

# Current Affairs

August 2026

GROUP 1 • GROUP 2 • ANDHRA PRADESH FIRST

Kerala is now Keralam

Bhogapuram carries Alluri's name

AP restores the 34 per cent BC quota

RBI holds at 5.25

Nine judges keep the 1978 test

Nethanna Sevalo pays Rs 25,000

Over 800 GIs, the register says 684



# The month, as the paper asks it

One month of news, in the shapes the APPSC papers use: questions first, the mechanism where a paper tests one, the exact fact where it lifts one.

Every piece here opens with questions in the paper's own form and closes with the answers and why. Try the questions first, before you read; a guess made first makes the right answer stick. Then read. The larger pieces explain a mechanism the paper can test from several sides; the shorter ones give you one exact thing; the single questions at the end of each section carry their facts in the answer. The run at the back is thirty questions in the paper's proportions. Do not make notes from this book; it is the notes.

## THE MONTH AGAINST THE PAPER

The 2024 Group 2 current-affairs section, by category, beside what this month carries in each. A thin row is a research gap, not a quiet month.

| CATEGORY                   | IN THE 2024 PAPER, OF 30 | PIECES THIS MONTH |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh             | 5                        | 17                |
| International              | 4                        | 2                 |
| Awards and honours         | 3                        | 10                |
| Environment and species    | 3                        | 4                 |
| Sports                     | 2                        | 5                 |
| Defence                    | 2                        | 6                 |
| Economy and infrastructure | 2                        | 2                 |
| Health                     | 1                        | 1                 |
| Schemes and governance     | 1                        | 9                 |
| Days and themes            | 1                        | 2                 |
| Reports and indices        | 1                        | 0                 |
| Science and technology     | 0                        | 3                 |

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| THE LINES  | Single questions, the content in the answer.                       | 54 |
| THE RUN    | Thirty questions in the paper's proportions, key on the last page. | 63 |

PART ONE · AUGUST 2026

The seven topics a paper can test from several sides

Each opens with three questions in the paper's form, explains the mechanism, and closes with the answers and why.

POLITY · NATIONAL · 10 TO 25 AUGUST 2026

Kerala is now Keralam

What Parliament needed from the State to rename it, and from which day the State is Keralam.

You might expect a constitutional amendment and a pile of dates. It took one ordinary law, and two dates that mean different things.

Before you read: can you answer these?

- 1

For renaming Kerala as Keralam in August 2026, which of the following was required?

a

The consent of the Kerala Legislative Assembly

b

A reference of the Bill by the President to the Kerala Legislature for its views

c

A two-thirds majority in each House of Parliament

d

A constitutional amendment under Article 368
- 2

The State of Kerala is known as the State of Keralam from:

a

14 August 2026, the President's assent

b

12 August 2026, the Rajya Sabha vote

c

25 August 2026, the appointed day notified by the Home Ministry

d

24 June 2024, the Kerala Assembly resolution
- 3

Consider these statements about the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026.

I. It was passed by a simple majority in both Houses.

II. It substitutes the name in the First Schedule and the Fourth Schedule.

III. It amends the Eighth Schedule to add Keralam in every listed language.

a

I and II only

b

I and III only

c

II and III only

d

I, II and III

Three words the story needs

A **Schedule** is a list attached at the end of the Constitution. The First Schedule lists the States and their territories. The Eighth lists languages. A State's name lives in the First.

THE TWO SCHEDULES

| First Schedule<br>the States and<br>their territories | Eighth Schedule<br>the languages |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 Gujarat                                             | 9 Konkani                        |
| 5 <del>Kerala</del> Keralam                           | 10 Maithili                      |
| 6 Madhya Pradesh                                      | 11 Malayalam                     |
| changed on 25<br>August 2026                          | not touched                      |

A State's name lives in the First Schedule, so that is the list Parliament changed. The Eighth Schedule, where Malayalam is entry 11, was not touched.

Which Schedule holds a State's name?

The First Schedule holds it; the Eighth holds languages.

Views or consent?

Parliament asks for views, and the State cannot refuse.

**Article 3** is Parliament's power to make a new State, or to change a State's area, borders or name. It comes with a condition: before a name is changed, the President must ask that State for its **views**.

## Why does a name need Parliament, and nothing more?

Kerala's name is written into the Constitution itself, in the First Schedule. Only Parliament can change that text. So a State cannot rename itself; it can only ask.

Then why was no constitutional amendment needed? Because Article 4 says a law made under Article 3 does not count as one. That single sentence is why a simple majority was enough, and why Article 368 never came into it.

### Why no two-thirds vote?

Article 4 says a renaming law is not an amendment.

### Can a State rename itself?

It cannot; its name is in the First Schedule, so only Parliament can change it.

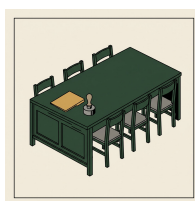
## What happened, step by step



1 24 June 2024

### The State Assembly asks

A resolution is a request, not a law. A State can ask for a new name; it cannot give itself one.



2 24 February 2026

### The Union Cabinet approves a Bill

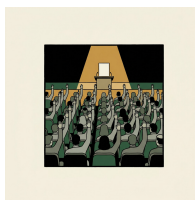
The Centre decides whether to carry the request to Parliament, and this time it agreed to.



3 17 June 2026

### The President sends the Bill to the State for its views

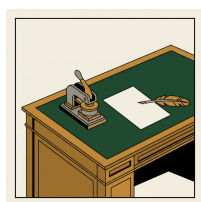
This is the condition in Article 3 at work. The State is asked what it thinks. Parliament may ignore the answer.



4 1 July 2026

### The Assembly gives its views

The views do not bind Parliament. Andhra Pradesh said no in 2014 and was divided anyway.



5 7 August 2026

### The President recommends introduction

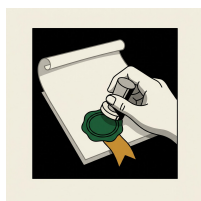
Article 3 has a second condition: a Bill like this cannot enter Parliament unless the President recommends it.



6 11 and 12 August 2026

### Parliament passes it by simple majority

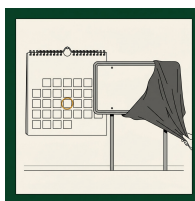
Lok Sabha first, Rajya Sabha the next day, by voice vote. No two-thirds, because Article 4 keeps this outside Article 368.



7 14 August 2026

### The President assents: the Act exists

Assent is the signature that turns a Bill into an Act. The law is made. The name has not changed yet.



8 25 August 2026

### The appointed day: the name is in force

The Home Ministry chose the day, timed for Onam. Making a law and bringing it into force are two different steps.

**From memory:** the State \_\_\_\_\_ → the President asks the State for its \_\_\_\_\_ → Parliament passes by \_\_\_\_\_ majority → assent on \_\_\_\_\_ August → name in force from \_\_\_\_\_ August.

## The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE            | WHAT IT IS                                                                    | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Article 3</b>      | The Article Parliament used to rename the State.                              | Article 2 (admitting or establishing new States) or Article 368 (amending the Constitution). |
| <b>14 August 2026</b> | The President signed the Bill. The law was made. The name did not change yet. | 25 August, when the name changed.                                                            |
| <b>25 August 2026</b> | The name changed, because the Home Ministry chose that day.                   | 14 August, the signing day.                                                                  |

## How this can be asked

| LENS                  | THE LIKELY QUESTION                                                | THE CATCH                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Polity</b>         | Views or consent? Which Article, which majority?                   | consent; Article 368; two-thirds |
| <b>Geography</b>      | Match old name to new: Mysore, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Madras.        | Tamil Nadu dated 1967            |
| <b>History</b>        | Which State was renamed by an Act first, and when?                 | Karnataka; it was Madras, 1969   |
| <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> | Whose Assembly rejected a Bill Parliament passed anyway, and when? | Telangana; it was AP, 2014       |



**Madras to Tamil Nadu**

14 Jan 1969



**Mysore to Karnataka**

1 Nov 1973



**Pondicherry to Puducherry**

1 Oct 2006



**Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand**

1 Jan 2007



**Orissa to Odisha**

1 Nov 2011



**Kerala to Keralam**

25 Aug 2026

Six renaming Acts under Article 3, five States and one Union Territory. The same Article made Andhra State in 1953 and Andhra Pradesh in 1956, and divided the State in 2014 against its Assembly's view.

## The answers, and why

**1 · b, its views.** If you said consent, you were one step short: the State is asked, and that is where its power ends. Babulal Parate, 1960, settled it.

**2 · c, 25 August.** If you said 14 August, you had the day the law was made. The name waited for the day it was brought into force.

**3 · a, I and II only.** Statement III is the false one: the Eighth lists languages and was not touched. Kerala's own 2023 request made this mistake; the Centre corrected it.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 SCREENING TEST, 26 FEBRUARY 2017, Q34

For altering the boundary of a State or for creation of a new State,

The key is b, the same rule as Keralam.

- a Concurrence of the affected State Assembly is required
- b Views of the affected State Assembly are to be sought by the President
- c Two-thirds majority of the affected State Assembly is required
- d Affected State has to make a recommendation to the Lok Sabha

**Parliament renamed Kerala under Article 3 by a simple majority. It asked the State for its views and did not need its consent. The law was signed on 14 August; the name changed on 25 August.**

Sources: Bill No. 155 of 2026 and its Statement of Objects and Reasons; Home Ministry notification of 25 August 2026; Articles 3 and 4, First and Eighth Schedules; Babulal Parate v State of Bombay, AIR 1960 SC 51; APPSC Group 2 Screening 2017 paper.

INFRASTRUCTURE · ANDHRA PRADESH · 1 TO 17 AUGUST 2026

## Bhogapuram's new airport carries Alluri's name

Where Bhogapuram airport stands, who built it, and how its opening links to Alluri Sitarama Raju's 1922 rebellion.

You might place the new airport in Visakhapatnam, since that is the city it serves. It stands in Vizianagaram district instead, and it takes its name from a rebellion fought in the hills nearby.

### Before you read: can you answer these?

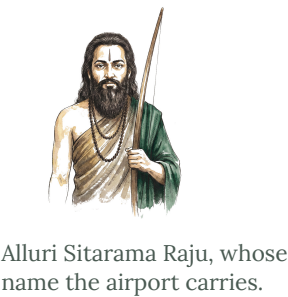
- 1 The 1922 revolt led by Alluri Sitarama Raju, after whom the airport is named, was against the:
  - a Indian Forest Act, 1927
  - b Forest Rights Act, 2006
  - c Rowlatt Act, 1919
  - d Madras Forest Act, 1882, which criminalised podu cultivation
- 2 Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, inaugurated on 1 August 2026, is in the district of:
  - a Vizianagaram
  - b Visakhapatnam
  - c Alluri Sitharama Raju
  - d Srikakulam
- 3 Consider these statements about the Bhogapuram airport:
  - I. It was developed by GMR under a 40-year DBFOT concession with the Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation.
  - II. Its DGCA aerodrome licence came in July 2026 and scheduled flights began on 17 August 2026.
  - III. It was funded from a corpus of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
  - a I, II and III
  - b I and II only
  - c I and III only
  - d II and III only

AP'S AIRPORTS, THE OPTION SET

| Airport             | Where                  | Note                                                             |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visakhapatnam       | INS Dega civil enclave | scheduled flights suspended for thirty years from 17 August 2026 |
| Vijayawada          | Gannavaram             | international                                                    |
| Tirupati            | Renigunta              | AAI airport                                                      |
| Rajahmundry, Kadapa | Madhurapudi; Kadapa    | domestic                                                         |
| Kurnool             | Orvakal                | opened 2021                                                      |
| Bhogapuram          | Vizianagaram district  | opened 1 August 2026; GMR, public-private partnership            |

Nine more are planned, at Amaravati, Srikakulam, Kuppam, Dagadarthi and five others, so every district sits within an hour of one.

Bhogapuram is the newest name on a list that already had six. Many readers will give the city each one serves, not the district it stands in.



AIRPORT LOCATION CHAIN

- 1

Visakhapatnam  
INS Dega civil enclave, last scheduled flight 16 August 2026
- 2

Bhogapuram  
the airport, Vizianagaram district, from 17 August 2026
- 3

Vizianagaram  
district headquarters, about 25 km from the airport

Two words the story needs

A **greenfield airport** is one built from nothing on open land, unlike a brownfield expansion of an existing airport. Bhogapuram is greenfield; Kurnool's Orvakal, opened in 2021, was the last one before it in Andhra Pradesh.

DBFOT stands for design, build, finance, operate and transfer. The private partner pays for and runs the airport for the concession period, here 40 years extendable by 20.

Why did Visakhapatnam need a new airport, and why does it carry Alluri's name?

Visakhapatnam's own airport is a civil enclave inside INS Dega, a naval air station, and being under Navy control it had restrictions on commercial take-offs and landings for strategic reasons.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decided in September 2024 to name the new airport after Alluri Sitarama Raju. The Legislative Assembly resolved on the name on **21 November 2024**.

- What makes an airport greenfield rather than brownfield?**

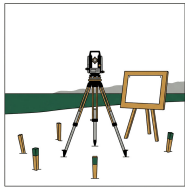
It rises on open land where no airport stood before; a brownfield project only expands an existing one.
- Who pays to build and run Bhogapuram, and for how long?**

GMR does, under a 40-year DBFOT concession that can be extended by 20 more years.
- Why could Visakhapatnam's own airport not simply expand?**

It sits on a naval air station, INS Dega, which restricted commercial flights there for strategic reasons.
- When was the airport named after Alluri Sitarama Raju?**

The Cabinet decided in September 2024, and the Assembly resolved it on 21 November 2024.

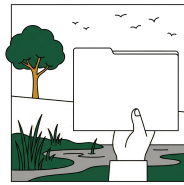
## Ten years to a first flight



1 January 2016

### The Centre clears the site

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation clears Bhogapuram as a greenfield site, meaning the airport rises on open land where no airport stood before.



2 August 2017

### The project gets environmental clearance

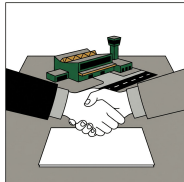
The project clears its environmental review in August 2017, the second gate every new airport must pass before work can start.



3 14 February 2019

### The first foundation stone is laid

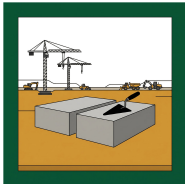
The first foundation stone is laid on 14 February 2019, years before the concession itself is signed.



4 June 2020

### GMR signs the concession

GMR signs a 40-year concession with the Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation in June 2020, agreeing to design, build, finance, operate and transfer the airport.



5 3 May 2023

### A second foundation stone is laid, and work begins

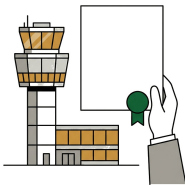
A second foundation stone is laid on 3 May 2023, and construction began in November 2023 and ran 31 months, about five months ahead of schedule.



6 4 January 2026

### A validation flight tests the runway

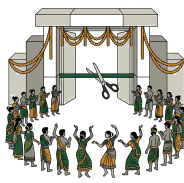
An Air India aircraft flies a validation flight on 4 January 2026, testing the runway and the approach before any licence is granted.



7 July 2026

### The DGCA licenses the aerodrome

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation grants the aerodrome licence in July 2026, its permission to operate.



8 1 August 2026

### The Prime Minister inaugurates the airport

The Prime Minister inaugurates the airport on 1 August 2026 and launches projects worth over Rs 17,900 crore the same day.

From memory: the site clears in \_\_\_\_\_ → GMR signs the concession in \_\_\_\_\_ → the airport is inaugurated on 1 \_\_\_\_\_ → the code VTZ moves on 17 \_\_\_\_\_.

2016 · 2020 · August · August

## The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE                   | WHAT IT IS                                                                                                                         | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vizianagaram district</b> | Bhogapuram, where the airport stands, is in Vizianagaram district, about 45 km from Visakhapatnam, the city it serves.             | Visakhapatnam district, the city's own district, which many readers assume instead. |
| <b>Over Rs 5,640 crore</b>   | The PIB figure for the airport's development cost, built under a public-private partnership.                                       | Rs 4,727 crore, GMR's own figure for the project cost, counted on a different base. |
| <b>40 years</b>              | GMR's DBFOT concession with the Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation, signed in June 2020, extendable by 20 more years. | 20 years, the extension period, mistaken for the concession's own length.           |

## How this can be asked

| LENS                  | THE LIKELY QUESTION                                                        | THE CATCH                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> | A question could ask which district the airport is in.                     | Visakhapatnam district, offered because that is the city the airport serves.              |
| <b>History</b>        | A question could ask what law the 1922 Rampa Rebellion was fought against. | the Indian Forest Act, 1927, offered because it came after Alluri's death, not before it. |
| <b>Geography</b>      | A question could ask how far Bhogapuram is from Visakhapatnam.             | 25 km, the distance to Vizianagaram, offered where 45 km to Visakhapatnam is correct.     |

## Where AP's airports stand, and why Bhogapuram is new

Andhra Pradesh already had airports at Vijayawada (Gannavaram), Tirupati (Renigunta), Rajahmundry, Kadapa and Kurnool (Orvakal, opened 2021), besides the civil enclave at Visakhapatnam's INS Dega.

Nine more airports are planned within an hour of every district, at Amaravati, Srikakulam, Kuppam, Dagadarthi and five others.

### Why could Visakhapatnam's own airport not simply expand?

It sits on a Navy air station, INS Dega, which restricted commercial take-offs and landings there for strategic reasons.

### How many more airports does Andhra Pradesh plan to add?

Nine more, including at Amaravati, Srikakulam and Kuppam, so that every district is within an hour of one.

## Do not confuse these

| THIS                                                                     | AND WHY NOT THAT                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bhogapuram is in Vizianagaram district.</b>                           | It is not in Visakhapatnam district, the city it serves and whose flight code it took.                                                            |
| <b>The airport is GMR's, under a public-private partnership.</b>         | It is not the Airports Authority of India's; AAI runs Vijayawada, Tirupati and the older airports, not this one.                                  |
| <b>Visakhapatnam's scheduled flights are suspended for thirty years.</b> | They have not ended after thirty years of service; the thirty years runs forward from 17 August 2026, with an exemption for national emergencies. |

## The answers, and why

**1 · d, the Madras Forest Act, 1882, which criminalised podu cultivation.** If you said the Indian Forest Act, 1927, you had the right kind of law but the wrong one: that Act came three years after Alluri's death in 1924.

**2 · a, Vizianagaram district.** If you said Visakhapatnam, you were one step short: that is the city the airport serves and whose code VTZ it took, not the district it stands in.

**3 · b, I and II only.** If you said all three held, you missed the false one: the airport was built under a GMR public-private partnership, not funded from a National Investment and Infrastructure Fund corpus.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 1 PRELIMS, NOTIFICATION 12/2023, HELD 2024, PAPER I, Q87

In connection with transport and infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh, which of the following statement/statements is/are valid?

- I. Andhra Pradesh's first riverine project has been proposed between Muktyala and Madipadu on Krishna river.
- II. The Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport had been started with a corpus fund that is sourced from National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- III. Infrastructure investments in Andhra Pradesh are strictly implemented only with reference to strategic investments like ports and industrial corridors, but not with reference to community assets.
- IV. Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) are being developed in Andhra Pradesh under the Setu Bandhan Scheme.

- a I, II and III
- b Only IV
- c I and IV
- d Only II

The key is c. Statement II is the false one: Bhogapuram is a GMR public-private partnership, not a project funded from a National Investment and Infrastructure Fund corpus.

**The Prime Minister inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, on 1 August 2026. Scheduled flights began there on 17 August, when the code VTZ moved from Visakhapatnam.**

Sources: PIB PRID 2292165, 31 July 2026; DD News; The Hans India; Eenadu, 16 August 2026; GMR; ChiniMandi; Andhra Jyothi; ETV Bharat Telugu; APPSC Group 1 Prelims 2024 paper.

POLITY · ANDHRA PRADESH · 4 TO 31 AUGUST 2026

## AP restores 34 per cent BC quota

Why Backward Class quota in local bodies needed a commission, and what percentage Andhra Pradesh restored in August 2026.

You might expect a Backward Class quota to be a right the Constitution grants outright. It is a choice the State must earn with a commission's own evidence, proved fresh for every round of elections.

### Before you read: can you answer these?

1 Consider these statements about Backward Class reservation in local bodies:

- I. Article 243D(6) makes reservation for Backward Classes in Panchayats compulsory.
- II. The Supreme Court's triple test requires a dedicated commission's contemporaneous empirical inquiry before such reservation.
- III. On 18 August 2026 the AP Cabinet approved 34 per cent in rural and 33.33 per cent in urban local bodies.

- a I and II only
- b II and III only
- c I and III only
- d I, II and III

- 2** The 'triple test' for Backward Class reservation in local bodies was spelt out in:
- a Ashoka Kumar Thakur v Union of India, 2008
  - b M. Nagaraj v Union of India, 2006
  - c Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v State of Maharashtra, 2021, building on K. Krishna Murthy, 2010
  - d Indra Sawhney v Union of India, 1992
- 3** The order that provided 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes in AP's rural local bodies on 20 August 2026 is:
- a G.O.Ms.No.3, Backward Classes Welfare Department
  - b G.O.Ms.No.11, Backward Classes Welfare Department
  - c G.O.Ms.No.81, Finance Department
  - d G.O.Ms.No.105, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department

#### PANCHAYATS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES

|                       | Panchayats                                                  | Municipalities                                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Constitution          | Part IX, 73rd Amendment Act, 1992                           | Part IXA, 74th Amendment Act, 1992                               |
| BC reservation clause | Article 243D(6)                                             | Article 243T(6)                                                  |
| AP quota, August 2026 | 34 per cent                                                 | 33.33 per cent                                                   |
| Order                 | G.O.Ms.No.105, PR&RD, 20 August 2026                        | separate urban orders                                            |
| Bodies                | gram panchayats, mandal parishads, 28 Zilla Praja Parishads | municipalities and corporations; mayors by direct election       |
|                       | Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6) both permit; neither commands. | 34 rural, 33.33 urban: the two figures a question will exchange. |

The clause is different for each tier, but both only permit reservation; the State supplies the number and the justification.

### Two words the story needs

**Contemporaneous** means of the present time. It is the Supreme Court's word for the inquiry a commission must run: the data must describe backwardness now, not from a decade ago.

An **enabling provision** is a clause that permits, not one that commands.

#### Why must the commission's data be contemporaneous?

Because old data cannot show today's backwardness; the inquiry has to be current, not inherited from an earlier decade.

#### Is Backward Class reservation in Panchayats compulsory?

No, it is enabling: the State may reserve seats, but it is not required to.

### Why does a quota need a commission, and why did Andhra Pradesh's take six months?

Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6) only say that nothing stops a State from reserving seats for Backward Classes in Panchayats and Municipalities.

#### Why can a State not simply announce a Backward Class quota in local bodies?

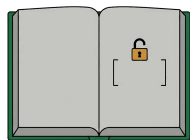
Because the enabling Articles only permit it; the State must first prove the case with a dedicated commission's data.

Andhra Pradesh had already lost this argument once. In 2020 the High Court struck down a rise to 34 per cent, because it would have pushed total reservation past the 50 per cent ceiling.

### What happened the last time Andhra Pradesh tried 34 per cent?

The High Court struck it down in 2020 because the total would have crossed the 50 per cent ceiling.

## The triple test, as AP walked it



1 Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6)

### The Constitution enables, it does not command

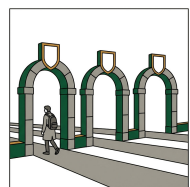
Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6) say only that nothing stops a State Legislature from reserving seats for Backward Classes in Panchayats and Municipalities.



2 11 May 2010

### The Supreme Court sets the ceiling

A five-judge Constitution Bench in K. Krishna Murthy v Union of India rules that Backward Class reservation in local bodies needs an empirical basis, and that total reservation should not cross 50 per cent.



3 4 March 2021

### The Court spells out the triple test

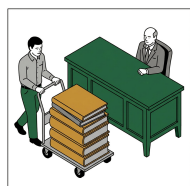
In Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v State of Maharashtra, three judges lay down the triple test.



4 19 February 2026

### Andhra Pradesh constitutes its commission

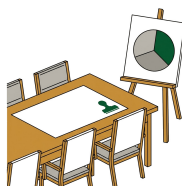
The State sets up a single-member Dedicated Commission under G.O.Ms.No.3, giving it 45 days; the deadline is extended three times, on 13 May, 22 June and 4 August.



5 14 August 2026

### The commission reports

The commission submits its report to the Chief Minister: six volumes running past 2,000 pages, after about six months of district sittings.



6 18 August 2026

### The Cabinet fixes the quota

The Cabinet approves 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes in rural local bodies and 33.33 per cent in urban ones.



7 PIL before the High Court

### The Court is asked to test the ceiling

A public interest litigation argues that Backward Class reservation may push the total past the Supreme Court's 50 per cent ceiling.



8 target October 2026

### Polls wait on the roll, not the quota

Finance Commission grants for local bodies flow only to elected bodies.

**From memory:** the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_ → the Supreme Court's triple test comes from \_\_\_\_\_ → Andhra Pradesh's commission reports on 14 \_\_\_\_\_ → the Cabinet fixes \_\_\_\_\_ per cent for rural bodies.

enables · Gawali (2021) · August · 34

## The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE            | WHAT IT IS                                                                                                                      | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>34 per cent</b>    | The Backward Class quota the AP Cabinet restored for rural local bodies on 18 August 2026.                                      | 33.33 per cent, the urban figure, a different number for a different tier.                |
| <b>14 August 2026</b> | The day the Dedicated Commission handed its six-volume report to the Chief Minister.                                            | 18 August, the day the Cabinet acted on the report, four days later.                      |
| <b>50 per cent</b>    | The ceiling the Supreme Court set for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class reservation together in local bodies. | 34 per cent, the Backward Class figure alone, which a reader can mistake for the ceiling. |

## How this can be asked

| LENS                  | THE LIKELY QUESTION                                                                 | THE CATCH                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Polity</b>         | A question could ask which Article makes BC reservation in local bodies compulsory. | Article 243D(6), offered as though the words 'nothing shall prevent' meant 'shall'.        |
| <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> | A question could ask what percentage the High Court struck down in 2020.            | 24.15 per cent, the figure the quota fell to, offered as the figure the Court struck down. |
| <b>Mains</b>          | A question could ask for the triple test in Andhra Pradesh's own case.              | Krishna Murthy alone, missing that Gawali is the case that names all three limbs.          |

## How other States have met the same test

Every State needs its own dedicated commission before it can reserve seats for Backward Classes in local bodies, because the requirement is judge-made, not written into one central list.

Karnataka's commission was a retired High Court judge, and it recommended 33 per cent for a State where OBCs are 44.4 per cent of the population.

### Which State's Backward Class quota has already been stayed by a High Court?

Telangana's, because its 42 per cent quota, added to SC and ST seats, reaches 67 per cent, above the 50 per cent ceiling.

### Whose commission was headed by a retired judge, not a retired officer?

Karnataka's, chaired by a retired High Court judge, who recommended 33 per cent.

## Do not confuse these

| THIS                                                         | AND WHY NOT THAT                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Article 243D(6) permits BC reservation in Panchayats.</b> | It does not make it compulsory; only Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe seats are mandatory under the same Article. |

## THIS

## AND WHY NOT THAT

**The triple test comes from Gawali (2021).**

It is not Krishna Murthy (2010) alone; Gawali built its three-part test on that 2010 ruling eleven years later.

**34 per cent is the rural figure.**

Urban local bodies get 33.33 per cent, fixed by a separate figure in the same Cabinet decision.

## The answers, and why

**1 · b, II and III only.** If you said statement I held too, you were one step short.

**2 · c, Vikas Gawali (2021), building on K. Krishna Murthy (2010).** If you said Krishna Murthy alone, you had the right decade but the wrong case. Krishna Murthy set the 50 per cent ceiling; Gawali spelled out the three-part test eleven years later.

**3 · d, G.O.Ms.No.105.** If you said G.O.Ms.No.11, you had the wrong order: that one only extended the commission's own term to 30 September, not the quota itself.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 11/2023, HELD 2025, PAPER I, Q118

Which of the following statements is/are not correct regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act? A. 18 functional items were placed within the purview of Panchayats. B. The Act does not apply to the States of Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram. C. The Act bars interference by courts in the electoral matters of Panchayats. D. Reservation of seats to BCs is a compulsory provision under this Act.

- a A and D only
- c A and B only

- b A, B and D only
- d A, C and D only

The key is a. Statement D is the false one: Backward Class reservation is enabling, not compulsory, the very rule the Dedicated Commission exists to satisfy.

**The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet restored 34 per cent Backward Class reservation for rural local bodies, and 33.33 per cent for urban ones, on 18 August 2026. This followed its Dedicated Commission's report.**

Sources: Government of Andhra Pradesh, G.O.Ms.No.10, Backward Classes Welfare Department, 4 August 2026; G.O.Ms.No.105, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, 20 August 2026; K. Krishna Murthy v Union of India (2010); Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v State of Maharashtra (2021); TV9 Telugu; The South First; Andhra Jyothi; Eenadu, 3 August 2026; APPSC Group 2 Mains 2025 paper.

ECONOMY · NATIONAL · 5 AUGUST 2026

## RBI holds the repo at 5.25 per cent

Why the RBI held the rate for a fourth time, and what changed in its growth and inflation forecasts.

You might read 'held' and expect that nothing happened. The rate did not move, but the Committee moved its whole view of the year: growth up, inflation down, both the opposite of what it said in June.

THE POLICY CORRIDOR

Before you read: can you answer these?

- 1

With the repo rate at 5.25 per cent, the standing deposit facility rate and the marginal standing facility rate are, respectively:

a 4.75 and 5.25 per cent

b 5.00 and 5.50 per cent

c 5.50 and 5.00 per cent

d 5.25 and 5.75 per cent
- 2

At its meeting of 3 to 5 August 2026 the Monetary Policy Committee:

a Held the repo rate at 5.50 per cent and changed the stance to accommodative

b Raised the repo rate to 5.50 per cent

c Held the repo rate at 5.25 per cent by 6-0 and kept a neutral stance

d Cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.00 per cent
- 3

Consider these statements about the August 2026 policy.

I. The GDP growth projection for 2026-27 was raised to 6.7 per cent.

II. The CPI inflation projection for 2026-27 was lowered to 5.0 per cent.

III. In June 2026 the Committee had raised the growth projection and lowered the inflation projection.

a I and II only

b I and III only

c II and III only

d I, II and III

Three words the story needs

The **repo rate** is the rate the RBI charges banks when it lends them money overnight. Raise it and loans grow costlier everywhere, which cools spending; cut it and loans grow cheaper, which pushes growth up.

A **neutral stance** promises nothing about the next move; the Committee decides fresh each time from the data.

Why hold the rate now, and why move both forecasts at once?

In June, retail inflation had printed at 4.4 per cent, above the RBI's 4 per cent target for the first time in sixteen months.

The wait paid off by August. Growth for the year was raised to 6.7 per cent, from June's 6.6; inflation was lowered to 5.0 per cent, from June's 5.1.

| Facility                                                                                                                                   | its role in the corridor | Rate          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| SDF                                                                                                                                        | the floor                | 5.00 per cent |
| Repo rate                                                                                                                                  | the policy rate          | 5.25 per cent |
| MSF                                                                                                                                        | the ceiling              | 5.50 per cent |
| Bank Rate                                                                                                                                  |                          | 5.50 per cent |
| the SDF sits 25 basis points below the repo rate, and the MSF sits 25 basis points above it. The repo rate was held unchanged on 5 August. |                          |               |
| The repo rate sits in the middle of a corridor fifty basis points wide.                                                                    |                          |               |

- What does a neutral stance promise?

Nothing about the next move; the Committee decides fresh each time from the data.
- Where does the SDF rate sit?

At the floor of the corridor, 25 basis points below the repo.

- Why did the Committee wait rather than cut?

It wanted to watch how much of the West Asia fuel-price rise reached shop prices, not guess at it.
- Which meeting moved the forecasts the other way?

June: it cut growth to 6.6 and raised inflation to 5.1, against both April and August.

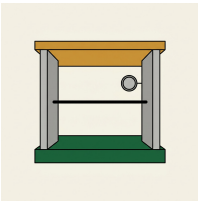
How a repo decision is made and read



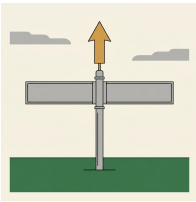
1 4 per cent, band 2 to 6  
**The target is fixed first**  
Section 45ZA has the Central Government fix the inflation target once every five years, in consultation with the RBI, on the Urjit Patel Committee's 2014 advice.



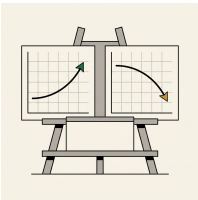
2 six members, 6-0  
**The Committee votes**  
Section 45ZB, inserted by the Finance Act, 2016, gives three seats to the RBI and three to the Government; the Governor chairs it, and under Section 45ZI holds the casting vote.



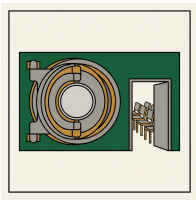
3 5.25 per cent  
**The rate sets the corridor**  
The SDF, introduced in April 2022, is the floor, 25 basis points below the repo; the MSF is the ceiling, 25 above; the Bank Rate equals the MSF rate.



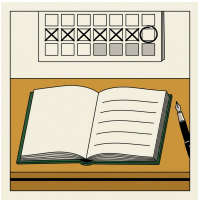
4 neutral  
**The stance is announced with the rate**  
Rates can move either way as data arrive; an accommodative stance leans toward cuts, a withdrawal of accommodation leans toward tightening.



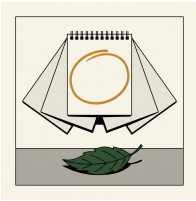
5 6.7 growth, 5.0 CPI  
**The projections are revised**  
Full-year and quarterly paths are revised at every meeting; the direction of the revision, not just the number, is what a question tests.



6 CRR, SLR  
**What the Committee does not decide**  
Cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio stay with the RBI itself; the Committee's own job is the repo rate alone.



7 the fourteenth day  
**The minutes are published**  
Section 45ZL requires each member's vote and reasons in public, on the fourteenth day after the meeting: 19 August for this one.



8 5 to 7 October 2026  
**The next meeting is already fixed**  
Six meetings run every year, on a calendar set months in advance: April, June, August, October, December, February.

From memory: the target is \_\_\_\_\_ per cent → the Committee votes \_\_\_\_\_ → the repo stays at \_\_\_\_\_, floor \_\_\_\_\_, ceiling \_\_\_\_\_ → the stance stays \_\_\_\_\_.

4 · 6-0 · 5.25 · 5.00 · 5.50 · neutral

The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE    | WHAT IT IS                                                                                       | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 5.25 per cent | The repo rate, held for the fourth meeting in a row, unchanged since the cut of 5 December 2025. | 5.00 per cent, which is the SDF rate, not the repo. |
| 6.7 per cent  | The growth forecast for 2026-27, raised from June's 6.6 per cent.                                | 6.6 per cent, June's figure, now superseded.        |
| 5.0 per cent  | The inflation forecast for 2026-27, lowered from June's 5.1 per cent.                            | 5.1 per cent, June's figure, now superseded.        |

## How this can be asked

| LENS                  | THE LIKELY QUESTION                                                                                                                   | THE CATCH                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Economy</b>        | A question could ask which meeting cut the growth forecast rather than raising it, testing whether you remember June was the outlier. | Naming August as the meeting that cut growth, when August is the meeting that raised it back up.         |
| <b>Polity/statute</b> | A question could ask which Section of the RBI Act creates the Monetary Policy Committee.                                              | Naming Section 45ZA, which is the inflation-target section, not the Committee-constitution Section 45ZB. |
| <b>Mains</b>          | A question could ask what the Urjit Patel Committee gave India, and this meeting is the evidence to cite.                             | Describing only the 4 per cent number and leaving out the band and the six-member committee it created.  |

## The rulebook behind every rate decision

India adopted this system in 2016, after the Finance Act inserted Section 45ZB into the RBI Act, 1934, on the recommendation of the Urjit Patel Committee of 2014.

The Committee itself has three RBI seats and three Government seats, so neither side can outvote the other on its own; the Governor's vote breaks a tie.

### Who set the 4 per cent target?

The Urjit Patel Committee, in 2014, written into law in 2016.

### Can one side of the Committee outvote the other?

Not on its own; three RBI seats face three Government seats, with the Governor's vote as tiebreaker.

## Do not confuse these

| THIS                                                   | AND WHY NOT THAT                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The repo was held at 5.25 per cent.                    | The SDF, at 5.00 per cent, and the MSF and Bank Rate, at 5.50 per cent, are the floor and ceiling around it, not the repo itself. |
| Growth was raised and inflation was lowered in August. | June had done the opposite: cut growth to 6.6 and raised inflation to 5.1. Do not read August's direction back into June.         |
| The Monetary Policy Committee decided the repo rate.   | Cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio are the RBI's own instruments; the Committee does not set them.                  |

## The answers, and why

**1 · b, 5.00 and 5.50 per cent.** If you picked 5.50 and 5.00, you had the ceiling and floor the wrong way round: the SDF sits below the repo, the MSF above it, one step apart in each direction.

**2 · c, held the repo rate at 5.25 per cent by 6-0 and kept a neutral stance.** If you picked the accommodative-stance option, you were one step short: the stance stayed neutral throughout, and only the rate and the stance together decide this question.

**3 · a, I and II only.** Statement III is one step short: June had cut the growth forecast and raised the inflation forecast, the reverse of what August did.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 18/2016, HELD 2017, PAPER I, Q113

Who fixes the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) in India?

- a Ministry of Finance
- b Monetary Policy Committee
- c Internal Committee of RBI
- d State Bank of India

The key is b. It is the same Committee this unit follows, meeting six times a year under Section 45ZB.

**The RBI held the repo rate at 5.25 per cent for the fourth meeting in a row, by a 6-0 vote, with a neutral stance.**

Sources: RBI, Minutes of the 62nd MPC meeting, Press Release 2026-2027/925, 19 August 2026; RBI Press Release 2025-2026/2306, 23 March 2026 (meeting calendar); RBI Act, 1934, Chapter IIIF (Sections 45ZA, 45ZB, 45ZL); APPSC Group 2 Mains, Notification 18/2016, held 2017.

JUDGMENTS · NATIONAL · 20 AUGUST 2026

## Nine judges keep the 1978 industry test

Which test decides if a workplace is an 'industry', and whether the Supreme Court just changed it.

You may have read that the Court changed the definition of 'industry' by a 5:4 majority. There was no such majority: four judges proposed a new test, and all nine kept the old one for every case already filed.

### Before you read: can you answer these?

- 1 The triple test for 'industry' under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 was laid down by a seven-judge Bench in:
  - a Golaknath v State of Punjab, 1967
  - b Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v A. Rajappa, 1978
  - c Safdarjung Hospital v Kuldip Singh Sethi
  - d State of Uttar Pradesh v Jai Bir Singh, 2005
- 2 Match the Bench strength with the case: which pair is wrong?
  - a Kesavananda Bharati, 1973: thirteen judges
  - b Golaknath, 1967: eleven judges
  - c Bangalore Water Supply, 1978: seven judges
  - d Jai Bir Singh, 2026: five judges

### 3 Consider these statements about the nine-judge decision of 20 August 2026.

- I. Four of the nine judges proposed a refined triple test, calling it their considered opinion.
  - II. All nine agreed that disputes pending under the Industrial Disputes Act follow the 1978 test.
  - III. The Bench held that the Industrial Relations Code's definition of industry must follow the 1978 test.
- a I and II only
  - b I and III only
  - c II and III only
  - d I, II and III

#### THE TRIPLE TEST, 1978 AND THE FOUR-JUDGE REFINEMENT

| Limb   | 1978, Bangalore Water Supply<br>the test a workplace must pass         | 2026, the four-judge draft                                                                |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I      | A systematic and organised activity                                    | unchanged                                                                                 |
| II     | Cooperation between employer and employee in that activity             | unchanged                                                                                 |
| III    | Production or distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants | goods or services with a discernible commercial character, analogous to trade or business |
| Status | Governs every pending Industrial Disputes Act case, by all nine judges | Their considered opinion; not applied to any pending case; not the rule for the Code      |
|        | the three tests a workplace must pass                                  | backed by four of nine judges; not applied to a single pending case                       |

Two of the three limbs did not move. The third did: the four-judge draft adds a commercial character to it, but the judges call it their own opinion, not a ruling, so the 1978 wording still decides every case already in the system.

### Three words the story needs

Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, defines 'industry', the word that decides which workplaces its protections reach.

**Prospective overruling** means a court changes the rule only for the future, and leaves every case already filed to be decided under the old rule. India first used it in 1967, in Golaknath.

#### What three things make a workplace an 'industry'?

A systematic activity, employer-worker cooperation in it, and goods or services for human wants.

#### What does prospective overruling protect?

Every case already filed; only future cases feel the new rule.

### Why did nine judges sit for this, and why is there no clear majority?

A dispute from Uttar Pradesh's Social Forestry Department reached the Supreme Court and asked a narrow question: is a government welfare department an 'industry'?

Nine judges wrote five separate opinions. Four, led by the Chief Justice, thought the third limb of the test needed tightening; five did not agree it should change at all, though for different reasons.

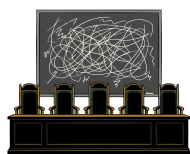
#### Which department's case reached the Court?

Uttar Pradesh's Social Forestry Department, over whether it counts as an industry.

#### What did all nine judges agree on, despite disagreeing over the test?

That every pending case under the old Act is decided by the 1978 triple test.

## From 1978 to 2026: how a seven-judge rule reached nine judges



1 six judges

### The Safdarjung confusion

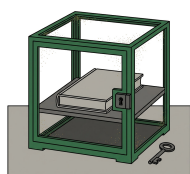
Conflicting readings of 'industry' pushed the Court toward a larger Bench, the confusion that led to Bangalore Water Supply.



2 21 February 1978, seven judges

### Bangalore Water Supply lays down the triple test

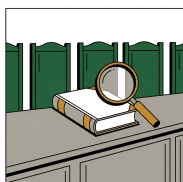
Krishna Iyer J wrote the lead opinion; the effective majority was 5:2; profit motive was ruled irrelevant.



3 1982, never notified

### Parliament's own amendment never takes effect

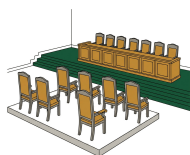
An amendment to Section 2(j) was passed but never notified, so the 1978 test kept governing on its own.



4 5 May 2005

### A five-judge Bench doubts the test

Justice N. Santosh Hegde's Bench, quoting the 1978 majority's own words that the definition clause was 'so wide and vague', referred it to a larger Bench.



5 2 January 2017

### Seven judges send it up again

Chief Justice T. S. Thakur's Bench directed that nine judges, not seven, should decide the question.



6 21 November 2025

### The new labour codes take effect

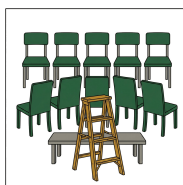
The Industrial Relations Code replaces the Industrial Disputes Act and writes its own definition of industry, in Section 2(p).



7 17 to 19 March 2026

### Nine judges hear the case

The Bench was notified on 14 March 2026 and heard three days of arguments on four framed questions.



8 20 August 2026

### The judgment: no single test wins outright

Four judges proposed a refinement; all nine kept the 1978 test for every pending case; the Code was left to speak for itself.

**From memory:** Safdarjung's confusion led to the \_\_\_\_\_ test in 1978, laid down by \_\_\_\_\_ judges → doubted by a \_\_\_\_\_-judge Bench in 2005 → sent to nine by a \_\_\_\_\_-judge Bench in 2017 → heard by nine judges in \_\_\_\_\_ 2026 → judgment on 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 2026: \_\_\_\_\_ of nine proposed a new test, but \_\_\_\_\_ kept the 1978 test for every pending case.

triple · seven · five · seven ·  
March · August · four · all nine

## The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE          | WHAT IT IS                                                                                                | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nine</b>         | The number of judges on the Bench that decided this case on 20 August 2026.                               | Seven, the size of the 1978 Bench that first laid down the triple test.                    |
| <b>Four of nine</b> | The judges, led by the Chief Justice, who proposed the refined test, calling it their considered opinion. | A majority of 5:4, the figure much of the press printed but the judgment does not support. |

| THE FIGURE  | WHAT IT IS                                                                                                                  | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                      |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1978</b> | The year of Bangalore Water Supply, the case whose triple test still governs every pending Industrial Disputes Act dispute. | 2026, the year of this judgment, which did not replace the 1978 test for pending cases. |

## How this can be asked

| LENS                              | THE LIKELY QUESTION                                                                                                                                            | THE CATCH                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Polity</b>                     | A question could ask which Article sets the minimum Bench size for a constitutional question, expecting you to know it is five, not nine.                      | Naming Article 145(1), the general rule-making Article, instead of Article 145(3), the specific minimum-Bench clause.                       |
| <b>Labour law</b>                 | A question could ask which Section of the Industrial Disputes Act defines 'industry', separate from the Code that has now replaced it.                         | Naming Section 2(p), which is the new Code's definition, when the question asks about the old Act's Section 2(j).                           |
| <b>Economy</b>                    | A question could ask which four labour codes came into force on 21 November 2025, testing whether you know the Industrial Relations Code is only one of four.  | Naming only the Industrial Relations Code, and leaving out the Code on Wages, the Code on Social Security and the Occupational Safety Code. |
| <b>History of Bench strengths</b> | A question could match cases to Bench sizes: seven for the triple test, nine for this case and for Puttaswamy, eleven for Golaknath, thirteen for Kesavananda. | Placing this 2026 case at five judges, which was the size of the 2005 Bench that only referred the question, not the Bench that decided it. |

## Where this fits: how many judges a question needs

Article 145(3) sets the floor: a Bench needs at least five judges to rule on a substantial question of constitutional interpretation. Nine is well above that floor, the same size as Puttaswamy in 2017, which read privacy into the Constitution.

### What is the smallest Bench allowed for a constitutional question?

Five judges, under Article 145(3).

### Which Bench was the largest ever?

Thirteen judges, in Kesavananda Bharati, 1973.

## The answers, and why

**1 · b, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v A. Rajappa, 1978.** If you picked Safdarjung Hospital, you named the six-judge case whose confusion led to the reference; the triple test itself came one step later, from Bangalore Water Supply.

**2 · d, Jai Bir Singh, 2026: five judges.** The wrong pair is the last one: Jai Bir Singh was decided by nine judges, not five; five was the size of the 2005 Bench that only referred the question.

**3 · a, I and II only.** Statement III is one step short: the Bench refrained from ruling on the Industrial Relations Code's definition; it did not say the Code must follow 1978.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 SCREENING TEST, NOTIFICATION 18/2016, HELD 26 FEBRUARY 2017, Q33

In which case did the Supreme Court deliver the landmark judgement dealing with imposition of President's Rule in the States?

- a Golaknath
- b Maneka Gandhi
- c Minerva Mills
- d S.R. Bommai

The key is d. Golaknath, the doctrine's own case, is the standing distractor APPSC likes to plant here.

**Nine judges decided this case; four proposed a new triple test for 'industry', and all nine kept the 1978 test for every case already filed.**

Sources: Supreme Court judgment, State of Uttar Pradesh v Jai Bir Singh, 2026 INSC 897, 20 August 2026; 2026 LiveLaw (SC) 848; Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v A. Rajappa, AIR 1978 SC 548; Article 145(3) of the Constitution; the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; APPSC Group 2 Screening Test, 26 February 2017.

SCHEMES · ANDHRA PRADESH · 7 AUGUST 2026

## Nethanna Sevalo pays Rs 25,000 to weaver families

Which scheme paid Rs 25,000 to Andhra Pradesh's weaver families in August 2026, and what its predecessor paid.

You might expect one name and one number to hold steady from announcement to launch.

### Before you read: can you answer these?

- 1 YSR Nethanna Nestham, the scheme Nethanna Sevalo replaces, paid each loom-owning weaver family:
  - a Rs 4,000 a month
  - b Rs 24,000 a year
  - c Rs 25,000 a year
  - d Rs 15,000 a year
- 2 Statement-I: Andhra Pradesh launched Nethanna Sevalo on 7 August 2026, National Handloom Day. Statement-II: 7 August marks the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905.
  - a Statement-I is correct, Statement-II is incorrect
  - b Statement-I is incorrect, Statement-II is correct
  - c Both statements are correct and Statement-II explains why the day is 7 August
  - d Both statements are correct but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I

**3** Consider these statements about Nethanna Sevalo, launched on 7 August 2026.

- I. Rs 25,000 was credited to each of 71,536 handloom weaver families, Rs 179 crore in all.
- II. It was launched at Kothapeta in Chirala constituency, Bapatla district.
- III. It was one of the coalition's Super Six election promises.

- a I and II only
- b I and III only
- c II and III only
- d I, II and III

#### WHAT A WEAVER FAMILY IN ANDHRA PRADESH RECEIVES

| Measure                         | Amount                                | Who                                          | Since                         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| YSR Nethanna Nestham            | Rs 24,000 a year                      | loom-owning weaver families                  | G.O.Ms.No.89, 23 October 2019 |
| <b>Nethanna Sevalo</b>          | <b>Rs 25,000 a year</b>               | <b>BPL loom-owning families; 71,536 paid</b> | <b>7 August 2026</b>          |
| NTR Bharosa pension for weavers | Rs 4,000 a month                      | weavers from age 50; about 85,000            | current                       |
| Free power                      | 200 units a month; 500 for powerlooms | handloom families and powerloom units        | 1 April 2026                  |
| Cash credit to societies        | Rs 79 crore                           | 109 primary handloom cooperative societies   | 2026                          |
| Thalliki Vandanam               | Rs 15,000 per child                   | school-going children                        | 2026-27                       |
| Annadata Sukhibhava             | Rs 7,000 first instalment             | farmers                                      | 20 June 2026                  |

Nethanna Sevalo is the newest of these measures; the Rs 1,000 rise over its predecessor is the figure most likely to be tested.

Nethanna Sevalo pays Rs 1,000 a year more than the scheme it replaced, and reaches more families than the free-power scheme, though fewer than the weaver pension; the amount, not the family count, is what a question is likely to test.

### Two words the story needs

**Below poverty line** is the income category the government order sets as the entry test. A household must be in that category to qualify, however many looms it owns.

**Direct benefit transfer** means money paid straight into a beneficiary's bank account, with no office or middleman in between. Rs 25,000 landed in 71,536 accounts on 7 August 2026, National Handloom Day.

#### What does BPL decide here?

It decides which weaver households can receive the scheme; it is the government order's eligibility line.

#### How did the money reach a weaver?

By direct benefit transfer, straight into the household head's bank account.

### Why did the scheme need a new government order, and why a new name?

The government order's own objective is economic, not symbolic: money for dyes and chemicals, yarn, and loom repair, so a weaver's household can compete with the powerloom sector.

#### What was the scheme's money meant to buy?

Dyes, yarn and loom repair, so weavers can compete with powerlooms, per the government order's own objective clause.

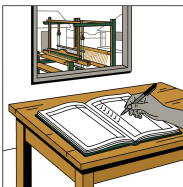
The Cabinet approved the scheme on 23 July 2026 under the name Nethanna Bharosa. Within days the minister was calling it Nethanna Sevalo, and the government order itself, issued on 29 July 2026, spelled it Nethannala Sevalo.

**Why do three different beneficiary numbers appear in the record?**  
54,000 was a July estimate, 51,952 was the government order's planning base, and 71,536 is the number actually paid on launch day.

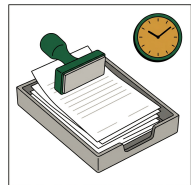
What happened, step by step



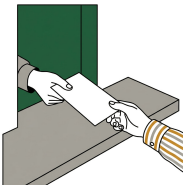
**1 29 July 2026**  
**The government order fixes the rule**  
G.O.Ms.No.187 sets the rule: Rs 25,000 a year to the below-poverty-line household head who owns a handloom.



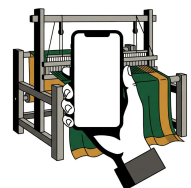
**2 by 31 July 2026**  
**The weaver database is re-verified**  
Village and ward secretariats check the department's weaver list for deletions, updates and any leftover names before payment.



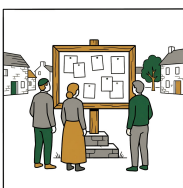
**3 5 August 2026**  
**Applications close**  
District lists with each weaver's bank account and Aadhaar number are prepared and sent for the Collector's approval.



**4 before the launch**  
**Sanction is issued**  
The welfare corporations issue sanction proceedings for each district's approved list before any money moves.



**5 7 August 2026, Chirala**  
**The money is credited by direct benefit transfer**  
Rs 179 crore reached 71,536 families in one transfer, at Kothapeta in Chirala, on National Handloom Day.



**6 after the launch**  
**Lists go up for social audit**  
Lists are displayed in the secretariats so the village can object, and the department promised aid to later applicants within a week.

From memory: the government order fixes \_\_\_\_\_ a year for a \_\_\_\_\_ household that owns a loom → the database is \_\_\_\_\_ by 31 July → applications close on \_\_\_\_\_ August → Rs \_\_\_\_\_ crore reaches \_\_\_\_\_ families by \_\_\_\_\_ transfer at Chirala.

Rs 25,000 · BPL · re-verified · 5 · 179 · 71,536 · direct benefit

The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE   | WHAT IT IS                                                                                | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rs 25,000    | The amount credited to each eligible weaver household under Nethanna Sevalo, once a year. | Rs 24,000, the amount its predecessor YSR Nethanna Nestham paid.               |
| 71,536       | The number of handloom weaver families paid on the 7 August 2026 launch day.              | 54,000, an estimate reported before the government order was issued.           |
| Rs 179 crore | The total sum credited by direct benefit transfer on the launch day.                      | Rs 250 crore, a pre-launch budget figure the government order never confirmed. |

## The static ground: AP's handloom identity and its welfare calendar

Four of Andhra Pradesh's handloom clusters carry a Geographical Indication tag: Uppada Jamdani sarees from Kakinada, registered 5 March 2009; Venkatagiri sarees from Tirupati district, 11 May 2011; Mangalagiri sarees and fabrics from Guntur, 15 January 2013; and Dharmavaram handloom pattu from Sri Sathya Sai district, 31 March 2014.

Nethanna Sevalo sits inside a wider weaver-welfare stack: a Rs 4,000 monthly pension called NTR Bharosa from age 50 for about 85,000 weavers, free power of 200 units a month for handloom families and 500 for powerloom units from 1 April 2026, and Rs 79 crore in cash credit to 109 primary handloom cooperative societies.

### Which AP handloom GI came first?

Uppada Jamdani sarees, registered on 5 March 2009.

### What monthly pension do older weavers get?

NTR Bharosa pays Rs 4,000 a month to weavers from age 50.

## The answers, and why

**1 • b, Rs 24,000 a year.** If you said Rs 25,000, you named Nethanna Sevalo's own amount, not what it replaced; the predecessor, YSR Nethanna Nestham, paid Rs 24,000 a year under G.O.Ms.No.89 of 23 October 2019.

**2 • c, both statements are correct and Statement-II explains why the day is 7 August.** If you said the statements were merely both true with no link, you were one step short: the Swadeshi Movement's 1905 date is the reason National Handloom Day falls on 7 August, not a coincidence.

**3 • a, I and II only.** Statement III is the false one: Nethanna Sevalo was not part of the coalition's Super Six poll promises; it was announced only at National Handloom Day 2025.

### ASKED BEFORE · UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2023, GS-I, Q83

Statement-I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day.  
Statement-II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

The key is a. National Handloom Day falls on 7 August because the Swadeshi Movement was launched that day in 1905, and Andhra Pradesh timed Nethanna Sevalo's own launch to the same date in 2026.

**Nethanna Sevalo pays Rs 25,000 a year to the head of a below-poverty-line handloom weaver household, one benefit per family regardless of loom count. It replaced YSR Nethanna Nestham, which paid Rs 24,000 a year under a 2019 government order.**

Sources: G.O.Ms.No.187, Industries and Commerce (Prog.II) Department, 29 July 2026; G.O.Ms.No.89, Industries Infrastructure, Investment & Commerce (Prog.II) Department, 23 October 2019; PIB backgrounder on National Handloom Day, 6 August 2026; Deccan Chronicle and Eenadu, 7 August 2026; handlooms.nic.in GI registry.

CULTURE · NATIONAL · 4 AUGUST 2026

# Geographical indications: over 800, register counts 684

How many geographical indications India actually has, and which twenty plus two are Andhra Pradesh's.

You might expect a single official count of India's geographical indications. The government's own backgrounder says over 800; the Registry's own list, on the same year's basis, counts 684, and neither has said why the two differ.

## Before you read: can you answer these?

- 1 India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 to comply with its obligations under:
  - a The WTO's TRIPS Agreement
  - b The International Labour Organisation
  - c The International Monetary Fund
  - d UNCTAD
- 2 The Geographical Indications Registry of India, with all-India jurisdiction, is at:
  - a Chennai
  - b New Delhi
  - c Mumbai
  - d Kolkata
- 3 Consider these statements about geographical indications in India.
  - I. PIB's factsheet of 4 August 2026 says India has over 800 registered GI products.
  - II. The Registry's list as on 31 December 2025 has 684 registered entries.
  - III. A GI registration is valid for ten years and renewable.
  - a I and II only
  - b I and III only
  - c II and III only
  - d I, II and III

## Two words the story needs

A **geographical indication** is a sign on goods whose quality or reputation comes from where they are made. It belongs to the producers of that place together; a trade mark, by contrast, belongs to one firm.

An **authorised user** is a producer registered to use a GI that has already been granted.

### How is a GI different from a trade mark?

A GI belongs collectively to a place's producers; a trade mark belongs to one firm.

### What is an authorised user?

A producer registered to use a GI already on the register; India had 29,000 of them by January 2025.

## Why do India's GI counts not agree?

India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 to meet its obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention.

PIB's backgrounder of 4 August 2026 says India has over 800 registered GI products, with 607 granted since 2014.

### Why was the GI Act passed?

To meet India's obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention.

### Which count is the Registry's own?

684 entries, as on 31 December 2025; PIB's 'over 800' is a separate figure whose basis is not stated.

## How a product becomes a GI



### 1 TRIPS, Paris Convention

#### The treaty

India enacted the GI Act to meet its obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention; a GI is a place's producers' collective right, not one firm's mark.



### 2 1999; operational 15 September 2003

#### The Act

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and its 2002 Rules; registrations began in 2004-05.



### 3 Chennai

#### The Registry

The GI Registry has all-India jurisdiction; its Registrar is the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, under DPIIT.



### 4 producers' body

#### The applicant

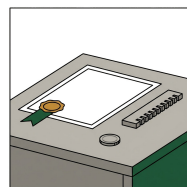
Any association of producers or statutory authority that is a legal entity representing them may apply; a single firm cannot own a GI for itself.



### 5 Part A, Part B

#### Journal and objections

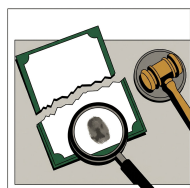
The application is published in the GI Journal, objections are heard, and the GI then enters Part A of the register.



### 6 ten years

#### Registration

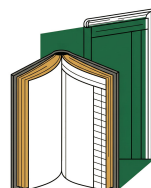
A GI registration is valid for ten years and renewable; a 2025 amendment cut the renewal fee from Rs 3,000 to Rs 500 and filing fees by 80 per cent.



### 7 Section 27

#### Cancellation

A GI can be cancelled for fraud, for a name no longer protected in its country of origin, or for deception.



### 8 684 in the register, 31 December 2025

#### The count

PIB's 'over 800' has an unstated basis; the Registry's own list counts 684 as on 31 December 2025, and the 10,000 target is for 2030.

**From memory:** India enacted the GI Act to meet \_\_\_\_\_ obligations → the Registry sits at \_\_\_\_\_ → any \_\_\_\_\_ may apply → registration lasts \_\_\_\_\_ years → cancellation is under Section \_\_\_\_\_ → the register counts \_\_\_\_\_ as on 31 December 2025.

TRIPS · Chennai · producers' body · ten · 27 · 684

The numbers, and what each one means

| THE FIGURE | WHAT IT IS                                                                                                           | THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS                                                           |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 684        | The number of GI entries on the Registry's own list, as on 31 December 2025.                                         | Over 800, PIB's separate count from a 4 August 2026 backgrounder, whose basis is not stated. |
| over 800   | The figure PIB's backgrounder of 4 August 2026 gives for India's registered GI products.                             | 822, a private tracker's count of the same register on 2 May 2026.                           |
| 1999       | The year of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, under which the Registry works. | The Trade Marks Act, 1999, the same year, and a close wrong option.                          |

Andhra Pradesh in the register

|                                                                                                               |                                                                                      |                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                               |                                                                                      |                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Srikalahasthi Kalamkari</b><br>Handicraft; filed 16 March 2005; Andhra Pradesh's earliest, application 28. | <b>Tirupathi Laddu</b><br>Food; filed 31 March 2008; PIB's own example of a food GI. | <b>Guntur Sannam Chilli</b><br>Agricultural; filed 29 October 2008.                        | <b>Uppada Jamdani sarees</b><br>Handicraft; registered 2009; Kakinada.              | <b>Venkatagiri sarees</b><br>Handicraft; registered 2011; Tirupati district. | <b>Banaganapalle Mangoes</b><br>Agricultural; filed 2011; shared with Telangana.                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                               |                                                                                      |                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Bandar Laddu</b><br>Food; filed 29 July 2013; Machilipatnam.                                               | <b>Mangalagiri sarees and fabrics</b><br>Handicraft; registered 2013; Guntur.        | <b>Dharmavaram handloom pattu</b><br>Handicraft; registered 2014; Sri Sathya Sai district. | <b>Araku Valley Arabica Coffee</b><br>Agricultural; filed 2018; shared with Odisha. | <b>Atreyapuram Pootharekulu</b><br>Food; filed 13 December 2021; Konaseema.  | <b>Ponduru Khadi</b><br>Handicraft; sealed 5 November 2025, PIB announcement 16 January 2026; the latest, application 1049, registered to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. |

Drawings: BLOOM, made for this issue.

The static ground: Andhra Pradesh's twenty GI products, and two more it shares

Twenty geographical indications carry Andhra Pradesh's name alone in the register, from Srikalahasthi Kalamkari, filed on 16 March 2005, to Ponduru Khadi, reported as sealed at Chennai on 5 November 2025 and registered to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

**Which is Andhra Pradesh's earliest GI?**

Srikalahasthi Kalamkari, filed on 16 March 2005.

**Which AP product is registered to an institution, not to its weavers?**

Ponduru Khadi, registered to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, reported as sealed at Chennai on 5 November 2025.

An application for Anantapur groundnut was pending in July 2026, filed with the Chennai registry.

## Do not confuse these

| THIS                                           | AND WHY NOT THAT                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PIB says India has over 800 registered GIs.    | The Registry's own list, on the same year's basis, counts 684 entries as on 31 December 2025; PIB's basis for 800 is not stated.          |
| The GI Act is dated 1999.                      | So is the Trade Marks Act; the two are different laws, and the GI Act protects a place's collective right, not one firm's mark.           |
| Andhra Pradesh has twenty GIs in its own name. | Two more, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Banaganapalle Mangoes, are shared with Odisha and Telangana and are not Andhra Pradesh's alone. |

## The answers, and why

**1 • a, the WTO's TRIPS Agreement.** If you thought only of the Paris Convention, you were one step short: India's GI Act meets both, but TRIPS is the binding trade obligation the Act was written for.

**2 • a, Chennai.** If you guessed New Delhi, you were thinking of DPIIT, the Ministry that oversees the Registry; the Registry itself, with all-India jurisdiction, sits at Chennai.

**3 • d, I, II and III.** All three are true: PIB's 800, the Registry's 684, and the ten-year validity are not competing facts, they are figures with different dates and an unstated basis.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 18/2016, HELD 2017, PAPER I, Q70

Which of these products does not have Geographical Indicator (GI) status?

- a Tapeswaram Kaza
- b Bobbili Veena
- c Banganapalle mangoes
- d Mangalagiri Sarees

The key is a. Bobbili Veena, Banganapalle mangoes and Mangalagiri Sarees all carry a GI tag; Tapeswaram Kaza does not.

**PIB's backgrounder of 4 August 2026 says India has over 800 registered geographical indications, but the Registry's own list, as on 31 December 2025, counts 684, and the two figures share no stated basis.**

Sources: PIB backgrounder, 4 August 2026 (PRID 2294126); GI Registry list as on 31 December 2025 (ipindia.gov.in); the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; PIB release on Ponduru Khadi, 16 January 2026 (PRID 2215465); APPSC Group 2 Mains 2017 paper.

## PART TWO · AUGUST 2026

## The month in briefs

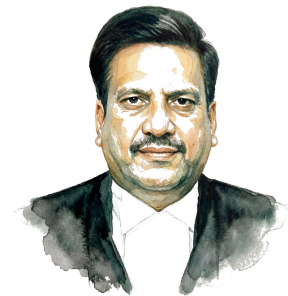
One exact thing each: two questions, five pointers, the numbers, one drawing, the answers.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

## ANDHRA PRADESH · POLITY · 19 TO 25 AUGUST 2026

## AP's new Lokayukta, appointed by warrant, sworn in on oath before the Governor

- 1 The Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh is appointed by:
  - a The Chief Minister, who heads the selection committee
  - b The Governor, by warrant, on the recommendation of a selection committee headed by the Chief Minister
  - c The Chief Justice of the High Court
  - d The President of India
- 2 Consider these statements about the AP Lokayukta appointed in August 2026:
  - I. He was sworn in by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer at Lok Bhavan, Vijayawada, on 25 August 2026.
  - II. The post had been vacant since Justice P. Lakshmana Reddy's term ended in September 2024.
  - III. The principal seat of the AP Lokayukta is Amaravati. Which of these are correct?
  - a I and III only
  - b II and III only
  - c I, II and III
  - d I and II only



Justice Mallikarjuna Rao, sworn in as Lokayukta on 25 August.

**Five years** The term the 2024 amendment allows; the Lokpal serves five years or until 70, whichever is earlier.

**1983** The year of the AP Lokayukta Act, Act 11 of 1983, not the central Lokpal Act of 2013.

The **Governor** appoints Andhra Pradesh's Lokayukta, not the Chief Minister.

A five-member committee headed by the Chief Minister only **recommends** a name.

Justice Mallikarjuna Rao took oath on **25 August** 2026, at Lok Bhavan.

The post sat empty for almost two years after **Lakshmana Reddy** retired.

This Lokayukta's seat is **Kurnool**, functioning there since 28 August 2021.

**1 • b.** The Governor appoints by warrant; the Chief Minister only chairs the recommending committee, which is one step short of appointing.

**2 • d.** Statement III is one step short: the AP Lokayukta's seat is Kurnool, not Amaravati.

## HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · POLITY

Who appoints a State's Lokayukta, and who only recommends

**The catch.** The Chief Minister chairs the committee, but only the Governor's warrant appoints

Sources: Eenadu, 20 August 2026; AP High Court judge profile; AP Lokayukta Annual Report 2024; IANS via Telangana Today.

## ANDHRA PRADESH · GOVERNANCE · 6 AUGUST 2026

**AP Cabinet clears towers, withdraws Disha Bill**

- 1 The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on 6 August 2026 sanctioned Rs 1,002.49 crore for:
  - a The Quantum Valley Twin Towers in Amaravati
  - b The Bhogapuram airport approach road
  - c The Polavaram left main canal
  - d A new Secretariat block
- 2 The AP Cabinet withdrew the Disha Bill on 6 August 2026 because:
  - a It had lapsed with the previous Assembly
  - b The Union Home Ministry asked for a fresh Bill with its suggestions
  - c The High Court struck it down
  - d The Assembly rejected it



Three doors in one corridor: an order, a Bill, and a sealed assent that never came.

**Rs 1,002.49 crore** The Quantum Valley twin towers' sanction under G.O.Rt.No.1009; not the earlier May figure of Rs 1,208.41 crore.

**6 August 2026** The date of the Cabinet sitting; the Omnibus Bill it framed was passed by the Assembly on 19 August.

The Cabinet met at **Velagapudi** for more than three and a half hours.

Four of five headline decisions had a **Government Order** within five days.

The Disha Bill was **withdrawn**, not scrapped, for a revised version.

A State criminal-law Bill needs the President's **assent** to prevail.

The aqua power tariff of Rs 1.50 dates from **July 2019**, not 2026.

**1 · a.** Correct: G.O.Rt.No.1009 of 7 August 2026 sanctioned the twin towers, and AGICL was authorised to finalise the L1 bidder.

## HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · POLITY

Whether a Cabinet decision itself changes the law

**The catch.** A Cabinet decision is executive; it binds only once a Government Order or an Act follows

**2 · b.** Correct: the Union Home Ministry sought clarifications and advised a revised Bill; the High Court and the Assembly played no part.

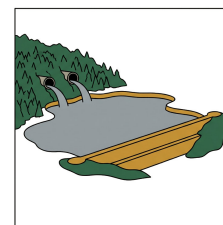
Sources: Deccan Chronicle; The South First; goir.ap.gov.in.

## ANDHRA PRADESH · IRRIGATION · 31 AUGUST 2026

**Veligonda Phase 1 reaches Nallamala Sagar**

- 1 The Nallamala Sagar reservoir, which first received water on 31 August 2026, belongs to:
 

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project | b Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi |
| c Galeru-Nagari Sujala Sravanthi   | d Polavaram Project             |



Two tunnels bring Krishna water under the Nallamala hills into Nallamala Sagar.

**10.70 TMC** The Krishna water released at inauguration, not the reservoir's 43.5 TMC live storage.

- 2 Phase 1 of the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project, inaugurated 31 August 2026, released how much Krishna water into Nallamala Sagar?
- 43.5 TMC, the reservoir's live storage
  - 53.85 TMC, the reservoir's gross storage
  - 10.70 TMC
  - 3.283 lakh acres, the Phase 2 ayacut

Chief Minister Naidu inaugurated Phase 1 at **Gantavanipalle**, Dornala mandal. Twin tunnels of **18.8 km** draw floodwater from the Srisailem foreshore. Nallamala Sagar holds **53.85 TMC** gross, though usable storage runs lower. Phase 1's command area already serves about **4 lakh** people. The full ayacut still lies ahead, spread across **30 mandals**, over decades.

1 • a. Correct: twin tunnels from the Srisailem foreshore feed Nallamala Sagar under the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project.

2 • c. Correct: the release figure is smaller than the reservoir's storage capacity, which options a and b describe instead.

**1.19 lakh acres** What Phase 1 alone serves; the full ayacut runs to 4,47,300 acres.

HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ANDHRA PRADESH

Which project a reservoir belongs to, by its source river and tunnel

**The catch.** Nallamala Sagar is fed by Krishna floodwater through Veligonda, not by the Godavari-based Polavaram

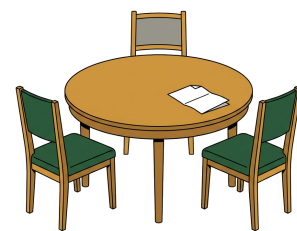
Sources: Eenadu, 26 August 2026; inauguration reports, 31 August 2026.

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

NATIONAL · JUDICIARY · 27 AUGUST 2026

### Centre creates the Mediation Council of India

- 1 The Mediation Council of India, notified on 27 August 2026, is constituted under:
- The Mediation Act, 2023
  - The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
  - The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
  - The Commercial Courts Act, 2015
- 2 Under Section 32 of the Mediation Act, 2023, Members of the Mediation Council of India, other than ex officio Members, hold office for:
- Five years, up to age 70 for all Members
  - Four years, up to age 70 for the Chairperson and 67 for other Members
  - Three years, renewable once only
  - Six years, non-renewable



Two parties, a mediator's chair, and a council to set the rules.

**4 years** The term for Council Members other than ex officio ones; the age cap is 70 for the Chairperson, 67 for others.

**120 + 60 days** The Act's time limit for mediation, longer than the Commercial Courts Act's 3 plus 2 months for pre-institution mediation.

The notification only **establishes** the Council; no members are yet named. Its head office sits at **Delhi**, fixed by the Act itself.

The Council has seven positions, including a Member-Secretary who is **ex officio**.

Mediation under this Act runs to a **strict deadline**, extendable once if both parties agree.

India signed the Singapore Convention in 2019 but has **never** ratified it.

**1 • a.** Correct: the Mediation Council of India is constituted under Section 31 of the Mediation Act, 2023; the 1996 Act instead created the separate Arbitration Council of India.

**2 • b.** Correct: the five-year, age-70-for-all option tempts because that pattern fits many other statutory bodies, but Section 32 sets a shorter term and a lower cap for ordinary Members.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · POLITY

Confusing this Council with the Arbitration Council of India

**The catch.** The 1996 Act's 2019 amendment created a separate body, the Arbitration Council of India, which is not this one

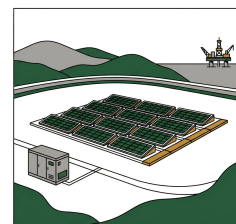
Sources: Gazette notification S.O. 4781(E), 27 August 2026, via LiveLaw; Mediation Act, 2023.

## ECONOMY AND SCHEMES

### NATIONAL · SCHEMES · 31 JULY 2026

## Union Cabinet clears four big schemes

- 1** PM-KISAN, continued to 2030-31 at Rs 3.15 lakh crore, pays an eligible landholding farmer family:
  - a Rs 12,000 a year in three instalments
  - b Rs 6,000 a year in three instalments
  - c Rs 6,000 a year in two instalments
  - d Rs 20,000 a year
- 2** Samudra Manthan, approved by the Cabinet on 31 July 2026, is:
  - a The National Offshore Exploration Scheme, for oil and gas
  - b A crewed deep-ocean submersible mission
  - c A coastal cleanliness campaign
  - d A naval exercise with the Quad



A floating solar raft on a calm reservoir, and a small drilling rig on the horizon.

**Rs 84,084 crore** Samudra Manthan's outlay to 2030-31, a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Union.

**5,000 MW** Surya Sarovar's floating-solar target on reservoirs, distinct from Surya Ghar's rooftop solar for households.

The Cabinet cleared Rs **4,50,988 crore** in all that sitting; these four schemes total Rs 4,41,209 crore.

Surya Sarovar floats **solar panels** on reservoirs, with two hours of storage.

Samudra Manthan explores the deep sea for **oil and gas**.

PM-KISAN continues at **Rs 6,000** a year for eligible farmer families.

**Khelo India's** revamped outlay funds Feeder Schools and Utkrishta Vidyalayas.

| SCHEME                                                     | OUTLAY                                             | WHAT IT DOES                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Khelo India with Assistance to National Sports Federations | Rs 36,441 crore (Rs 29,054 crore + Rs 7,387 crore) | Nearly eight times the earlier outlay; Feeder Schools, Utkrishta Vidyalayas, a path to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, aimed at the 2030 Commonwealth Games. |

|                                                       |                                        |                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana                   | Rs 5,070 crore                         | 5,000 MW of floating solar on reservoirs with two hours of storage; Rs 1 crore per MW after commissioning.       |
| Samudra Manthan, National Offshore Exploration Scheme | Rs 84,084 crore                        | Seismic data, 60 deepwater wells and offshore hubs for oil and gas, from the Red Fort speech of 2025.            |
| PM-KISAN, continued                                   | Rs 3.15 lakh crore (Rs 3,15,614 crore) | Rs 6,000 a year in three instalments since February 2019; 23 instalments paid so far, Rs 4.47 lakh crore in all. |

**1 • b.** Correct: PM-KISAN pays Rs 6,000 a year in three instalments since February 2019; Rs 20,000 is not the Union scheme's figure.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ECONOMY

Which ministry each scheme belongs to, and the look-alike names

**The catch.** Surya Sarovar floats on reservoirs; Surya Ghar sits on roofs; Samudra Manthan drills, Samudrayaan dives

**2 • a.** Correct: Samudra Manthan is the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, for oil and gas; the crewed submersible belongs to a different mission, not this scheme.

Sources: PIB, 31 July and 1 August 2026 (PRIDs 2292433, 2292437, 2292439, 2292445, 2292841).

#### NATIONAL · ECONOMY · 1 AUGUST 2026

### July GST collections rise 15 per cent

- Gross GST collections for July 2026, released on 1 August 2026, stood at:
  - Rs 1.83 lakh crore, the July 2025 base
  - Rs 2.11 lakh crore, up 15.4 per cent
  - Rs 2.43 lakh crore, April's higher month
  - Rs 1.65 lakh crore, the July 2023 figure
- July 2026's gross GST collection of Rs 2.11 lakh crore was:
  - The year's highest month
  - The second month of the year above Rs 2 lakh crore, after April's higher total
  - The first month of FY27 above Rs 2 lakh crore
  - Lower than July 2025's collection



July's collection topped two lakh crore for the second time this year.

**Rs 2.11 lakh crore** July's gross GST, up 15.4 per cent; not the year's highest, which was April's Rs 2.43 lakh crore.

**-5 per cent** Andhra Pradesh's fall in gross GST for July, even as its settled SGST rose 12 per cent.

Gross GST for July crossed the **two-lakh-crore** mark for the second time this year.

Import revenue jumped **28.8 per cent**, faster than domestic collections.

April 2026 was the year's **highest** month for GST collections.

Andhra Pradesh was one of only **eight** States and Union Territories that fell.

AP's settled SGST reached **Rs 3,268 crore** even as gross collections fell.

**1 • b.** Correct: the other options are real figures, but from different months, April 2026, July 2025 and July 2023, not July 2026.

**2 • b.** Correct: April's total was higher, so July was only the second month above Rs 2 lakh crore this year, not the year's highest.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ECONOMY

Whether July's figure was the year's highest

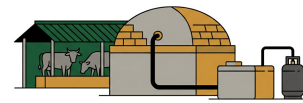
**The catch.** April 2026, at Rs 2.43 lakh crore, was higher; July was only the second Rs 2-lakh-crore month of the year

Sources: GST portal monthly revenue report, released 1 August 2026; India TV; CAclubindia.

#### NATIONAL · ECONOMY · 6 AUGUST 2026

### Cabinet approves GOBARDhan biogas scheme

- 1** GOBARDhan, approved by the Union Cabinet on 6 August 2026, is administered by:
  - a The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
  - b The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
  - c The Ministry of Jal Shakti
  - d The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- 2** The administered price GOBARDhan fixes for compressed biogas is:
  - a Rs 23,731 crore, the scheme's total outlay
  - b Rs 2 crore per tonne per day, the capital-assistance rate
  - c Rs 2,110 per MMBTU, about Rs 105 a kilogram
  - d Rs 5,070 crore, a sibling scheme's outlay



Cattle waste to compressed gas: five older schemes under one ministry.

**Rs 23,731 crore** GOBARDhan's outlay to 2035-36; the Rs 5,070 crore option is a sibling scheme's outlay, not GOBARDhan's.

**3, 4, 5 per cent** The compressed-biogas obligation for city gas distributors, rising from 2026-27 to 2028-29.

GOBARDhan runs for ten years, to **2035-36**.

It aims to raise CBG output nearly **ten-fold** across the country.

City gas distributors must buy a rising **share** of compressed biogas.

It unifies five older schemes under one **ministry** for the first time.

By 6 August 2026, only **217** plants stood commissioned nationwide.

**1 • b.** Correct: the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas now administers GOBARDhan, consolidating support that earlier sat with four ministries.

**2 • c.** Correct: Rs 2,110 per MMBTU is the administered price; the other figures are the outlay and a sibling scheme's numbers.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ECONOMY

Confusing the scheme's outlay with its administered price

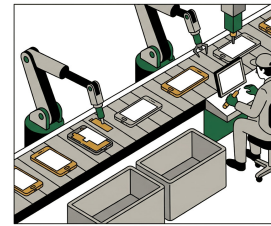
**The catch.** Rs 23,731 crore is the total outlay; Rs 2,110 per MMBTU is the separate price fixed for the gas itself

Sources: PIB PRID 2295480, 6 August 2026; PIB backgrounder, 'GOBARDhan: Fuelling Clean Energy and Rural Growth'.

NATIONAL · ECONOMY · 21 AUGUST 2026

## MeitY notifies the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- 1 The Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, with an outlay of Rs 62,500 crore, was notified by MeitY on:
  - a 15 July 2026, the date of Cabinet approval
  - b 31 March 2026, when the earlier PLI ended
  - c 21 August 2026, after Cabinet approval on 15 July 2026
  - d 1 April 2026, the start of the scheme's tenure
- 2 Under the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, the minimum FY2025-26 turnover for an Indian brand under Target Segment 2 is:
  - a Rs 10,000 crore, the Target Segment 1 floor
  - b Rs 5,000 crore, the year-on-year growth threshold
  - c Rs 1,000 crore, plus the Indian-Brand test
  - d Rs 39 lakh crore, the scheme's production target



A production line, and a scheme that pays a share of sales.

**Rs 62,500 crore** The scheme's outlay for 2026-27 to 2030-31, approved 15 July and notified 21 August 2026.

**Rs 10,000 crore** The turnover floor for Target Segment 1; Segment 2, for Indian brands, needs only Rs 1,000 crore.

Cabinet approval came first; MeitY's public notification followed weeks later.

It replaces the phone PLI, whose tenure ended **31 March 2026**.

Target Segment 1 sets a high turnover bar to qualify.

Indian brands under Segment 2 clear a much lower turnover bar, plus a brand test.

Incentives run from 2.25 up to **5 per cent** of sales.

**1·c.** Correct: MeitY's notification followed Cabinet's approval by more than a month; the other options mistake it for the approval date, the old PLI's end date, or the scheme's start date.

**2·c.** Correct: this segment's floor is far lower than Segment 1's, since it adds the Indian-Brand test in place of a higher turnover bar; the production-target figure is not a turnover threshold at all.

HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ECONOMY

Confusing the Cabinet approval date with the notification date

**The catch.** The Cabinet approved on 15 July 2026; MeitY only notified the scheme on 21 August

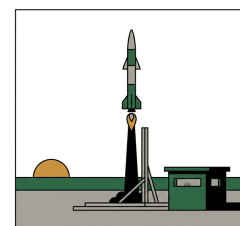
Sources: PIB PRID 2302098, 21 August 2026; PIB PRID 2284789, 15 July 2026.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

DEFENCE · NATIONAL · 6 AUGUST 2026

## Agni-4 test-fired from Chandipur under SFC

- 1 The Agni-4 missile was test-fired on 6 August 2026 from:
  - a the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur
  - b Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island
  - c Sriharikota
  - d Pokhran



A missile lifts from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur.

- 2 The Ministry of Defence classified the Agni-4 launched on 6 August 2026 as a:
- Medium Range Ballistic Missile
  - Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
  - Short Range Ballistic Missile
  - Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

**about 4,000 km** Agni-4's stated range from the 2014 PIB release; a tempting wrong figure is 3,500 km, sometimes used for the Agni family band.

**6 September 2024** The date of the previous Agni-4 test, also from Chandipur; none was fired in 2025.

Agni-4 was launched from **Chandipur**, not Abdul Kalam Island.

The launch ran under the **Strategic Forces Command**.

The Ministry called it a **medium-range** ballistic missile.

Agni-4 is a two-stage, solid-propellant missile fired from a road-mobile launcher.

This was not Agni-4's first test; it had been fired before.

**1 • a.** Correct: the Ministry of Defence named the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, as the launch site.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · DEFENCE

A question may ask which body conducted the launch.

**The catch.** MoD names only the Strategic Forces Command, though Rajnath Singh thanked DRDO too.

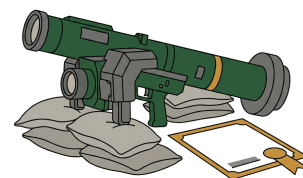
**2 • a.** Correct: the Ministry's own release calls Agni-4 a Medium Range Ballistic Missile, though some press reports use IRBM instead.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 6 August 2026 (PRID 2295678; Telugu PRID 2295979).

#### DEFENCE · NATIONAL · 28 AUGUST 2026

### Indian Army signs the Javelin missile deal

- 1 On 28 August 2026 the Indian Army signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance for Javelin missile systems under the:
- Foreign Military Sales route
  - a Direct Commercial Sale
  - an inter-governmental agreement with Israel
  - a co-production licence
- 2 The Javelin Joint Venture's Indian co-production partner announced on 31 August 2026 is:
- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a Tata Advanced Systems | b Bharat Dynamics Limited |
| c Larsen & Toubro       | d Adani Defence           |



A shoulder-fired anti-tank missile, bought government to government.

**\$45.7 million** The Javelin-only estimate in the November 2025 DSCA notification; the \$93 million figure adds Excalibur shells.

**30 to 31 August 2026** The date Tata Advanced Systems and the Javelin Joint Venture announced their co-production MoU, two to three days after the Army's purchase deal.

The Indian Army signed the Javelin deal on **28 August 2026**.

The route used was **Foreign Military Sales**, not a direct sale.

Javelin is a **fire-and-forget** anti-tank guided missile.

Tata Advanced Systems will explore **co-production** with the Javelin Joint Venture.

The DSCA notification estimate does not include a separate order for **Excalibur** artillery shells.

**1 • a.** Correct: the Letter of Offer and Acceptance was signed under the US Foreign Military Sales route.

**2 • a.** Correct: Tata Advanced Systems is the 2026 co-production partner; Bharat Dynamics explored a separate, earlier track with the Javelin Joint Venture.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · DEFENCE

A question may ask the route used for the Javelin purchase.

**The catch.** Foreign Military Sales is a government-to-government US route, unlike a Direct Commercial Sale.

Sources: IADB, 31 August 2026; Gulf News, 20 November 2025.

## PLACES · NATIONAL · 3 AUGUST 2026

### Glaw Lake becomes India's 101st Ramsar site

- 1** Glaw Lake, designated in August 2026, is:
  - a India's 100th Ramsar site, in Assam
  - b India's 101st Ramsar site and Arunachal Pradesh's first, inside Kamlang Tiger Reserve
  - c India's 101st Ramsar site, in Sikkim, inside Khangchendzonga National Park
  - d Arunachal Pradesh's second Ramsar site, inside Namdapha National Park
- 2** Before Glaw Lake, the site announced as India's 100th Ramsar site on 5 June 2026 was the:
  - a Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, Surha Tal, Uttar Pradesh
  - b Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh
  - c Deepor Beel, Assam
  - d Chilika Lake, Odisha



A lake inside a tiger reserve, India's 101st Ramsar site.

**101st** Glaw Lake's rank among India's Ramsar sites; a tempting wrong figure is 100th, the rank held by the previous site before Glaw Lake was added.

**128.98 hectares** Glaw Lake's area, at about 1,168 metres altitude; some reports wrongly print 2.5 hectares.

Glaw Lake was announced as a Ramsar site on 3 August 2026.

It is Arunachal Pradesh's **first** Ramsar site.

The lake sits inside the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve**.

More than 150 tree species and **49 orchid species** are recorded there.

The wider landscape supports **four big cats** in one place.

**1 • b.** Correct: option b matches both the rank and the location; the other options wrongly place Glaw Lake in Assam, in Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park, or as a second site inside Namdapha National Park.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ENVIRONMENT

A question may ask which lake is India's 101st Ramsar site.

**The catch.** The near-miss option is the site that held 100th rank before Glaw Lake was added.

**2 · a.** Correct: the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Surha Tal, Ballia, was announced as India's 100th Ramsar site on 5 June 2026.

Sources: Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 3 August 2026; Ramsar Sites Information Service via Deccan Herald and Wetlands International.

## SPECIES · NATIONAL · 17 AUGUST 2026

### New underground eel genus found in Bihar

- 1** Gangaichthys indonepalicus, described in ZooKeys in August 2026, is a new genus of:
  - a subterranean earthworm eel from Bihar
  - b cave-dwelling catfish from Kerala
  - c blind loach from Meghalaya
  - d deep-sea eel from the Andamans
- 2** Before this find, India's stygobitic, that is groundwater-dwelling, fish hotspot with 11 species was in the lateritic aquifers of:
 

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| a Kerala    | b Bihar |
| c Meghalaya | d Assam |



An eel that lives underground, found in a well in Bihar.

**about 4 cm** The eel's length, unpigmented with skin-covered eyes; the holotype specimen measured 40.6 mm, close to the same figure in millimetres.

**ZooKeys 1289, 11 August 2026** The journal and date of publication; the press release describing it followed on 17 August.

A new eel genus, **Gangaichthys**, was described from Bihar. It comes from the family **Chaudhuriidae**, the earthworm eels. The eel is tiny and unpigmented, built for life underground. It is the first **subterranean fish** of the Gangetic Basin. The name means **fish of the Ganga**, of India and Nepal.

**1 · a.** Correct: Gangaichthys indonepalicus is a new genus of subterranean earthworm eel described from Bihar.

**2 · a.** Correct: Kerala's lateritic aquifers, with eleven stygobitic species, were India's known hotspot before this Bihar find.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ENVIRONMENT

A question may ask which state this new species comes from.

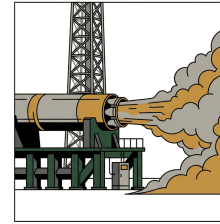
**The catch.** Kerala's lateritic aquifers, not Bihar's alluvial ones, are India's usual stygobitic-fish hotspot.

Sources: ZooKeys; Pensoft blog, 11 and 17 August 2026.

## SCIENCE · ANDHRA PRADESH · 11 AUGUST 2026

**ISRO test-fires improved SSLV booster**

- 1 On 11 August 2026, ISRO ground-tested an improved solid booster stage of which launch vehicle at SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota?
  - a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)
  - b Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
  - c Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)
  - d Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)
- 2 ISRO's August 2026 release said SSLV had completed how many successful development flights so far?
  - a Two
  - b Three
  - c One
  - d Four



A booster fired on the ground at Sriharikota before it flies.

**100 kg** The extra payload to Low Earth Orbit the upgraded booster gives.

**2** The number of SSLV development flights that succeeded; a question may wrongly offer 3, the total flights flown including the failed first one.

ISRO ground-tested an improved **SSLV** booster on 11 August 2026.

The test ran at Sriharikota's **SDSC-SHAR** static test facility in Andhra Pradesh.

Engineers monitored more than **600** parameters during the firing.

The upgrade lets SSLV carry more payload to Low Earth Orbit.

SSLV has flown before, and most of those development flights succeeded.

**1 • a.** Correct: ISRO tested an improved version of the SSLV's first-stage solid booster; PSLV and GSLV are different vehicle families entirely.

## HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · SCIENCE

A question may ask which ISRO vehicle was ground-tested at SDSC-SHAR in August 2026.

**The catch.** PSLV and GSLV sound equally plausible if you do not know this was an SSLV booster test.

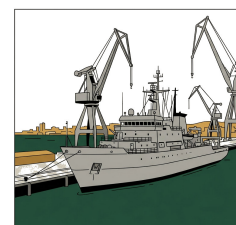
**2 • a.** Correct: the tempting wrong option counts the failed first flight along with the later successes, which inflates the total by one flight too many.

Sources: ISRO, [first\\_stage\\_of\\_Small\\_Satellite\\_Launch\\_vehicle.html](#), 12 August 2026, on the 11 August test.

## DEFENCE · ANDHRA PRADESH · 31 AUGUST 2026

**INS Nipun built at Visakhapatnam commissioned**

- 1 INS Nipun, commissioned into the Indian Navy on 31 August 2026, was indigenously built at which shipyard?
  - a Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai
  - b Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam
  - c Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata
  - d Cochin Shipyard, Kochi



Built at Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam, and commissioned in August.

**75%** The share of INS Nipun's build that is indigenous; a question may wrongly cite its 300 metre diving depth instead.

- 2** INS Nipun's delivery to the Navy and its commissioning ceremony took place at two different cities. Where was it commissioned?
- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Mumbai  | <b>b</b> Visakhapatnam |
| <b>c</b> Kolkata | <b>d</b> Kochi         |

**118 m** The length of INS Nistar, the Nistar-class lead ship; PIB gives no separate length or displacement figure for INS Nipun itself.

The Navy commissioned **INS Nipun** at Mumbai on 31 August 2026. Hindustan Shipyard Limited built it at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh. Its size lets it carry the equipment needed for deep-sea diving support. Most of the ship's systems and equipment are built at home. It can support diving operations to **300 metres** depth.

**1 • b.** Correct: Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, indigenously designed and built INS Nipun; Mumbai is where it was later commissioned, one step short of where it was built.

## HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ANDHRA PRADESH

A question may ask where INS Nipun was built.

**The catch.** Mumbai tempts because that is where it was commissioned, not where it was built.

**2 • a.** Correct: INS Nipun was commissioned at Mumbai; Visakhapatnam is one step short, that is where it was delivered to the Navy a month earlier.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence, PRID 2305003, 2292073 and 2145766; Hindustan Shipyard Limited.

## HEALTH • NATIONAL • 11-12 AUGUST 2026

## ICMR-SHINE 2026 opens labs to students

- The second edition of ICMR-SHINE, concluded on 11-12 August 2026, spanned how many states and union territories?

|      |      |
|------|------|
| a 22 | b 28 |
| c 31 | d 83 |
- During ICMR-SHINE 2026, students saw Mobile BSL-3 laboratories on wheels in which two cities?

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a Nagpur and Gorakhpur | b Delhi and Mumbai      |
| c Nagpur and Delhi     | d Gorakhpur and Chennai |



Laboratories opened to students for two days.

**31** The number of states and union territories ICMR-SHINE reached; a question may wrongly offer 83, the count of locations instead.

**83** The number of unique locations across India that hosted ICMR-SHINE events; do not confuse it with the 31 states it spanned.

ICMR-SHINE's **second** edition ran on 11 and 12 August 2026.

It opened ICMR labs to students of **Classes 9 to 12**.

The programme reached students across a wide spread of states and union territories, not just a few metro cities.

Nagpur and Gorakhpur hosted mobile **BSL-3** laboratories on wheels.

The programme's mascot is named **Dr Curio**.

**1 · c.** Correct: the question asks for states and union territories, not locations; the two counts sound close but track different things.

**2 · a.** Correct: Nagpur and Gorakhpur showcased Mobile BSL-3 laboratories; Delhi is one step short, that city instead showed Atal Tinkering Lab projects.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · SCIENCE

A question may ask how many states and union territories ICMR-SHINE 2026 covered.

**The catch.** 83 tempts because it sounds bigger, but that count is locations, not states.

Sources: PIB Delhi, Release ID 2299002, 13 August 2026.

#### ENVIRONMENT · NATIONAL · 12 AUGUST 2026

### Three new cascade frog species described

- 1** The new cascade frog species *Amolops ammachi*, described in August 2026 and named after a Kerala social worker, was discovered in which state?
 

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| a Tripura     | b Nagaland |
| c West Bengal | d Assam    |
- 2** The three new cascade frog species described in August 2026 were the work of a team led from which institution?
 

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a University of Delhi         | b Zoological Survey of India     |
| c Wildlife Institute of India | d Bombay Natural History Society |



Three new cascade frogs, one on each rock, from the north-east's streams.

**3** The number of cascade frog species new to science; a question may wrongly offer the genus *Amolops*'s roughly 100 species instead.

**15 years** How long the fieldwork behind the discovery ran; do not confuse it with the 300-plus populations documented.

As reported, scientists described new **cascade frog** species in August 2026.

**Amolops ammachi** was found in Tripura's Jampui Hills.

It is named after Kerala social worker **Padmini Varkey**.

Professor **S. D. Biju** of the University of Delhi led it.

The fieldwork covered all seven Northeast states.

**1 · a.** Correct: *Amolops ammachi* was found in Tripura's Jampui Hills; West Bengal is one step short, that is where the sibling species *Amolops bella* turned up.

**2 · a.** Correct: the study was led by Professor S. D. Biju of the University of Delhi; the Zoological Survey of India is a plausible-sounding but wrong body for this study.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · ENVIRONMENT

A question may ask which state *Amolops ammachi* came from.

**The catch.** West Bengal tempts because it is the state of the sibling species *Amolops bella*, not *ammachi*.

Sources: Eastmojo; Deccan Herald, 12 August 2026.

## THE WORLD

THE WORLD · INTERNATIONAL · 30 AUGUST 2026

## India and Uzbekistan reach Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

- 1 The trade target India and Uzbekistan set during the August 2026 State Visit:
  - a US\$5 billion by 2030
  - b US\$10 billion by 2030
  - c US\$5 billion by 2028
  - d US\$2 billion by 2027
- 2 On 30 August 2026 at Tashkent, India and Uzbekistan elevated their relationship to a:
  - a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, from the Strategic Partnership of 2011
  - b Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership
  - c Strategic Partnership, from a Comprehensive Economic Partnership
  - d Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement



Three tiers of partnership on a ladder: Uzbekistan moved up one rung, from Strategic to Comprehensive Strategic.

**5 billion dollars by 2030** The new trade target set at Tashkent; a tempting wrong figure is 10 billion dollars by 2030.

**2011** The year the original Strategic Partnership was signed, fifteen years before it became Comprehensive Strategic; this is not the year of the new upgrade.

The Prime Minister's fourth visit to **Uzbekistan** raised ties past their earlier label.

India and Uzbekistan became a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** on 30 August 2026.

The two sides also set a new, higher **trade target** to work toward.

A **Foreign-Ministers-led mechanism** will now oversee how the upgrade is delivered.

Progress was noted in the **existing uranium arrangement**, not a new one.

| TIER                                         | WHO                                                                     | NOTE                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership | Russia                                                                  | the only one; used word for word in the Modi-Putin readout of 31 August 2026                                                     |
| Comprehensive Strategic Partnership          | Uzbekistan from 30 August 2026                                          | the upgrade of this visit                                                                                                        |
| Strategic Partnership                        | Uzbekistan 2011 to 2026; the Kyrgyz Republic, reaffirmed 31 August 2026 | the tier left behind                                                                                                             |
| Preferential Trade Agreement                 | under study with Uzbekistan                                             | a trade instrument, not a tier; a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is the other trade option offered as a distractor |

**1 • a.** Correct: the smaller of the two round figures on offer was the actual target; the larger one simply doubles it.

**2 • a.** Correct: the tier moved from Strategic to Comprehensive Strategic; Special and Privileged belongs only to Russia.

**HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · POLITY**  
A question may ask which tier India assigns only to Russia.  
**The catch.** Comprehensive Strategic Partnership sounds close to Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, but they are different tiers.

Sources: PMINDIA joint statement, official talks readout and list of outcomes, 29 to 30 August 2026.

THE WORLD · INTERNATIONAL · 31 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCO at Bishkek: chair passes to Pakistan

- 1 The SCO chairmanship for 2026-27 passed at Bishkek to:

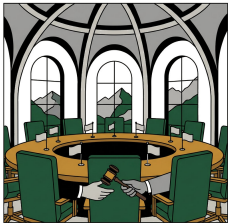
  - a Pakistan, with the next Heads of State meeting at Islamabad
  - b India
  - c Kazakhstan
  - d China
- 2 Consider these statements about the 26th SCO Heads of State meeting: I. It was held at Bishkek on 1 September 2026, in the SCO's 25th anniversary year. II. A Protocol amending the 2002 Charter added English as an official language. III. An SCO Development Bank was established at the meeting.

a I and II only

c II and III only

b I and III only

d I, II and III



Ten chairs and a gavel passed on: the chair moves to Pakistan for 2026-27.

**28 documents** 28 in all at Bishkek: the Bishkek Declaration plus 27 other documents, which is why some reports print 27.

**2017** The year India and Pakistan became full SCO members, easily confused with the 2001 founding of the organisation.

Heads of State met at **Bishkek** on 1 September, not 31 August.  
A Charter amendment added **English** as an official SCO language.  
The chair passes to **Pakistan** for 2026-27, hosting Islamabad in 2027.  
An **SCO Development Bank** was not decided at this summit.  
Belarus made **ten members**, joining after India and Pakistan.

| MEMBER                                            | SINCE | NOTE                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan | 2001  | the Shanghai Five of 1996        |
| Uzbekistan                                        | 2001  | founding member, not in the Five |
| India                                             | 2017  |                                  |
| Pakistan                                          | 2017  |                                  |

**1 · a.** Correct: the chair passed to Pakistan; India chaired in 2023, not this year.

**2 · a.** Correct: statement III is wrong because no SCO Development Bank was established at Bishkek.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · POLITY

A question may ask which member joined most recently.

**The catch.** Belarus in 2024 is often confused with Iran's 2023 entry.

Sources: PMINDIA participation note and the Prime Minister's statement, 1 September 2026; SCO secretariat note on the 26th CHS.

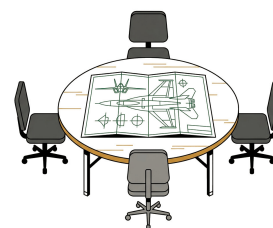
#### DEFENCE · INTERNATIONAL · LATE AUGUST 2026

### India joins the Global Combat Air Programme

- 1** India was admitted to the Global Combat Air Programme in August 2026 as a:
 

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a dialogue partner | b observer nation |
| c full member      | d launch customer |
- 2** The Global Combat Air Programme, launched in 2022, is run jointly by the United Kingdom, Japan and:
 

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| a Italy   | b France    |
| c Germany | d Australia |



Three partners at the table; India seated a step back, as a dialogue partner.

**2022** The year the UK, Japan and Italy launched the programme;

**3** The number of founding members, UK, Japan and Italy, who fund and govern GCAP; India as dialogue partner has no vote among them.

India became a **dialogue partner** in the Global Combat Air Programme in 2026.

The programme is led by Britain, Japan and Italy.

Dialogue partner status brings talks, not **classified design data**.

India gets no role in the programme's **funding or governance**.

The jet, called **Tempest**, aims for service by 2035.

**1 · a.** Correct: India holds dialogue-partner status, a step short of observer or full membership.

**2 · a.** Correct: Italy is the founding member alongside the UK and Japan.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · DEFENCE

A question may ask which countries founded the sixth-generation fighter programme.

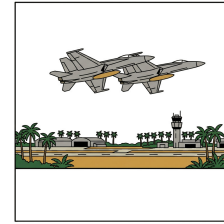
**The catch.** FCAS is the Franco-German-Spanish project, whose core joint-fighter effort France and Germany abandoned in June 2026, a near-miss option.

Sources: The Tribune; Indian Defence News, 28 to 29 August 2026.

## DEFENCE · INTERNATIONAL · 10 TO 14 AUGUST 2026

**Exercise Udara Shakti pairs Rafale with Malaysia**

- 1 Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 was held with the Royal Malaysian Air Force at:
  - a Subang Air Base
  - b Kuantan Air Base
  - c Butterworth Air Base
  - d Darwin Air Base
- 2 For Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, the Indian Air Force sent, for the first time in this exercise, four:
  - a Rafale fighters
  - b Su-30MKI fighters
  - c Tejas fighters
  - d Mirage-2000 fighters



Rafales over a Malaysian base, the jet's first turn in this exercise.

**4 Rafale** The fighters the IAF sent from 101 Squadron, its first Udara Shakti with this jet; earlier editions flew the Su-30MKI instead.

**10 to 14 August 2026** The window for Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 at Subang; earlier editions ran in 2022 and 2024 at Kuantan instead.

India and Malaysia held **Exercise Udara Shakti** between their air forces.

The flying phase ran from **11 to 13 August** at Subang.

India flew the **Rafale** in this exercise for the first time.

Two **C-17 Globemaster III** transports came from 81 Squadron.

This exercise involves only the two countries' air forces, not their armies or navies.

**1 · a.** Correct: Kuantan tempts because it hosted the exercise before this edition.

**2 · a.** Correct: Su-30MKI tempts because it flew this exercise in past editions.

**HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · DEFENCE**

A question may ask which service runs Udara Shakti.

**The catch.** Harimau Shakti is the army's exercise with Malaysia and Samudra Laksamana is the navy's.

Sources: ANI; The Tribune, 13 August 2026.

## CULTURE, AWARDS AND SPORTS

## SPORTS · INTERNATIONAL · 31 JULY TO 7 AUGUST 2026

**Praggnanandhaa wins the Saint Louis title**

- 1 Praggnanandhaa won the 2026 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz ahead of which runner-up?
  - a Magnus Carlsen
  - b Javokhir Sindarov
  - c Wesley So
  - d Hikaru Nakamura



- 2 Pragganandhaa's score at the 2026 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz was:
- a 23.5 of 36, a round to spare
  - b 23.5 of 36, on tiebreak
  - c 20.5 of 36, a round to spare
  - d 25 of 36, a round to spare

Pragganandhaa, the Saint Louis rapid and blitz title.

**1.5 points** Pragganandhaa's winning margin over runner-up Javokhir Sindarov; Magnus Carlsen did not play in this event, so he cannot be the margin's other end.

**23.5 of 36** Pragganandhaa's final score, ahead of Sindarov's 22 and Wesley So's 20.5.

Pragganandhaa won the Saint Louis title with a **round to spare**.

He finished ahead of runner-up Javokhir Sindarov to take the title outright.

His score put him ahead of both Sindarov and So.

He won both the **rapid and blitz** sections outright.

The event ran from 31 July to 7 August 2026.

**1 • b.** Correct: Javokhir Sindarov finished runner-up; Magnus Carlsen did not play in this event, so he cannot be the answer.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · SPORTS

A question may ask who finished runner-up to Pragganandhaa at Saint Louis.

**The catch.** Magnus Carlsen did not play the event, though his name is the most tempting wrong option.

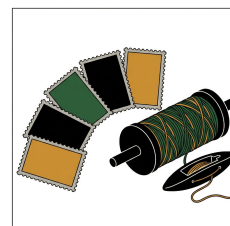
**2 • a.** Correct: Pragganandhaa won outright, not on tiebreak, finishing ahead of both Sindarov and So.

Sources: Chess.com; FIDE, 7 August 2026.

#### DAYS · NATIONAL · 7 AUGUST 2026

### 12th National Handloom Day: awards and stamps

- 1 Which of the following is correct about the 12th National Handloom Day, 7 August 2026?
- a The President presented 22 handloom awards and released four stamps at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre
  - b The Vice-President presented 24 awards at Bharat Mandapam
  - c The Ministry of Textiles announced the theme 'Hands that Weave the Nation'
  - d The day marks the Swadeshi Movement of 1911
- 2 National Handloom Day, 7 August, commemorates the Swadeshi Movement launched in:
- a 1905, at Calcutta Town Hall
  - b 1911, at Calcutta Town Hall
  - c 1905, at Madras University
  - d 1857, at Calcutta Town Hall



Four stamps and a shuttle: Handloom Day's awards and releases.

**22 awards** The 2025 handloom awards presented on 7 August 2026, split into 3 Sant Kabir and 19 National awards; a tempting wrong figure is 24, the count for 2024 presented at the 2025 ceremony.

**1905** The year of the Swadeshi Movement this day commemorates; a tempting wrong figure is 1911.

President Murmu presented the **handloom awards** at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on 7 August 2026.

The awards honoured outstanding handloom weavers for craftsmanship and innovation.

Four **commemorative stamps** were released the same day.

No official **theme** was announced for 2026.

The day marks the **Swadeshi Movement** at Calcutta Town Hall.

**1 • a.** Correct: the President presented the handloom awards and released commemorative stamps at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre; option b wrongly credits the Vice-President and Bharat Mandapam.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · CULTURE

A question may ask who presented the 2025 handloom awards.

**The catch.** The President presented them in 2026; the 2025 ceremony release instead credited the Textiles Minister with conferring the awards.

**2 • a.** Correct: the day marks the Swadeshi Movement proclaimed at Calcutta Town Hall; the other options misstate the year or the venue.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Textiles, 6 and 7 August 2026 (PRID 2295395, 2296083).

#### ANDHRA PRADESH · CULTURE · 13 AUGUST 2026

### Kuchipudi's Rattaiah Sarma wins the Akademi Ratna

- 1** The Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna (Fellowship) for 2024-25, honouring a veteran Kuchipudi guru, was conferred on:
 

|                                                                 |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Vempati Chinna Satyam<br><b>c</b> Yamini Krishnamurthy | <b>b</b> Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma<br><b>d</b> Raja and Radha Reddy |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
- 2** The Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Fellowship, conferred on Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma in August 2026, carries a purse of:
 

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Rs 1 lakh, the Akademi Award's purse<br><b>c</b> Rs 3 lakh, plus a Tamrapatra and Angavastram | <b>b</b> Rs 25,000, the Yuva Puraskar's purse<br><b>d</b> Rs 5 lakh, plus a Padma citation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Rattaiah Sarma, Kuchipudi guru, the Akademi Ratna for 2024-25.

**Rs 3 lakh** The Akademi Ratna's purse, against Rs 1 lakh for the annual Award and Rs 25,000 for the Yuva Puraskar.

**7 Fellows** Of 115 honourees on 13 August 2026; the other 108 received the annual Akademi Award.

He trained in Kuchipudi **Yakshagana** under three named gurus, two of them his uncles.

The Fellowship is capped at **40** living Fellows at any time.

He already held the Akademi **Award**, in 2006, before this Ratna.

A Ratna recipient can **never** later receive the annual Award.

He is known for Stree Vesham, playing **women's** roles in Yakshagana.

**1 • b.** Correct: Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma received the Akademi Ratna for 2024-25 for his contribution to Kuchipudi Yakshagana.

**2 • c.** Correct: the Ratna carries a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · CULTURE

Ratna against the annual Award, and which comes first

**The catch.** A Ratna recipient cannot later win an Award, but an Award-holder can later become a Ratna, as he did

Sources: PIB PRID 2271371, 10 June 2026, and PRID 2298868, 13 August 2026; Sangeet Natak Akademi declaration.

#### NATIONAL · OBITUARY · 21 AUGUST 2026

### Veteran actor Sowcar Janaki dies at 94

- 1** The 1950 film that gave veteran actor Sowcar Janaki her prefix, opposite N. T. Rama Rao, was:
  - a Raksha Rekha, her reported 1949 debut
  - b Valayapathi, her 1952 Tamil debut
  - c Shavukaru, directed by L. V. Prasad
  - d Rojulu Marayi, her 1955 film
- 2** Sowcar Janaki, who died in Chennai on 21 August 2026, was born in:
  - a Chennai, where she later died
  - b Bengaluru, to a Kannada-speaking family
  - c Vijayawada, in NTR district
  - d Rajahmundry, on 12 December 1931



Sowcar Janaki: four hundred films across five languages, from 1950.

**94** Her age at death on 21 August 2026; her last film, Anni Manchi Sakunamule, released in 2023.

**2022** The year of her Padma Shri, in the Art category; her other honours were Nandi Awards and the Kalaimamani.

She died in **Chennai**, decades after the film that made her a star.

Her 1950 hit **Shavukaru** gave her the prefix that stuck.

She acted in about **400 films** across five languages.

The **Padma Shri** listed her from Tamil Nadu, not Andhra Pradesh.

She was the elder sister of actor **Krishna Kumari**.

**1 • c.** Correct: option c names the film the pointers already date, directed by L. V. Prasad opposite N. T. Rama Rao; Raksha Rekha (1949) is Telugu-press only.

**2 • d.** Correct: she was born at Rajahmundry on 12 December 1931; Chennai is where she later lived and died.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · CULTURE

Which film named her, against the year the Telugu press claims as her debut

**The catch.** Shavukaru (1950) is the sourced debut; the 1949 Raksha Rekha claim is press-only and unconfirmed

Sources: Deccan Chronicle; The Federal; Andhra Jyothi, 21 August 2026.

## NATIONAL · OBITUARY · 13 AUGUST 2026

## Historian Sumit Sarkar dies at 87

- 1 PTI's obituary named these as historian Sumit Sarkar's most seminal works:
  - a Modern Times: India 1880s-1950s, Beyond Nationalist Frames, and Essays of a Lifetime
  - b The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, Modern India: 1885-1947, and Writing Social History
  - c Khaki Shorts and Saffron Flags, Towards Freedom, and Uncollected Writings
  - d The Decline of the Subaltern in Subaltern Studies, alone
- 2 Historian Sumit Sarkar's relationship with the Subaltern Studies Collective was that he:
  - a Founded the Collective and led it until his death
  - b Was its last surviving founding member in 2026
  - c Was a founding member who later became its critic
  - d Never joined the Collective, only critiqued it from outside



The books of a historian who wrote modern India's social history.

**87** His age at death; his father, Susobhan Sarkar, was also a historian at Presidency College, Calcutta.

**2004** The year of his Rabindra Puraskar, from the West Bengal government, which he returned in 2007.

He died at his Delhi home on **13 August** 2026.

He taught longest as **professor** of history at Delhi University.

He helped found Subaltern Studies, then became its sharpest **critic**.

He **returned** his Rabindra Puraskar in 2007, in protest.

His essays first appeared in **EPW**, reaching a wider public.

**1·b.** Correct: PTI names The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, Modern India: 1885-1947 and Writing Social History as his most seminal works.

**HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · HISTORY**  
Author-to-book matching for a well-known survey text

**The catch.** The three named books are his; other real Sarkar titles like Modern Times or Beyond Nationalist Frames are not the seminal trio PTI named

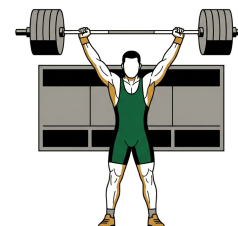
**2·c.** Correct: he was a founding member of the Subaltern Studies Collective who later critiqued its later volumes as one-sided.

Sources: EPW, Vol. 61 No. 34, 22 August 2026 (G Arunima); The Federal, PTI report, 14 August 2026.

## SPORTS · INTERNATIONAL · 2 AUGUST 2026

## Commonwealth Games 2026 close, India fourth

- 1 At the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Andhra Pradesh's only medallist, weightlifter Valluri Ajaya Babu, won a silver medal in which weight category?
  - a Men's 71kg
  - b Men's 79kg
  - c Men's 88kg
  - d Men's 94kg



A Games-record snatch by a lifter from Vizianagaram.

- 2** India won 39 medals at Glasgow 2026, fewer than the 61 it won at Birmingham 2022. What explains this?
- a India's overall performance declined compared with 2022
  - b Glasgow 2026 dropped nine sports that had earned India 30 Birmingham medals
  - c India fielded a smaller squad because of funding cuts
  - d Several Indian medallists were disqualified for doping after Glasgow

**39** India's Glasgow 2026 medal tally, 13 gold, 17 silver, 9 bronze; a tempting wrong figure is 61, the bigger Birmingham 2022 total from a wider sports programme.

**149kg** Ajaya Babu's Games-record snatch in the men's 79kg final; a tempting wrong figure is 181kg, his clean and jerk lift in the same competition.

India finished **fourth** at Glasgow 2026.

Glasgow 2026 dropped **nine** sports raced at Birmingham 2022.

Those nine dropped sports had earned India **30** Birmingham medals.

Vizianagaram's Valluri Ajaya Babu won silver in men's **79kg**.

The next Commonwealth Games move to **Ahmedabad** in 2030.

**1 • b.** Correct: Ajaya Babu won silver in men's 79kg with a total lift of 330kg.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · GEOGRAPHY

A question may ask which Andhra Pradesh district produced the lone medallist.

**The catch.** Vizianagaram is correct; a wrong option may substitute a neighbouring district such as Srikakulam.

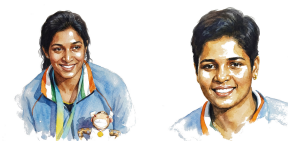
**2 • b.** Correct: Glasgow 2026 excluded nine sports that had featured at Birmingham 2022, including wrestling, badminton, table tennis and hockey, which together had given India 30 Birmingham medals.

Sources: ESPN, Olympics.com, World Boxing, thebridge.in (state medal breakup), Deccan Herald and Tribune (Valluri Ajaya Babu), 2 August 2026.

#### SPORTS · INTERNATIONAL · 22 AUGUST 2026

### Treesa-Gayatri win BWF bronze in Delhi

- 1** At the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi, Treesa Jolly and Pullela Gayatri Gopichand won reported as India's only medal, a bronze in:
- a Women's singles
  - b Men's doubles
  - c Women's doubles
  - d Mixed doubles



Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, bronze in Delhi.

**2009** The last year India hosted the BWF World Championships before 2026; a tempting wrong figure is 2011, the year London hosted, where India's first women's doubles medal came.

- 2 The 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi were India's first time hosting the event since:
- a 2006
  - b 2009
  - c 2011
  - d 2018

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won India's only **bronze**. They lost the semi-final to top-ranked **China**. This ended a **fifteen-year** wait for a women's doubles medal. Gayatri trains at the **Gopichand** Academy in Hyderabad. The Worlds returned to India after a long gap.

**1 · c.** Correct: women's doubles was the event; the other options name different events entirely.

**2 · b.** Correct: 2011 tempts because that's when India's first women's doubles medal came, at London; the question asks about hosting, not medals.

2 Treesa-Gayatri are only the second Indian women's doubles pair to medal at the Worlds; a tempting wrong option calls them the first, ignoring Jwala Gutta-Ashwini Ponnappa's 2011 bronze.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · SPORTS

A question may ask who won India's first women's doubles Worlds medal, in 2011.

**The catch.** Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa are correct; Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand are the second pair, not the first.

Sources: Zee News, Olympics.com, ANI, Telugu360, 22 August 2026.

## AWARDS · NATIONAL · 18 AUGUST 2026

### National Sports Awards 2025: no Khel Ratna

- 1 Regarding the National Sports Awards 2025, announced on 18 August 2026, which of the following is correct?
- a The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025 was given to a badminton player
  - b No sportsperson was selected for the Khel Ratna Award 2025
  - c The Khel Ratna Award 2025 went jointly to two chess players
  - d The Khel Ratna Award 2025 was given to a boxer
- 2 Before 2025, in which two years had no sportsperson been selected for the Khel Ratna Award?
- a 2010 and 2016
  - b 2008 and 2014
  - c 2012 and 2018
  - d 2005 and 2011



Seventeen Arjuna trophies and an empty plinth: no Khel Ratna this year.

**17** Sportspersons named for the Arjuna Award 2025, plus one for the Arjuna Award (Lifetime); a tempting wrong figure is 16, one short of the real count.

**1962** The year I. Arumainayagam's football team won Asian Games gold, the basis of his Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement; a tempting wrong figure is 1951, the year of the first Asian Games.

No one was selected for the **Khel Ratna** in 2025.

This is only the **third** such year, after 2008, 2014.

Sportspersons were also named for the **Arjuna Award 2025**.

Hyderabad's Gayatri Gopichand and deaf shooter Dhanush **Srikanth** won it too.

Justice Arun Kumar **Mishra** chaired the selection committee.

**1 • b.** Correct: no sportsperson was selected for the Khel Ratna 2025. The other options describe awards that were not made that year.

**2 • b.** Correct: option b names the two years with no Khel Ratna winner, as the reading notes above.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · AWARDS

A question may ask who received the Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2025.

**The catch.** I. Arumainayagam is correct, on the strength of his 1962 Asian Games football gold; a wrong option may offer a 1951 name instead.

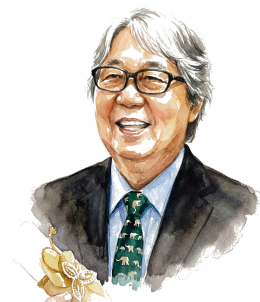
Sources: ETV Bharat, The Tribune, Telugu360, PIB (PRID 2300762, title reference), 18 August 2026.

#### AWARDS · INTERNATIONAL · 31 AUGUST 2026

### Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026: no Indian winner

- 1** The 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award laureates, announced on 31 August 2026, were from which three countries?
  - a India, Bangladesh and Myanmar
  - b Singapore, Bangladesh and Myanmar
  - c Singapore, India and Sri Lanka
  - d Philippines, Singapore and Bangladesh
- 2** The 2026 Ramon Magsaysay laureates will be formally honoured at a ceremony in Manila on:
 

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| a 31 August 2026   | b 15 September 2026 |
| c 15 November 2026 | d 31 December 2026  |



Tommy Koh of Singapore, one of the three laureates.

**31 August 2026** The announcement date, marking Ramon Magsaysay's 119th birth anniversary; a tempting wrong figure is 15 November, the later ceremony date.

**88** Tommy Koh's age, the Singaporean lawyer and diplomat honoured for promoting international dialogue and the rule of law; a tempting wrong figure is 119, the birth-anniversary number for the award's namesake.

Three laureates were named for the 2026 award.

No **Indian** was among the 2026 winners.

Singapore's Tommy **Koh** won for his work on the rule of law.

Bangladesh's Runa Khan aids her country's **poorest** communities.

The laureates will be honoured at a formal ceremony in Manila.

**1 • b.** Correct: Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh) and Bo Kyi (Myanmar) were the three 2026 laureates.

#### HOW THIS CAN BE ASKED · AWARDS

A question may ask why 31 August was chosen for the announcement.

**The catch.** It marks the 119th birth anniversary of Ramon Magsaysay; a wrong option may claim it marks the award's founding year instead.

**2 • c.** Correct: 31 August only marks when the laureates were named; the ceremony itself falls on a later date.

Sources: Rappler, WTOP, Philippines Graphic, 31 August 2026.

### PART THREE · AUGUST 2026

## The month in single questions

One question each; the content is in the answer.

### ANDHRA PRADESH

#### 1 Job Calendar 2026 of Andhra Pradesh, issued under G.O.Ms.No.81 of 22 August 2026, covers how many posts?

- a 10,060
- b 16,347
- c 2,686
- d 12,000

a. Job Calendar 2026 opened 10,060 posts under G.O.Ms.No.81 of 22 August 2026.

Job Calendar 2026 is Andhra Pradesh's plan to fill government vacancies across four phases.

The Finance department issued G.O.Ms.No.81 on 22 August 2026, after Council of Ministers Resolution No.661 of 18 August.

Phase I was notified on 15 May 2026, with Phases III and IV due on 15 October 2026.

The wrong figure 16,347 belongs to Mega DSC 2025's teacher posts, a separate recruitment drive.

The other wrong figure, 2,686, was the smaller Job Calendar 2025 total.

Article 315 of the Constitution gives every State its own Public Service Commission.

**10,060** posts opened under Job Calendar 2026 · **16,347** Mega DSC 2025 teacher posts · **2,686** Job Calendar 2025 total posts

#### 2 MoSPI's CPI release of 12 August 2026 put Andhra Pradesh's retail inflation for July 2026 at:

- a 5.72 per cent, against India's 4.45 per cent
- b 4.45 per cent, against India's 5.72 per cent
- c 5.72 per cent, equal to the national rate
- d 3.72 per cent, the lowest among states

a. Andhra Pradesh's July 2026 retail inflation was 5.72 per cent, against India's 4.45 per cent.

MoSPI, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released this Consumer Price Index data on 12 August 2026.

Andhra Pradesh's July 2026 rate was 5.72 per cent, well above India's 4.45 per cent.

In June, the state's rate had already been higher, at 5.39 per cent.

The wrong option reverses the state and national figures, wrongly ranking Andhra Pradesh below the country.

Andhra Pradesh was the second-highest among states in both months, after Telangana.

Telangana's July rate was 6.32 per cent, while Mizoram recorded the lowest inflation nationally.

5.72 per cent Andhra Pradesh's July 2026 inflation · 4.45 per cent India's July 2026 inflation · 6.32 per cent Telangana's July 2026 inflation, the highest

### 3 The Andhra Pradesh Public Private Partnership Policy 2026 was issued by the:

- a Finance Department
  - b Industries and Commerce Department
  - c Infrastructure and Investment Department
  - d Planning Department
- a. The Finance Department issued the Andhra Pradesh Public Private Partnership Policy 2026 under G.O.Ms.No.74.

The policy was issued under G.O.Ms.No.74 on 10 August 2026.

The Cabinet had cleared its draft four days earlier, on 6 August.

It sets out a project pipeline worth Rs 1.23 lakh crore.

It creates a Rs 1,500 crore State Viability Gap Funding scheme for 2026-27.

That scheme's funding ceilings run at 20, 30 and 40 per cent of project cost.

The policy lists eighteen distinct PPP models.

Rs 1.23 lakh crore value of the PPP project pipeline · Rs 1,500 crore size of the Viability Gap Funding scheme · eighteen distinct PPP models in the policy

### 4 Andhra Pradesh's Socio-Economic Survey is:

- a Published by NITI Aayog for the state
  - b Presented in both Houses of the State Legislature alongside the Budget
  - c An internal document not laid before the legislature
  - d Prepared by the Reserve Bank of India
- b. The Survey is presented in both Houses of the State Legislature alongside the Budget.

Andhra Pradesh's Socio-Economic Survey is the state's counterpart to the Union's Economic Survey.

The Planning Department prepares it, and it is normally presented alongside the Budget.

The wrong option naming NITI Aayog confuses this document with the central body's work.

NITI Aayog does not produce the Survey.

The latest edition, for 2024-25, was laid on 28 February 2025.

No 2025-26 edition had been published by 2 September 2026, breaking the usual practice.

Rs 16.06 lakh crore Andhra Pradesh's GSDP for 2024-25 · Rs 2,68,653 the state's per capita income, 2024-25 · 28 February 2025 when the latest Survey was laid

### 5 The three airports whose techno-economic feasibility reports were ready in August 2026 are at:

- a Bhogapuram, Dagadarthi and Kurnool
  - b Amaravati, Srikakulam and Kuppam
  - c Tirupati, Rajahmundry and Vijayawada
  - d Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Nellore
- b. Techno-economic feasibility reports were ready for airports at Amaravati, Srikakulam and Kuppam.

The first phase of these three airports together costs Rs 5,545 crore.

Amaravati's share is about Rs 4,419 crore on 4,618 acres, under a Public Private Partnership DBFOT model.

The wrong option names Bhogapuram, Dagadarthi and Kurnool, airports already at more advanced stages that month.

Bhogapuram was newly inaugurated, Dagadarthi was at bidding, and Kurnool was already operating.

Kuppam's airport, about Rs 734 crore on 1,788 acres, follows a state capex model.

Srikakulam's airport, about Rs 392 crore on 1,185.86 acres, is being built with the Airports Authority of India.

Rs 5,545 crore cost of the three airports' first phase · Rs 4,419 crore Amaravati airport's share of the cost · 4,618 acres land for the Amaravati airport

## 6 Amaravati Quantum Valley is governed under:

- a The National Quantum Mission alone
  - b Andhra Pradesh's State Quantum Mission
  - c The Department of Science and Technology directly
  - d A central public sector undertaking
- b.** Amaravati Quantum Valley is governed under Andhra Pradesh's own State Quantum Mission.

The State Quantum Mission is chaired by the Chief Minister.

Its Quantum Apex Committee grew from fourteen to fifteen members in August 2026.

HCLTech's Vijay Guntur was the new member co-opted onto the committee.

The wrong option naming the National Quantum Mission alone confuses it with the separate central programme.

That central programme was approved on 19 April 2023, with Rs 6,003.65 crore for 2023-24 to 2030-31.

The Apex Committee is chaired by Prof. V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras.

fourteen to fifteen growth in Apex Committee membership · Rs 6,003.65 crore central Quantum Mission's budget, 2023-24 to 2030-31 · Rs 1,002.49 crore Cabinet's 6 August 2026 clearance for twin towers

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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## 7 In his Independence Day address on 15 August 2026, the Prime Minister set a nuclear capacity target of:

- a 100 GW by 2047
- b 50 GW by 2035
- c 500 GW by 2030
- d 22 GW by 2027

**a.** The Prime Minister set a target of 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047.

The Prime Minister set this target in his Red Fort address on 15 August 2026.

He also announced five new nuclear reactors planned within six to seven years.

The wrong option, 500 GW by 2030, is India's non-fossil electricity capacity target instead.

The same address promised AI skill training for one crore youth within a year.

It also promised free online coaching for competitive examinations.

India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, a right ratified in November 2025.

100 GW nuclear capacity target for 2047 · 500 GW by 2030 India's non-fossil electricity target · one crore youth to get AI skill training

## 8 The official themes for India's Independence Day in 2026 were:

- a Amrit Kaal and Har Ghar Tiranga
- b 150 Years of Vande Mataram, and Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat at 2047
- c 75 Years of the Constitution, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- d Nari Shakti and Atmanirbhar Bharat

**b.** 150 Years of Vande Mataram was the theme, first sung at the Red Fort this year.

This was the Prime Minister's thirteenth consecutive Independence Day address.

Vande Mataram was sung at the Red Fort for the first time this year.

The salute was fired by indigenous 105 mm Light Field Guns, in use since 2023.

thirteenth consecutive Independence Day address by the PM · 105 mm calibre of the Light Field Guns used  
· 2023 year the guns entered use

**9 Anurag Jain, who became NITI Aayog CEO on 17 August 2026, is a retired IAS officer of which cadre?**

- a Kerala  
b Madhya Pradesh  
c Andhra Pradesh  
d Tamil Nadu

**b. Anurag Jain is a retired Indian Administrative Service officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.**

Anurag Jain is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

He was serving as the state's Chief Secretary before this appointment.

He took charge as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog on 17 August 2026, for a two-year term.

He succeeded B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, whose tenure ended on 24 February 2026.

Nidhi Chhibber held additional charge in the interim.

NITI Aayog's Vice Chairperson is Ashok Kumar Lahiri, in office from April 2026.

1989-batch Anurag Jain's IAS batch year · 17 August 2026 when Jain took charge as CEO · two-year length of his term as CEO

**10 In the Monsoon Session that ended on 13 August 2026, the bill that remained pending was the:**

- a Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill  
b Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026  
c Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026  
d Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

**b.** The Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026, remained pending when the Monsoon Session ended.

The Monsoon Session of 2026 ran nineteen sittings over twenty-five days, ending on 13 August.

The Government introduced thirteen bills and passed twelve, leaving the Institute Bill pending.

The wrong option, the Public Examinations Amendment Bill, was the session's most debated bill.

That Examinations bill was passed, not left pending.

Lok Sabha productivity stood at about 19 per cent, and Rajya Sabha's at 39 per cent.

PRS's independent tracker counted twelve bills introduced and eleven passed.

nineteen sittings length of the Monsoon Session · thirteen bills introduced by the Government · 19 per cent Lok Sabha's productivity that session

**11 Air Marshal Tejpal Singh assumed charge on 1 August 2026 as:**

- a Chief of the Air Staff                      b Vice Chief of the Air Staff  
c Deputy Chief of the Air Staff            d Chief of Defence Staff

c. Air Marshal Tejpal Singh assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff on 1 August 2026.

Air Marshal Tejpal Singh assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff on 1 August 2026.

He succeeded Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, who retired after 39 years of service.

He is a fighter pilot commissioned in 1990 with more than 3,500 flying hours.

He holds ratings as a Category A Qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot.

The same day, Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod took over as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

Alka Nangia Arora also took charge as Controller General of Defence Accounts that day.

39 years Bharti's years of service · 3,500 flying hours Singh's total flying experience

**12 Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod, who assumed office as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 1 August 2026, succeeded whom in that post?**

- a Admiral Krishna Swaminathan      b Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti  
c General N.S. Raja Subramani      d Air Marshal Tejpal Singh

b. Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod succeeded Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod assumed office as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 1 August 2026.

He succeeded Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti in that post.

He holds the AVSM and YSM decorations and is a Category A Sea King air operations officer.

He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, commissioned into the Navy on 1 July 1990.

His commands included INS Abhay, INS Shardul, and the guided-missile frigate INS Satpura.

The same day, Air Marshal Tejpal Singh took charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

1 July 1990 Pramod's date of Navy commissioning

## ECONOMY AND SCHEMES

**13 S. Somanath, former ISRO chairman, was appointed to the Reserve Bank of India's central board in August 2026 as a:**

- a part-time non-official director for four years  
b full-time executive director for two years  
c Deputy Governor for three years  
d Governor for five years

a. S. Somanath was appointed a part-time non-official director on the Reserve Bank of India's central board for four years.

S. Somanath retired as ISRO chairman, the space agency's head, in January 2025.

The Central Government appointed him a part-time non-official director from 20 August 2026.

His term runs four years, or until further orders, whichever comes first.

The wrong options confuse this post with the Reserve Bank's full-time executive posts.

Those full-time posts, Deputy Governor and Governor, are appointed differently and for different terms.

Anand Mahindra was reappointed to the same board for a further four years.

four years length of Somanath's term as director · 20 August 2026 start date of his appointment · 24 August 2026 when three more directors joined the board

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

**14 ICGS Meera Behn, decommissioned at Okha in August 2026, belonged to the:**

- a Sarojini Naidu-class fast patrol vessel  
b Samarth-class offshore patrol vessel  
c Rajshree-class inshore patrol vessel  
d Sankalp-class patrol vessel

a. ICGS Meera Behn belonged to the Sarojini Naidu-class fast patrol vessel series.

ICGS Meera Behn, pennant 234, was a Sarojini Naidu-class fast patrol vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited.

She was commissioned on 25 July 2006 and decommissioned at Okha, Gujarat, in August 2026.

The wrong options name other Coast Guard vessel classes, such as the larger Samarth-class offshore patrol vessels.

The ship was named after Meera Behn, born Madeleine Slade, a British-born disciple of Gandhi.

She joined Gandhi's freedom movement in 1925.

Her sister ship Aruna Asaf Ali was decommissioned earlier, on 18 July 2026.

25 July 2006 when Meera Behn was commissioned · 18 July 2026 when sister ship Aruna Asaf Ali left service · 1925 when Meera Behn joined Gandhi's movement

**15 The number of projects approved under Semicon 1.0, as recorded in the SEMICON India 2026 announcement, is:**

- a Twelve
- b Five
- c Twenty-two
- d Three

a. Twelve projects were approved under Semicon 1.0, as SEMICON India 2026 recorded.

The Union Cabinet approved the next phase, Semicon 2.0, at Rs 1,27,500 crore across six pillars.

That approval came on 15 July 2026.

The wrong option of three matches the number of those projects already in commercial production, a smaller count.

The fifth edition of SEMICON India runs from 17 to 19 September 2026, at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.

Its theme is Silicon to Systems, Building the Ecosystem.

It expects over 500 exhibitors from more than 40 countries.

Rs 1,27,500 crore value of Semicon 2.0 approved 15 July 2026 · 17 to 19 September 2026 dates of SEMICON India's fifth edition · 500 exhibitors expected at SEMICON India 2026

**16 The PIB Backgrounder of 13 August 2026 stated that Semicon 2.0, approved in July 2026, carries an outlay of how much?**

- a 76,000 crore rupees
- b 1,27,500 crore rupees
- c 10,372 crore rupees
- d 1.64 lakh crore rupees

b. Semicon 2.0's outlay is 1,27,500 crore rupees, approved in July 2026 across six pillars.

Semicon 2.0 is a semiconductor mission with an outlay of 1,27,500 crore rupees.

The government approved it in July 2026, covering chip design, fabrication and talent development.

76,000 crore rupees was the outlay of Semicon 1.0, the earlier mission it scales up.

10,372 crore rupees is the separate IndiaAI Mission's outlay, not this scheme's.

1.64 lakh crore rupees is the total investment across 12 approved semiconductor projects, not the outlay.

The Press Information Bureau, the government's press office, published this Backgrounder on 13 August 2026.

1,27,500 crore rupees Semicon 2.0's outlay · 76,000 crore rupees Semicon 1.0's earlier outlay · 1.64 lakh crore rupees total investment across 12 projects

**17 In August 2026, CSIR-IICT Hyderabad transferred a phytopharmaceutical for diabetic foot ulcer treatment, developed from which plant, to Viridis Biopharma?**

- a Gymnema sylvestre
- b Withania somnifera
- c Ocimum sanctum
- d Azadirachta indica

a. The phytopharmaceutical came from Gymnema sylvestre, transferred by CSIR-IICT to Viridis Biopharma on 12 August 2026.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, developed a phytopharmaceutical for diabetic foot ulcers.

The institute signed a technology transfer agreement with Viridis Biopharma on 12 August 2026.

Dr Anthony Addlagatta led the work, with Dr Srigiridhar Kotamraju and Dr Aruna Jangam.

The product completed standardisation, pharmacological evaluation, and safety studies before the transfer.

Withania somnifera, Ocimum sanctum and Azadirachta indica are other well-known medicinal plants, but not this one.

CSIR-IICT is based in Hyderabad, Telangana, not Andhra Pradesh.

12 August 2026 date of the technology transfer agreement

**18 The CAG performance audit tabled in Parliament on 12 August 2026 found the Green India Mission had achieved roughly what share of its afforestation target over 2015 to 2025?**

- a 5 percent
- b 25 percent
- c 50 percent
- d 75 percent

a. The Comptroller and Auditor General found Green India Mission achieved only about 5 percent of its afforestation target.

The Comptroller and Auditor General is the Union's auditor, reviewing government schemes.

It tabled this performance audit in Parliament on 12 August 2026, covering 2015 to 2025.

The mission achieved only 0.15 million hectares against a 2.8 million hectare afforestation target.

That works out to roughly 5 percent of the target, not 25, 50 or 75 percent.

The mission also missed more than 97 percent of its ecosystem-restoration goal.

Direct central funding totalled only about 1,149 crore rupees of an initial 13,000 crore rupee allocation.

5 percent share of afforestation target achieved · 97 percent share missed of restoration goal · 1,149 crore rupees actual central funding delivered

**19 As reviewed by the Union Health Ministry on 28 August 2026, India aims to eliminate malaria, as a Sustainable Development Goal, by which year?**

- a 2025
- b 2027
- c 2030
- d 2035

c. India's Sustainable Development Goal target to eliminate malaria is 2030, reviewed on 28 August 2026.

The Union Health Ministry reviewed India's progress toward eliminating malaria by 2030 on 28 August 2026.

Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the National Health Mission, chaired the review.

Between 2015 and 2025, malaria cases and deaths in India fell by nearly 80 percent.

High-burden districts dropped from 155 to 33 during that decade.

2025 belongs to the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, a different disease programme, not malaria.

2027 is India's interim milestone for zero indigenous transmission, one step before full elimination.

80 percent decline in malaria cases and deaths, 2015 to 2025 · 155 to 33 fall in high-burden districts over the decade · 64 percent share of 2025 malaria cases in remaining districts

**20 The Ministry of Defence's Transfer of Technology decision of 25 August 2026, approved by Rajnath Singh, opened which category of DRDO missile systems to Indian private industry?**

- a Conventional missile systems only
- b Strategic and nuclear-capable systems only
- c Only systems already inducted before 2015
- d Only naval torpedo systems

a. Rajnath Singh approved technology transfer of all conventional DRDO missile systems to private industry, excluding strategic and nuclear systems.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved transfer of technology for DRDO's conventional missile systems.

The Ministry of Defence announced this through a press note on 25 August 2026.

The decision covers missiles that strike ships, aircraft and ground targets, or defend against aerial threats.

It explicitly excludes strategic and nuclear systems, which stay outside the transfer's scope.

The wrong options invent restrictions on induction date or weapon type never stated in the announcement.

It ends an arrangement where public-sector undertakings mainly produced tactical missiles.

25 August 2026 date of the Ministry of Defence press note

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## THE WORLD

### 21 A. Ajay Kumar, a 2001-batch IFS officer, was appointed in August 2026 as India's next Ambassador to which country?

- a Iran
- b Iraq
- c Bahrain
- d Uganda

b. A. Ajay Kumar, a 2001-batch IFS officer, was appointed India's next Ambassador to Iraq.

A. Ajay Kumar is a 2001-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, appointed as reported on 17 August 2026.

He was then serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry before this posting.

He was appointed India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

His earlier postings included Iran, Bahrain, Iraq, Australia and Uganda, which tempts other options.

He had earlier served as High Commissioner of India to Uganda, another tempting option.

The Iraq posting is a return, since he had already served there before.

2001-batch his IFS entry year group · 17 August 2026 date the appointment was reported

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## CULTURE, AWARDS AND SPORTS

### 22 Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, released by PM Modi on 12 August 2026, is titled which of the following?

- a My Presidential Years
- b Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles
- c The Long Road to Raisina Hill
- d President's Diary

b. Kovind's autobiography is titled 'Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles'.

Prime Minister Modi released the book at a ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on 12 August 2026.

The other titles offered are invented distractors that do not match the real book.

Kovind served as the 14th President of India from 25 July 2017 to July 2022.

He was Governor of Bihar from 2015 to 2017, before becoming President.

He later chaired the One Nation One Election committee.

That committee submitted its report in March 2024.

14th President of India that Kovind was · 12 August 2026 when the autobiography was released · March 2024 when the One Nation One Election report came

### 23 India's two-match Test series win over Sri Lanka in August 2026 ended 1-0. Who was named Player of the Series?

- a KL Rahul
- b Manav Suthar
- c Devdutt Padikkal
- d Dhruv Jurel

c. Devdutt Padikkal was Player of the Series, with 328 runs across the two Tests.

India toured Sri Lanka for a two-match Test series in August 2026 and won it 1-0.

In the first Test at Galle, India won by 165 runs after scoring 462 and 193.

Devdutt Padikkal scored a maiden Test century of 167 runs and won Player of the Match.  
 Manav Suthar took a ten-wicket match haul, so his name tempts as an alternative answer.  
 The second Test at Colombo, played from 23 to 27 August, ended in a high-scoring draw.  
 Devdutt Padikkal was named Player of the Series for his 328 runs across both matches.

165 runs India's win margin at Galle · 167 Padikkal's maiden Test century score · 328 runs Padikkal's series run tally

**24 At the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, Basant Kumar Meghwal became the first Indian to win a high jump medal at this Championship in which discipline?**

- a Long jump
- b High jump
- c Javelin throw
- d Triple jump

b. Basant Kumar Meghwal won silver in high jump, clearing 2.21 metres for India's first medal there.

The 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships were held in Eugene, Oregon, from 5 to 9 August.

India sent a 36-member squad and won three medals, two silver and one bronze.

Ashish Yadav won silver in javelin throw with 74.09 metres, tempting readers toward that option.

Shahnavaz Khan won bronze in long jump with 7.84 metres, tempting readers toward that option.

Basant Kumar Meghwal won silver in high jump by clearing 2.21 metres.

He became the first Indian to win a high jump medal at this Championship.

74.09 metres Ashish Yadav's javelin throw distance · 2.21 metres Meghwal's winning high jump height · 7.84 metres Shahnavaz Khan's long jump distance

**25 On the eve of the 80th Independence Day (14 August 2026), President Droupadi Murmu approved 78 Gallantry Awards. Which statement about this list is correct?**

- a Three Ashok Chakras, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, were given
  - b No Ashok Chakra was awarded this year
  - c The Ashok Chakra was awarded to a Central Armed Police Forces officer
  - d The list included 127 awards in total, more than the 2025 list
- b. No Ashok Chakra was given in 2026, so the Kirti Chakra was the highest award presented.

President Droupadi Murmu approved 78 Gallantry Awards on 14 August 2026, the eve of Independence Day.

The list included 13 posthumous honours and 9 Kirti Chakras, of which 7 were posthumous.

It also included 19 Shaurya Chakras and 36 Sena Medals for Gallantry, among other awards.

No Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, was given this year.

So the Kirti Chakra became the highest award actually presented in the 2026 list.

All three Army Kirti Chakras went to Parachute Regiment Special Forces personnel.

78 Gallantry Awards total awards approved this year · 9 Kirti Chakras the highest award actually given · 19 Shaurya Chakras next tier of gallantry awards

THE RUN · AUGUST 2026

## Thirty questions, the paper's way

Set from this month in the proportions of the Group 2 current-affairs section. The key is on the last page; the reasons live on the pages you have read.

- 1 In June 2026 Andhra Pradesh's consumer price inflation, at 5.39 per cent, was:
  - a The lowest of any state
  - b Above the national average of 4.38 per cent
  - c Below the national average of 4.38 per cent
  - d Equal to the national average
- 2 Nethanna Sevalo was launched on 7 August 2026, a date observed as:
  - a National Handicrafts Day
  - b Khadi Day
  - c World Weavers' Day
  - d National Handloom Day
- 3 The CAG performance audit tabled in Parliament on 12 August 2026 found the Green India Mission had achieved roughly what share of its afforestation target over 2015 to 2025?
  - a 75 percent
  - b 5 percent
  - c 25 percent
  - d 50 percent
- 4 The PIB Backgrounder of 13 August 2026 stated that Semicon 2.0, approved in July 2026, carries an outlay of how much?
  - a 76,000 crore rupees
  - b 1,27,500 crore rupees
  - c 10,372 crore rupees
  - d 1.64 lakh crore rupees
- 5 In August 2026, CSIR-IICT Hyderabad transferred a phytopharmaceutical for diabetic foot ulcer treatment, developed from which plant, to Viridis Biopharma?
  - a Ocimum sanctum
  - b Azadirachta indica
  - c Gymnema sylvestre
  - d Withania somnifera
- 6 Which of these is NOT decided by the Monetary Policy Committee?
  - a The policy stance
  - b The number of members voting to hold
  - c The cash reserve ratio
  - d The policy repo rate
- 7 Glaw Lake, designated in August 2026, is:
  - a India's 100th Ramsar site, in Assam
  - b India's 101st Ramsar site and Arunachal Pradesh's first, inside Kamlang Tiger Reserve
  - c India's 101st Ramsar site, in Sikkim, inside Khangchendzonga National Park
  - d Arunachal Pradesh's second Ramsar site, inside Namdapha National Park

- 8** Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod, who assumed office as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 1 August 2026, succeeded whom in that post?
- a Air Marshal Tejpal Singh
  - b Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
  - c Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti
  - d General N.S. Raja Subramani
- 9** At the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Andhra Pradesh's only medallist, weightlifter Valluri Ajaya Babu, won a silver medal in which weight category?
- a Men's 88kg
  - b Men's 96kg
  - c Men's 73kg
  - d Men's 79kg
- 10** Regarding the National Sports Awards 2025, announced on 18 August 2026, which of the following is correct?
- a The Khel Ratna Award 2025 was given to a boxer
  - b The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025 was given to a badminton player
  - c No sportsperson was selected for the Khel Ratna Award 2025
  - d The Khel Ratna Award 2025 went jointly to two chess players
- 11** Air Marshal Tejpal Singh assumed charge on 1 August 2026 as:
- a Chief of the Air Staff
  - b Vice Chief of the Air Staff
  - c Deputy Chief of the Air Staff
  - d Chief of Defence Staff
- 12** In the Monsoon Session that ended on 13 August 2026, the bill that remained pending was the:
- a Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill
  - b Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill
  - c Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill
  - d Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026
- 13** The 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award laureates, announced on 31 August 2026, were from which three countries?
- a Singapore, India and Sri Lanka
  - b Philippines, Singapore and Bangladesh
  - c India, Bangladesh and Myanmar
  - d Singapore, Bangladesh and Myanmar
- 14** The new cascade frog species *Amolops ammachi*, described in August 2026 and named after a Kerala social worker, was discovered in which state?
- a West Bengal
  - b Assam
  - c Tripura
  - d Nagaland
- 15** For renaming Kerala as Keralam in August 2026, which of the following was required?
- a A two-thirds majority in each House of Parliament
  - b A constitutional amendment under Article 368
  - c The consent of the Kerala Legislative Assembly
  - d A reference of the Bill by the President to the Kerala Legislature for its views

- 16** Consider these statements about the 26th SCO Heads of State meeting
- I. It was held at Bishkek on 1 September 2026, in the SCO's 25th anniversary year.
  - II. A Protocol amending the 2002 Charter added English as an official language.
  - III. An SCO Development Bank was established at the meeting.
- a II and III only
  - b I, II and III
  - c I and II only
  - d I and III only
- 17** The official themes for India's Independence Day in 2026 were:
- a Nari Shakti and Atmanirbhar Bharat
  - b Amrit Kaal and Har Ghar Tiranga
  - c 150 Years of Vande Mataram, and Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat at 2047
  - d 75 Years of the Constitution, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- 18** The order that provided 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes in AP's rural local bodies on 20 August 2026 is:
- a G.O.Ms.No.11, Backward Classes Welfare Department
  - b G.O.Ms.No.81, Finance Department
  - c G.O.Ms.No.105, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department
  - d G.O.Ms.No.3, Backward Classes Welfare Department
- 19** Which of the following is correct about the 12th National Handloom Day, 7 August 2026?
- a The Ministry of Textiles announced the theme 'Hands that Weave the Nation'
  - b The day marks the Swadeshi Movement of 1911
  - c The President presented 22 handloom awards and released four stamps at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre
  - d The Vice-President presented 24 awards at Bharat Mandapam
- 20** The Ministry of Defence's Transfer of Technology decision of 25 August 2026, approved by Rajnath Singh, opened which category of DRDO missile systems to Indian private industry?
- a Strategic and nuclear-capable systems only
  - b Only systems already inducted before 2015
  - c Only naval torpedo systems
  - d Conventional missile systems only
- 21** At the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, Basant Kumar Meghwal became the first Indian to win a high jump medal at this Championship in which discipline?
- a High jump
  - b Javelin throw
  - c Triple jump
  - d Long jump
- 22** On 30 August 2026 at Tashkent, India and Uzbekistan elevated their relationship to a:
- a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
  - b Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, from the Strategic Partnership of 2011
  - c Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership
  - d Strategic Partnership, from a Comprehensive Economic Partnership

- 23** Pragganandhaa won the 2026 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz ahead of which runner-up?
- a Javokhir Sindarov
  - b Wesley So
  - c Hikaru Nakamura
  - d Magnus Carlsen
- 24** The Geographical Indications Registry of India, with all-India jurisdiction, is at:
- a New Delhi
  - b Mumbai
  - c Kolkata
  - d Chennai
- 25** The second edition of ICMR-SHINE, concluded on 11-12 August 2026, spanned how many states and union territories?
- a 28
  - b 31
  - c 83
  - d 22
- 26** Consider these statements about the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana
- I. It aims at 5,000 MW of floating solar on reservoirs with at least two hours of co-located storage.
  - II. It pays Central Financial Assistance of Rs 1 crore per MW after commissioning.
  - III. It is the rooftop solar scheme for households.
- a II and III only
  - b I, II and III
  - c I and II only
  - d I and III only
- 27** The triple test for 'industry' under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 was laid down by a seven-judge Bench in:
- a State of Uttar Pradesh v Jai Bir Singh, 2005
  - b Golaknath v State of Punjab, 1967
  - c Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v A. Rajappa, 1978
  - d Safdarjung Hospital v Kuldeep Singh Sethi
- 28** The Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh is appointed by:
- a The Chief Minister, who heads the selection committee
  - b The Governor, by warrant, on the recommendation of a selection committee headed by the Chief Minister
  - c The Chief Justice of the High Court
  - d The President of India
- 29** At the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi, Treasa Jolly and Pullela Gayatri Gopichand won India's only medal, a bronze in:
- a Women's singles
  - b Men's doubles
  - c Women's doubles
  - d Mixed doubles
- 30** On the eve of the 80th Independence Day (14 August 2026), President Droupadi Murmu approved 78 Gallantry Awards. Which statement about this list is correct?
- a The list included 127 awards in total, more than the 2025 list
  - b Three Ashok Chakras, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, were given
  - c No Ashok Chakra was awarded this year
  - d The Ashok Chakra was awarded to a Central Armed Police Forces officer

## THE KEY

|    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | b | 2  | d | 3  | b | 4  | b | 5  | c | 6  | c |
| 7  | b | 8  | c | 9  | d | 10 | c | 11 | c | 12 | d |
| 13 | d | 14 | c | 15 | d | 16 | c | 17 | c | 18 | c |
| 19 | c | 20 | d | 21 | a | 22 | b | 23 | a | 24 | d |
| 25 | b | 26 | c | 27 | c | 28 | b | 29 | c | 30 | c |