billionaires in the world. The country now has 308 billionaires, placing it after China (1st) and the United States (2nd) in terms of the number of billionaires.

Top Indian Billionaires

Mukesh Ambani continues to be Asia's richest person, maintaining his top position in the region. Gautam Adani remained the second-richest Indian, despite experiencing a dip in his net worth.

73. SIPRI Report 2025: India 2nd Largest Arms Importer

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report "Trends in International Arms Transfers 2025." According to the report, India remained the world's second-largest arms importer with an 8.2% share during 2021–2025, after Ukraine (9.7%), while Saudi Arabia ranked third.

Global Arms Exporters

The top global arms exporters were the United States, France, and Russia. Global arms transfers increased by nearly 10%, mainly due to rising geopolitical tensions and higher defence spending worldwide.

India's Arms Imports

India's arms imports declined by about 4%, largely due to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which focuses on strengthening domestic defence manufacturing and reducing dependence on imports.

Major Suppliers to India

Despite the decline, Russia remains India's largest arms supplier with about 40% share, although its share has decreased in recent years. France (24%) and Israel (15%) are also among the major defence suppliers to India.

74. Global AI Brain Race Report 2026



According to the Global AI Brain Race Report 2026, India ranked sixth globally in artificial intelligence development. The report assessed more than 100 countries using indicators such as AI research and development, economic integration, infrastructure, talent readiness, governance, responsible AI, public opinion, and academic strength.

The United States ranked first, followed by China and Singapore.

75. Raisina Dialogue 2026

Raisina Dialogue 2026 was held in New Delhi and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the keynote address delivered by Alexander Stubb, President of Finland.

It is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, bringing together global leaders, policymakers, and experts. The dialogue began in 2016 and is organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.



The 11th edition was held from 5–7 March 2026, with about 2700 delegates from 110 countries participating. The theme for 2026 was “Samskara – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.”

76. International Day of Happiness & World Happiness Report 2026



Observed on March 20, the theme for 2026 is “Happiness for All, Together / Caring & Sharing.” It emphasizes that true happiness comes from empathy, social support, and sharing resources to build an inclusive and supportive society.

World Happiness Report 2026

The World Happiness Report 2026 has been released by the Wellbeing Research Centre with support from the United Nations.

It is based on life evaluation surveys (scored from 0–10) covering around 140 countries.

Global Rankings

- Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the 9th consecutive year
- Afghanistan ranks last (147th)
- India ranks 116th, improving from 118th in 2025

Key Indicators of Happiness

The rankings are based on six major indicators:

- GDP per capita
- Social support
- Healthy life expectancy
- Freedom to make life choices
- Generosity
- Perception of corruption

Key Insights

The report highlights that factors like trust, strong social connections, shared meals, and acts of kindness significantly influence happiness—often more than income levels.

Concerns Highlighted

A major concern is the decline in well-being among youth (below 25 years). Excessive social media usage has been linked to lower life satisfaction, particularly among teenage girls.

77. World Air Quality Report 2025

Recently, the World Air Quality Report highlighted that India ranked as the 6th most polluted country globally in 2025. New Delhi continues to be the most polluted capital city in the world, while Loni in Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) emerged as the most polluted region in India.

The report noted that 17 out of the top 20 most polluted cities are located in South and Central Asia, with a majority in India and Pakistan. Published by IQAir, a Swiss organisation, the report also pointed out weak enforcement of vehicular and industrial emission norms.

Additionally, it observed that funds under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) are largely directed towards road dust control (about 64%). Alarming, only 13 countries worldwide were able to meet the WHO's air quality standards, indicating the global scale of the pollution crisis.

78. Global Terrorism Index 2026

Recently, the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026 ranked Pakistan as the most terrorism-affected country, placing it at 1st position. India was ranked 13th and falls under the "high impact" category, remaining among the top 25 most affected countries.

The report is published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and covers 163 countries. It assesses the impact of terrorism based on four indicators—number of incidents, deaths, injuries, and property damage—over a five-year period.

The report also highlights that South Asia continues to be the most terrorism-affected region globally, indicating persistent security challenges in the region.

79. National DMF Summit 2026

Recently, the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Summit 2026 was held on 23–24 March in New Delhi to improve the utilisation of DMF funds.

DMF is a statutory body under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, funded by mining companies for the welfare of mining-affected areas. The summit focused on better planning, transparency, and efficient use of funds to enhance development outcomes in these regions.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

80. Vikram Doraiswami Appointed India's Ambassador to China



Vikram Kumar Doraiswami has been appointed as India's new Ambassador to China. He is a senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service.

Background

He was previously serving as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He has also served as Ambassador to South Korea and Uzbekistan, and as High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

81. Bhumika Shrestha: First Transgender Woman MP in Nepal

Bhumika Shrestha recently became the first transgender woman Member of Parliament in Nepal, marking a significant milestone for LGBTQ+ representation in South Asia. Her achievement reflects Nepal's progressive stance on gender rights and inclusivity, strengthening democratic participation of marginalized communities.



82. First Woman to Head a Functional Nuclear Power Plant

RM Nachammai became the first woman to head operations of a functional nuclear power plant in India under the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). She has been appointed Chief Superintendent of Units 3 & 4 at the Kaiga Nuclear Power Station in Karnataka. Her role began on 15 March 2026, where she will oversee reactor operations, maintenance, engineering support, and safety systems.



UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) -2026					
Sl No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
2.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			17.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
3.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	03.09.2025	23.09.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
5.	CBI (DSP) LDCE	24.12.2025	13.01.2026	28.02.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAY
6.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2026	03.12.2025	23.12.2025	08.03.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2026	10.12.2025	30.12.2025	12.04.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
8.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2026				
9.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	14.01.2026	03.02.2026	24.05.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
10.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2026 through CS(P) Examination 2026				
11.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			06.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
12.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2026	11.02.2026	03.03.2026	19.06.2026 (Friday)	3 DAYS
13.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2026			20.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
14.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.06.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
15.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			04.07.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2026	18.02.2026	10.03.2026	19.07.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2026	11.03.2026	31.03.2026	02.08.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
18.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			08.08.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
19.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.08.2026 (Friday)	5 DAYS
20.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2026	20.05.2026	09.06.2026	13.09.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
21.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2026				
22.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			26.09.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
24.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			31.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2026			22.11.2026 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
26.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	16.09.2026	06.10.2026	12.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
27.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			19.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EXAMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027

S.No.	Name of Examination	Tier/Phase	Date of Advertisement	Closing Date	Month of Exam
1.	JSA / LDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
2.	SSA / UDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
3.	ASO Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
4.	Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
5.	Junior Engineer (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical) Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
6.	Selection Post Examination, Phase-XIV, 2026	CBE*	March 2026	April 2026	May – July 2026
7.	Combined Higher Secondary (10+2) Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	July – September 2026
8.	Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Examination, 2026	CBE*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
9.	Combined Hindi Translators Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
10.	Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff & Havaladar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2026	CBE*	June 2026	July 2026	September – November 2026
11.	Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police & Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	May 2026	June 2026	October – November 2026
12.	Constables (GD) in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), NIA, SSF and Rifleman (GD) in Assam Rifles Examination, 2027	CBE*	September 2026	October 2026	January – March 2027

UGC NET / JRF

Coaching by Experienced & Expert Team

Join Classroom / Live / Video Courses

Subjects: Paper I, Commerce, Management, Economics

Video Course: Paper I: 150+ Videos, Paper II: 200+ Videos

Videos of Complete Syllabus
+ PDF Notes, + MCQs
+ 15 Mock Test

Visit panaceatutor.com

Excellent Success Record: 700+ NET & 102+ JRF

FOR ONLINE COACHING VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.panaceatutor.com

Quality
Video
Lectures

Complete
PDF
Notes

Regular
Tests &
Test Series

Doubt
Sessions

See our youtube channel Panacea Tutor for demo videos



PANACEA BHARTI
Institute Pvt. Ltd.

B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No. 3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054407407, 9888405906

www.panaceatutor.com

PANACEA Success in UGC NET / JRF



Subjects: Paper I, Commerce, Management, Economics

8. DEFENCE NEWS

83. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)



The United States has deployed the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in West Asia to counter potential Iranian ballistic missile threats amid rising regional tensions.

What is THAAD?

THAAD is a mobile missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase (the final stage of flight before impact).

Key Features

The system was developed by Lockheed Martin for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency. THAAD uses “hit-to-kill” technology, meaning it destroys incoming missiles through direct kinetic impact rather than using explosive warheads.

Components of the System

A typical THAAD battery consists of several components including interceptor missile launchers, AN/TPY-2 radar, a fire control and communication unit, and support equipment. The X-band radar detects and tracks incoming threats, while interceptor missiles are launched to destroy the target at high altitude.

84. Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)

The United States used the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) for the first time during strikes on Iran, marking its combat debut.

What is PrSM?

The Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) is a next-generation surface-to-surface missile developed by Lockheed Martin for the United States Army. It is designed to replace earlier missile systems and enhance long-range strike capabilities.



Key Features

PrSM operates at supersonic speed, is GPS-enabled, and provides high precision targeting. It also supports double-fire capability, allowing two missiles to be launched from a single launcher. The missile offers improved range, precision guidance, more missiles per launcher, and safer warhead systems.

Range and Role

The missile has a range from about 60 km to over 499 km, enabling deep-strike operations against enemy targets such as command centers, air defenses, and logistics hubs.

85. Gravity Bombs



Gravity bombs are simple air-dropped weapons used in air warfare. They do not have an engine or propulsion system and are released from an aircraft, falling toward the target due to gravity.

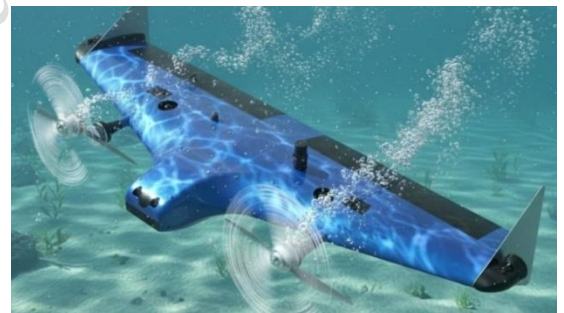
Earlier gravity bombs were unguided, but modern versions often use Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits, which add GPS guidance and steering capability, improving accuracy to about 5–10 meters.

Uses and Features

Gravity bombs are used to destroy targets such as bunkers, buildings, and military bases and to support ground forces by attacking enemy positions. They are cheaper than missiles, making them widely used in military operations, and are easy to deploy from different aircraft platforms.

86. AVATAAR: India's First Amphibious Surveillance Drone

AVATAAR (Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance) is India's first air-and-underwater surveillance drone, unveiled by AquaAirX Autonomous Systems. The drone is designed for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions in maritime and coastal areas. It can operate both in the air and underwater, making it useful for monitoring coastal security and naval operations. The system also uses AI-assisted navigation for autonomous functioning.



87. Exercise Sea Dragon 2026



Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 is a U.S. Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise conducted annually since 2019. It focuses on enhancing interoperability and coordination among participating naval forces in detecting and tracking submarines.

Location and Conduct

The exercise is being held at Andersen Air Force Base in the Western Pacific region. The strategic location allows participating countries to train in a realistic maritime environment.

Participating Countries

The exercise involves five key nations: the USA, India, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. India's participation highlights its growing role in multilateral naval cooperation and Indo-Pacific security.

Objectives and Activities

Sea Dragon tests coordination mechanisms, communication protocols, and tactical procedures in anti-submarine warfare operations. Aircraft such as maritime patrol and reconnaissance planes (like P-8 variants) are used to deploy sonobuoys and track underwater targets.

Unique Feature

It is a performance-based exercise, where the top-performing nation is awarded the prestigious “Dragon Belt,” adding a competitive dimension to the training.

88. Sejjil Missile: Iran’s ‘Dancing Missile’



The Sejjil missile, developed by Iran, is a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) known for its advanced manoeuvrability, earning it the nickname “dancing missile.” Its ability to evade missile defence systems such as the Iron Dome highlights Iran’s growing indigenous missile capabilities and has implications for regional security dynamics.

89. Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026

Exercise Amogh Jwala 2026 was conducted by the Indian Army’s Southern Command at the Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Features

- Focus on drone warfare and swarm drone operations
- Demonstrates integration of advanced technologies in modern warfare
- Enhances battlefield surveillance, targeting, and strike capabilities



90. Vayu Baan Project Launched by Indian Air Force



The Indian Air Force has launched the Vayu Baan project to develop an indigenous helicopter-launched drone system. Designed for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) and precision strike roles, the drone operates autonomously with EO/IR sensors and can function in GPS-denied environments. It offers over 50 km stand-off range and supports swarm capabilities, strengthening India’s defence preparedness.

91. INS Taragiri: Stealth Frigate Commissioned

Recently, INS Taragiri, a stealth frigate of the Nilgiri-class, is set to be commissioned on April 3, 2026, under Project 17A. It has been built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilding Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, and designed by the Warship Design Bureau of India.



INS Taragiri is an advanced stealth frigate with improved technology over the earlier Shivalik-class. Its stealth features reduce detection by enemy radar, infrared, and sonar systems, enhancing operational effectiveness.

The warship is designed for multi-role operations, including surface warfare, air defence, and anti-submarine warfare. It is equipped with advanced weapons such as BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

The induction of INS Taragiri strengthens India's naval capabilities and reflects progress in indigenous defence manufacturing.

92. Kalari Leap Exercise

Background:

The Kalari Leap Exercise was conducted by the Indian Air Force under the Southern Air Command in the Lakshadweep islands, including the Minicoy Island region of the Arabian Sea.

Key Features:

It was a joint exercise involving the Indian Air Force, the Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), and the Indian Coast Guard. The exercise focused on joint planning, rapid force deployment, and precision operations in complex maritime environments.

93. Tomahawk Cruise Missile



The Tomahawk cruise missile is a long-range subsonic cruise missile used mainly for deep land-attack missions. It is developed and operated by the United States Navy and can be launched from warships or submarines using a Vertical Launch System (VLS).

Key Features:

- Flies at very low altitude, making detection by radar difficult.
- Has a range of about 1,600 km or more.
- Uses advanced guidance and navigation systems for high accuracy.
- Often launched in large numbers simultaneously to overwhelm enemy air-defence systems.

Significance:

The missile enables the United States to conduct long-range precision strikes while keeping its forces at a safe distance, making it an important component of modern naval warfare.

94. U.S. Tests Minuteman III “Doomsday” Missile



The United States recently tested the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), often referred to as the “Doomsday” missile. The test was conducted from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

Key Features

The Minuteman III is a land-based intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. It is designed to strike targets anywhere in the world within about 30 minutes, making it a key component of the U.S. nuclear deterrence system.

95. Exercise Vayushakti-26

The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise Vayushakti-26 at the Pokhran Field Firing Range near Jaisalmer in February 2026.

Significance:

The exercise showcased the IAF’s combat readiness and integrated air warfare capabilities. It included live firepower demonstrations and coordinated air operations, highlighting India’s operational preparedness.

9. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

96. Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026



Veteran actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar will receive the META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META). The 21st edition of META will be held in New Delhi from 19–25 March 2026. META is organised by the Mahindra Group and produced by Teamwork Arts. Amol Palekar is widely known for films such as Gol Maal, Chhoti Si Baat, and Chitchor.

97. 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)



Overview

The 98th Academy Awards were held on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre, honouring the best films of 2025. The ceremony was hosted by Conan O'Brien.

Major Winners

- **Best Picture:** One Battle After Another (won 6 Oscars)
- **Best Director:** Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
- **Best Actor:** Michael B. Jordan (Sinners)
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Amy Madigan (Weapons)
- **Best Cinematography:** Autumn Durald (Sinners) — first woman to win in this category
- **Best Animated Film:** Kpop Demon Hunters
- **Best Animated Short:** The Girl Who Cried Pearls
- Jessie Buckley won the Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance as Agnes in the film Hamnet.

Highlights: The film Sinners led with the highest number of nominations (16), showcasing its dominance across categories. A notable addition this year was the introduction of a new category—Best Casting, reflecting growing recognition of casting directors in filmmaking.

98. Stockholm Water Prize 2026



Kaveh Madani has been awarded the Stockholm Water Prize 2026, one of the most prestigious honours in global water research.

- Announcement made at UNESCO headquarters in Paris (18 March 2026)
- Award ceremony to be held during World Water Week in Stockholm (August 2026)
- He is the youngest laureate and the first UN official to receive the award

Water Bankruptcy

A term popularised by Madani, referring to long-term systemic failure of water resources, not just temporary scarcity.

About the Award

Often called the “Nobel Prize of Water,” it is awarded annually in Stockholm for outstanding contributions to water research and policy.

99. Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year is a prestigious global competition that celebrates excellence in wildlife photography while promoting conservation awareness and biodiversity.

Recently, Josef Stefan won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 (People’s Choice Award) for his striking photograph of an Iberian lynx hunting in Spain, capturing a rare and powerful moment in nature.

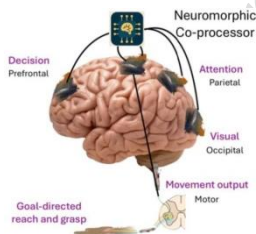
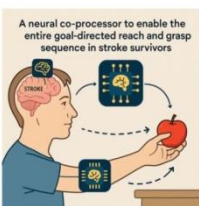


The competition received over 60,000 entries from 113 countries, and the winner was selected through 85,917 public votes, reflecting wide global participation.

Organized by the Natural History Museum, London, the award highlights the importance of wildlife conservation and showcases the beauty as well as challenges faced by the natural world.

10. SCIENCE AND TECH

100. Moonshot Project



The Moonshot Project has been launched by the Indian Institute of Science. The initiative focuses on developing AI-based brain co-processors, which combine Artificial Intelligence with brain-inspired computing hardware.

Objective:

These devices are designed to connect with the brain, read neural signals, process them using AI, and send corrective signals back to the brain. The main aim is to restore brain functions after conditions such as stroke, helping patients regain movements like controlling hands or reaching objects.

Funding:

The project is supported by the Pratiksha Trust.

101. Hutchinson–Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS)



Hutchinson–Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS) is an extremely rare genetic condition characterized by rapid premature ageing in children. It is caused by a mutation in the LMNA gene, leading to the production of an abnormal protein called progerin, which damages the cell nucleus and accelerates ageing processes.

Onset and Progression

Children with HGPS are typically born normal, but symptoms begin to appear within the first 1–2 years of life. The disease progresses rapidly, affecting multiple body systems.

Key Features and Symptoms

The condition is marked by growth failure, loss of hair (alopecia), wrinkled and thin skin, prominent eyes, and a characteristic aged appearance. Despite these physical changes, intelligence and motor development usually remain normal.

Medical Challenges and Prognosis

There is currently no complete cure for HGPS. Treatment is mainly supportive, though experimental drugs such as lonafarnib (a farnesyltransferase inhibitor targeting progerin) have shown some promise. The average life expectancy of affected individuals is around 14–15 years, with cardiovascular complications being the leading cause of death.

102. Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, primarily affecting the lungs. Historically known as the “white plague,” it remains a major global health challenge due to its high mortality and the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. Despite advancements in treatment, TB continues to be one of the leading infectious killers worldwide.



In news because recent attention has been drawn to TB on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day 2026, when India’s President Droupadi Murmu called for collective action to eliminate the disease. This has renewed focus on strengthening public health strategies and accelerating efforts toward TB eradication.

India’s Progress and Challenges

India has made significant progress, achieving around a 21% reduction in TB incidence and nearly a 25% decline in deaths since 2015. However, major challenges remain, as nearly 50% of TB cases are asymptomatic, making early detection difficult and increasing the risk of silent transmission.

Government Initiatives

To address both medical and social aspects, targeted schemes have been implemented. The Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana provides ₹500 per month as direct financial support to TB patients for nutritional needs. Additionally, the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative promotes community participation by encouraging voluntary support in terms of nutrition and care.

103. Xylazine (“Zombie Drug”): Emerging Health Concern



Xylazine is a veterinary drug used to sedate animals and is not approved for human use. Recently, it has gained attention as it is being mixed with drugs like fentanyl, making them far more dangerous.

When consumed, it can cause people to become almost motionless, resembling a “zombie-like” state, which is how it got its name. It also leads to severe health complications, including skin wounds, tissue damage, and in extreme cases, loss of limbs.

A major concern is that standard overdose treatment using naloxone does not work effectively against xylazine, making it

harder to manage in emergencies. Due to these risks, it is increasingly being seen as a serious public health threat, especially in the United States, with emerging concerns elsewhere.

104. Desalination Plants

Desalination plants have come into focus amid tensions in West Asia, as they are vital for supplying freshwater in the region.

What are Desalination Plants?

Desalination plants are facilities that convert seawater into freshwater suitable for drinking and other uses. The main method used is reverse osmosis (RO), where seawater is forced through special membranes to remove salts and impurities.

Importance

Desalination is widely used in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain. These plants are crucial for water supply in arid and dry regions, where natural freshwater resources are limited.

11. SPORTS NEWS

105. Indian Women’s Cricket Team Nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year 2026

The India women's national cricket team has been nominated for the Laureus World Team of the Year 2026 after winning their first Women’s ODI World Cup title. The nomination is



historic as India became the first women's cricket team to be shortlisted for this award. The awards, established in 2000, recognise outstanding sporting achievements worldwide.

Performance:

Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India achieved a remarkable victory, including a record ODI run chase of 339 against Australia in the semi-final, before defeating South Africa women's national cricket team in the final. The team overcame early group-stage losses to lift the trophy.

Other Nominees:

Other teams shortlisted include the England women's national football team, Paris Saint-Germain, the European Ryder Cup Team, the McLaren F1 team, and the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Awards Ceremony:

The winners will be decided by the 69-member Laureus World Sports Academy and announced on 20 April 2026 in Madrid. Earlier Indian recognitions include awards or nominations for Sachin Tendulkar, Rishabh Pant, Vinesh Phogat, and Neeraj Chopra.

106. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (10th edition) was held from 7 February to 8 March 2026 and was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. The tournament featured 20 countries divided into four groups, making it a major multi-nation cricket event.



Final and Champion

The India national cricket team won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 by defeating the New Zealand national cricket team by 96 runs. The final match was played at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 8 March 2026. With this victory, India secured its third T20 World Cup title after 2007 and 2024.

Indian Leadership

During the tournament, the Indian team was captained by Suryakumar Yadav, while the head coach was Gautam Gambhir.

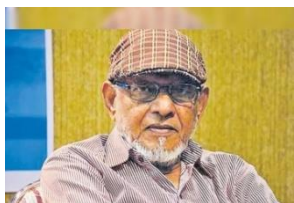
Key Awards and Records

Jasprit Bumrah was named Player of the Final for his outstanding bowling performance of 4 wickets for 15 runs. Sanju Samson was awarded Player of the Tournament, scoring 321 runs. The most runs in the tournament were scored by Sahibzada Farhan of Pakistan with 383 runs. The highest number of wickets was jointly taken by Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy of India with 14 wickets each.

Other Highlights

India posted 255 runs, the highest total by a team in a T20 World Cup final. Sanju Samson scored 89 runs, the highest individual score in a T20 World Cup final. Yuvraj Samra of Canada recorded the top individual score of the tournament with 110 runs against New Zealand. Additionally, Sahibzada Farhan became the first batter to score two centuries in a single T20 World Cup.

107. Former Indian Footballer Syed Habibul Hasan Hameed Passes Away



Former Indian footballer Syed Habibul Hasan Hameed passed away. He was from Hyderabad and represented the India national football team. Hameed was also one of the 14 Hyderabad players who represented India at the Olympic Games, and he is remembered for his contribution to Indian football.

108. Aarav Dengla Becomes India's 93rd Grandmaster

Aarav Dengla, a 17-year-old chess player from Mumbai, became India's 93rd Grandmaster (GM). He achieved the title after securing his final GM norm and crossing the 2500 FIDE rating mark (2506) during tournaments held in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



About the Grandmaster Title

Grandmaster (GM) is the highest title a chess player can achieve. The title is awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE – Fédération Internationale des Échecs). To earn this title, a player must achieve three GM norms and cross a 2500 FIDE rating.

Other Key Facts

Aarav Dengla is the second Indian player to become a Grandmaster in 2026, after Aaryan Varshney. Earlier, he won the Grand Paris Masters Championship 2024 in France. India's first Grandmaster was Viswanathan Anand, who achieved the title in 1988.

109. Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026 has been announced by the Government of India under the Khelo India Scheme. The initiative aims to promote sports among tribal youth and identify grassroots talent across the country.

Schedule and Venue

The games are scheduled to be held from 25 March to 6 April 2026 in Chhattisgarh, with events taking place across multiple venues including Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Sarguja.

Participation and Sports

Athletes from various states and Union Territories will participate in the event. The medal sports include athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting,



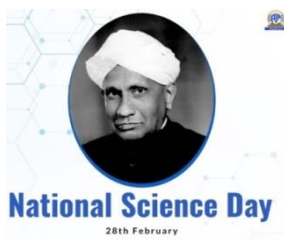
archery, swimming, and wrestling. Additionally, demonstration sports such as Mallakhamb and Kabaddi will also be showcased.

Mascot

The official mascot, Morveer, symbolizes tribal pride, strength, and courage, representing the rich cultural heritage of India's tribal communities.

12. IMPORTANT DAYS

110. National Science Day 2026



India celebrates National Science Day on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by C. V. Raman in 1928, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. The day highlights the importance of scientific achievements and encourages the development of scientific thinking among citizens.

Theme 2026:

The theme “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat” recognised the vital role of women scientists and innovators in India's development. It also promoted greater participation of women in STEM fields and aligned with global efforts to achieve gender equality in scientific research.

Celebrations and Significance:

Schools, universities, and research institutions organised exhibitions, workshops, debates, and competitions to promote science awareness. The day emphasised the role of science in national progress and encouraged the next generation to pursue scientific research and innovation.

111. International Women's Day

Origin:

International Women's Day is closely linked to the Russian Revolution. On 8 March 1917, women textile workers in Petrograd went on strike demanding “Bread and Peace” to protest food shortages and World War I.



Recognition:

The protests triggered mass demonstrations that contributed to the fall of the Tsarist regime. Later, Vladimir Lenin declared 8 March a holiday to honour women's role in the revolution. The day gradually spread worldwide and was officially recognised by the United Nations in 1975.

112. World Obesity Atlas 2025



According to the World Obesity Atlas 2025, India ranks second globally for children living with obesity. The report estimates that around 20 million children in India could be obese by 2040. The World Obesity Atlas is published by the World Obesity Federation and highlights global trends related to obesity and overweight populations.

World Obesity Day

World Obesity Day is observed globally on 4 March each year to raise awareness about the causes, prevention, and treatment of obesity. The day highlights the growing health challenge of obesity and encourages governments, organisations, and individuals to take action.

Initiative to Address Childhood Obesity in India

The WHO Foundation has partnered with Novo Nordisk to address the growing problem of childhood obesity in India. The initiative will focus on school-based health programmes. Its aim is to promote healthy diets, encourage physical activity, and increase awareness among children about the risks associated with obesity.

113. No Smoking Day

No Smoking Day is observed on 11 March every year to encourage people to quit tobacco and adopt healthier lifestyles. The day raises awareness about the harmful effects of smoking and promotes efforts to reduce tobacco consumption.

Origin

The campaign originated in the United Kingdom in 1984 and has since been observed annually to motivate smokers to give up the habit and support public health initiatives.

114. Jan Aushadhi Diwas



Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed on 7 March every year to promote affordable generic medicines in India. The day highlights the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), which aims to provide quality medicines at lower prices.

The year 2026 marked the 8th Jan Aushadhi Diwas, and Jan Aushadhi Week is observed from 1–7 March. The day was declared in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative is organised by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India. Generic medicines under this scheme contain the same active ingredients and effectiveness as branded medicines but are significantly cheaper.

115. World Sparrow Day 2026



World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20 to create awareness about the declining population of sparrows and the urgent need for their conservation. The initiative was launched in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society. The 2026 theme, “I Love Sparrows,” focuses on building an emotional connection with nature and encouraging people to take part in conservation efforts.

It highlights simple actions such as installing birdhouses, keeping water bowls, and providing food for sparrows, thereby promoting community participation and environmental responsibility. Sparrows play an important ecological role by helping in pest control through feeding on insects and larvae, and they contribute significantly to maintaining biodiversity, especially in urban areas. Their declining numbers are considered an indicator of environmental degradation caused by factors like habitat loss, pollution, and rapid urbanization. Overall, World Sparrow Day serves as a reminder to protect urban biodiversity and restore ecological balance through small but collective efforts.

116. World Sleep Day 2026

World Sleep Day 2026 was observed on 13 March 2026 and is coordinated by the World Sleep Society. Celebrated annually on the Friday before the Spring Vernal Equinox, the day aims to raise awareness about sleep health and disorders. It emphasizes the importance of proper sleep for overall well-being and encourages healthier lifestyle practices.



117. International Day of Mathematics 2026

International Day of Mathematics is celebrated annually on March 14 and was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2019. The date coincides with Pi Day (3/14), symbolizing the mathematical constant π , an irrational number representing the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. The theme for 2026, “Mathematics and hope,” highlights the role of mathematics in solving real-world challenges in science, technology, finance, and climate studies. The day is marked by lectures, quizzes, workshops, and exhibitions worldwide, promoting awareness of mathematics in everyday life.



118. World Consumer Rights Day (15 March)



World Consumer Rights Day is observed globally on 15 March to promote consumer awareness and safeguard consumer rights. The date commemorates the historic speech delivered by John F. Kennedy in 1962, where he formally recognized consumer rights. The 2026 theme, “Safe products, confident consumers,” highlights the need for product safety, transparency, and accountability in markets. The day

emphasizes key consumer rights such as the right to safety, information, choice, and redressal. Governments, consumer organizations, and regulatory bodies conduct campaigns, workshops, and awareness drives to educate citizens about fair trade practices and grievance mechanisms, including consumer courts and helplines.

119. International Day to Combat Islamophobia (15 March)

The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed on 15 March, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. The date was chosen in remembrance of the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks in New Zealand. The 2026 theme, “Respect Every Person’s Dignity,” focuses on promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence. The day aims to counter prejudice, discrimination, and violence against Muslims worldwide. It encourages governments, civil society, and international organizations to adopt inclusive policies, strengthen legal protections, and promote intercultural dialogue.

120. National Vaccination Day (16 March)



National Vaccination Day is observed in India on 16 March to mark the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995, when the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) was administered. The initiative played a crucial role in eliminating polio, leading to India being declared polio-free in 2014 by the World Health Organization. The day highlights the importance of immunization in preventing

life-threatening diseases and improving public health outcomes. It also supports ongoing vaccination drives under programmes like Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) and Mission Indradhanush, ensuring wider coverage against diseases such as measles, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

121. World Puppetry Day

World Puppetry Day is celebrated on 21 March. It celebrates puppetry as a rich performing art that combines storytelling, craft, and culture. Launched in 2003 by UNIMA, the day promotes preservation of traditional puppetry forms (like string, shadow, and rod puppets)

while encouraging innovation. It also highlights puppetry's role in education, social messaging, and cultural exchange across countries.

122. Shaheed Diwas

Shaheed Diwas, on 23 March, commemorates the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar in 1931. The day honors their sacrifice against British colonial rule and serves as a reminder of courage, patriotism, and the spirit of resistance. Educational institutions and organizations conduct tributes, discussions, and awareness programs on India's freedom struggle.

123. World Meteorological Day

World Meteorological Day celebrated on 23 March and marks the formation of the World Meteorological Organization in 1950. It highlights the importance of weather and climate services in disaster preparedness, agriculture, aviation, and water management. The 2026 theme, "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow," emphasizes improved climate monitoring and early warning systems to tackle climate change and extreme weather events.

124. World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day on 21 March promotes linguistic diversity, cultural expression, and the revival of oral traditions. Declared by UNESCO in 1999, the day encourages reading, writing, and teaching poetry worldwide. The 2026 theme, "Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion," underscores poetry's role in fostering dialogue, empathy, and social harmony across cultures.

125. World Glacier Day

World Glacier Day on 21 March raises awareness about the rapid melting of glaciers due to climate change. Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 and first observed in 2025, it highlights glaciers as critical freshwater sources and indicators of climate health. The day calls for global cooperation in glacier monitoring, conservation, and sustainable water management.

126. International Day of Forests

International Day of Forests on 21 March focuses on the importance of forests in sustaining biodiversity, climate regulation, and livelihoods. Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, it encourages tree planting and conservation initiatives. The 2026 theme, "Forests and Economies," highlights the economic value of forests in supporting industries, employment, and sustainable development.

127. World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March aims to raise awareness about Down syndrome and promote inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunities. Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011 and first observed in 2012, the day highlights challenges faced by individuals and advocates for better healthcare, education, and social integration. The 2026 theme, “Together Against Loneliness,” focuses on social inclusion and community support.

128. Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)

It is observed on 26 March to raise awareness about epilepsy and reduce stigma. The color purple, especially lavender, is recognized as a symbol of epilepsy awareness.

Recently, the 2026 theme “Epilepsy: Advancing Together” emphasizes inclusion, awareness, and protecting the rights and dignity of people living with epilepsy. The day promotes global understanding and community support.

Various awareness campaigns are associated with specific colors to highlight different health and social issues. For example, purple represents epilepsy awareness (26 March), pink is linked to breast cancer awareness (October), blue to autism awareness (2 April), red to HIV/AIDS awareness (1 December), green to mental health awareness (10 October), yellow to suicide prevention (10 September), and orange to anti-tobacco awareness (31 May). These color-coded campaigns help improve visibility, public engagement, and understanding of key global issues.

129. World Water Day 2026

World Water Day is observed on 22 March each year to highlight the importance of freshwater and sustainable water management. The 2026 theme, “Water and Gender,” focuses on the role of gender equality in ensuring equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.

13. GOVT. SCHEMES

130. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)



Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) received ₹2,500 crore allocation for the fisheries sector in the Union Budget 2026–27. The scheme was launched on 10 September 2020 by the Department of Fisheries.

Aim

The main aim of PMMSY is to increase fish production, modernize the fisheries sector, and raise the income of fishers

across the country.

Activities Under the Scheme

The scheme promotes various activities such as aquaculture, seaweed farming, pearl farming, and the development of cold-chain infrastructure to strengthen the fisheries value chain and improve productivity.

14. ENVIRONMENT

131. Gentoo Penguin and H5N1 Avian Influenza



The Gentoo Penguin became the first bird species in an Australian territory to test positive for H5N1 Avian Influenza (bird flu). The virus was detected on Heard Island, a sub-Antarctic territory of Australia.

Possible Spread

Scientists believe the infection likely spread through infected migratory birds or marine mammals that reached the island. The detection raised concerns about the spread of bird flu in remote polar ecosystems.

About H5N1 Virus

The H5N1 avian influenza virus originated in 1996, when a highly pathogenic strain was first detected in geese in Guangdong Province, China. Since then, it has spread across several regions, affecting wild birds, poultry, and sometimes mammals.

132. Blue-and-White Flycatcher Spotted in Gujarat

A rare migratory bird, the Blue-and-White Flycatcher, was recently spotted in Gujarat at the Pavagadh Hills. This sighting is significant as the species is not commonly observed in India.



About the Species

The Blue-and-White Flycatcher is a small, striking songbird known for its vibrant blue upperparts and contrasting white underparts. It belongs to the flycatcher family and is admired for its melodious calls.

Habitat and Distribution

The species breeds in East Asia, including Japan, Korea, northeastern China, and parts of the Russian Far East. During winters, it migrates to Southeast Asia, inhabiting regions such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Sumatra, and Borneo. Its preferred habitats include wooded lowlands, submontane forests, taiga regions, slopes, and gullies, though it can also be found in scrublands, bushes, and plantations.

Conservation Status

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the species is classified as Least Concern, indicating a stable global population despite its rarity in certain regions like India.

133. NABARD Launches National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has launched the National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge to strengthen India’s agricultural resilience against climate change. The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors.



Objective

The challenge aims to develop a unified and standardized “climate stack” — a digital platform that integrates diverse climate-related datasets such as weather patterns, soil conditions, crop data, satellite imagery, and disaster information into a single accessible system.

Key Features

The platform will enable predictive analytics and real-time decision-making for stakeholders, especially farmers and policymakers. A major focus is on long-term climate hazard forecasting over a 10–15 year horizon, helping anticipate risks such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events.

Applications

The Climate Stack is expected to support improved agricultural planning, enhance rural credit and insurance systems, and strengthen disaster preparedness mechanisms. It will also facilitate data-driven policymaking and innovation in agri-tech solutions.

134. Dusky Eagle-Owl Sighting



Background:

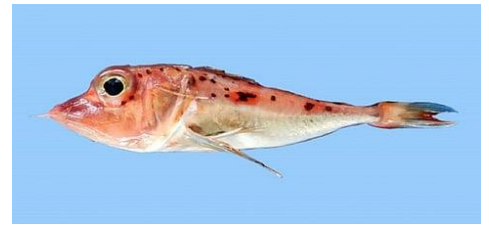
A rare pair of Dusky Eagle-Owl was recently sighted near the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The species had last been officially recorded in the region in 2010, making the sighting significant for wildlife monitoring.

Significance:

Corbett Tiger Reserve, established in 1936, is India’s oldest national park and an important biodiversity hotspot. The reappearance of the Dusky Eagle-Owl highlights the ecological health of the Terai forest ecosystem and the importance of conservation efforts.

135. New Fish Species Discovered in West Bengal

Scientists have discovered a new estuarine fish species named *Butis bargabhimae* in West Bengal.



Key Features

- Belongs to the goby family (Butidae)
- Found in estuarine ecosystems where freshwater mixes with seawater
- Named after the Bargabhima temple, reflecting regional cultural linkage

Significance

The discovery highlights India's rich aquatic biodiversity and the importance of conserving fragile estuarine ecosystems, which are often threatened by pollution and habitat degradation.

15. OBITUARY

136. K.G. George, Vir Chakra Awardee, Passes Away

K.G. George, a Vir Chakra awardee of the 1965 India–Pakistan War, passed away at the age of 95 in Kottayam, Kerala. He served in the Corps of Signals of the Indian Army and played a crucial role in restoring communication lines in the Wagah sector under enemy fire. For his bravery, he was awarded the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry award, and later retired as a Lance Havildar.



137. Raja Singh Oberoi (TV Man of India)

Raja Singh Oberoi, popularly known as the "TV Man of India", passed away on 28 February 2026 in Ludhiana at the age of 90. He played a key role in making affordable televisions and radios accessible to Indian households and was also called the "TV Man of Punjab."



Contributions:

He founded Jupiter Radios in 1961, producing low-cost radios and transistors. In 1972, he launched the Texla TV, which once captured about 95% of the Punjab TV market. The company later expanded into colour TVs, portable TVs, and picture tubes, establishing manufacturing units in Ludhiana.

Recognition and Social Work:

His company received the National Productivity Award in 1989 for excellence in consumer electronics production. Beyond business, he supported education and philanthropy through the Guru Ram Das Charitable Trust, which helps run schools and colleges.

Target Top UG ADMISSION TESTS for 2026



GET INTO TOP PREMIER COLLEGES FOR B.COM, BBA, BA...



O.P. JINDAL



NARSEE MONJEE



CHRIST UNIVERSITY



SYMBIOSIS UNIVERSITY



DU

Start Your 2026 Test Prep with Expert Counseling!

- ✓ CUET for DU & others
- ✓ IPMAT for IIMs
- ✓ NMAT for Narsee Monjee
- ✓ Symbiosis University
- ✓ O.P. Jindal Global University
- ✓ Ashoka University
- ✓ Christ University
- ✓ FLAME University, Pune
- ✓ Master Union, NCR
- ✓ Shiv Nadar, NCR
- ✓ St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
- ✓ Mithibai College of Arts
- ✓ Amity University, Noida

ENROLL NOW!

Top Universities for UG Admission Success



Nandita
Flame
University,
Pune



Kritika
MET,
Mumbai



Samiksha
Shiv Nadar
University,
NCR



Simran
OP Jindal
Global
University



Muskan
Christ
University



Manan
Narsee
Munjee,
Mumbai



Harshan
OP Jindal
Global
University



Arisht
Christ
University

A Panacea for your Dream Career **CIVIL SERVICES**

UPSC

IAS

IPS

IFS

IRS

Allied Services

State PCS

PCS PUNJAB

HCS HARYANA

RAS RAJASTHAN

UPPCS Uttar Pradesh

Other States



Our PCS 2026 Prelim Success

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.Prabhjot Singh | 9.Chhavi |
| 2.Ayush Raina | 10.Pinki Saini |
| 3.Ketan Singla | 11.Harshi Gagat |
| 4.Ramanpreet Kaur | 12.Renu Bala |
| 5.Shubham Sharma | 13.Amanpreet Kaur |
| 6.Parteek Saini | 14.Gurtej Singh |
| 7.Mehak Sood | 15.Gurbax Singh |
| 8.Shruti Bharti | 16.Manav Nahar |

**For UPSC
Civil Services**

**Optional
Subject**

For PCS

**General
Studies**

Aptitude Tests

**For SSC, Banks, Central Govt,
State Govt. & other jobs**



**PANACEA BHARTI[®]
Institute Pvt. Ltd.**

B-20, 2024/3, Govind Nagar, PAU Gate No.3 Road, Ludhiana

M: 8054407407, 9888405906

www.panaceatutor.com