



Daily Current Affairs

15th & 16th February 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Reports Continued Growth in Digital Payments for Six Months Ending September 2025

The index series since its inception is as under:

Period	RBI - Digital Payment Index (DPI)
March 2018 (Base)	100
March 2019	153.47
September 2019	173.49
March 2020	207.84
September 2020	217.74
March 2021	270.59
September 2021	304.06
March 2022	349.30
September 2022	377.46
March 2023	395.57
September 2023	416.77
March 2024	445.50
September 2024	465.33
March 2025	493.22
September 2025	516.76



- The Reserve Bank of India reported further improvement in Digital Payments during the six months ending September 2025, continuing the upward growth trend.
- The RBI-DPI Index rose to 516.76 in September 2025, up from 493.22 in March 2025 and 465.33 in September 2024, indicating steady expansion in payment digitisation.
- The rise in RBI-DPI was mainly driven by strong growth in Payment Performance and Payment Enablers across the country.
- The RBI-Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) has been published since January 2021 with March 2018 as the Base Year to measure the extent of digital payment adoption in India.
- The Index is based on five parameters:
- Payment Enablers – 25%
- Payment Infrastructure (Demand Side) – 10%
- Payment Infrastructure (Supply Side) – 15%
- Payment Performance – 45% (Highest Weightage)
- Consumer Centricity – 5%
- The RBI-DPI is released on a Semi-Annual basis on the RBI website with a time lag of 4 months (from March 2021 onwards).
- The September 2025 DPI (516.76) reflects continued acceleration in digital payment usage, compared to March 2025 (493.22) announced on July 28, 2025.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation unveils India's first retail inflation figures under the new CPI series (Base Year: 2024=100)

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's first retail inflation data under the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series (Base Year: 2024=100).

Key Highlights :

- India's annual retail inflation stood at 2.75%

FIRST PRESS RELEASE OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ON BASE 2024=100

Press No. 11 FEB 2024 a (CPI) on 19 Feb 2024

What's New

New series from 2021 to 2024 using Base Year: 2024=100

All India, in place of 5 groups in accordance to Classification of Individual Consumption, according to Purpose of Use (ICPI) 2018

Release of All India and State level data for rural, urban and combined areas

New Addition: Rural Banking, Other mobile service provider (prepaid) services, value added dairy products, Bakery & products, the diet & Food and Beverages, Medicines, Beverages and Confectionery

New Exclusion: Non-VOC D-BOD (plastic and Nitro) (Organic), Bats, Toys, musicals, Clothing (sewing), CIGARETTES and tobacco products and Cigarettes

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is pleased to announce the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with Base 2024=100. This data series will be corresponding weight as used in the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) 2024=100. The release is being done for enhancing the coverage and representativeness of the inflation measure. The previous inflation series provide the inflation performance, Consumer price index, Inflation and other related prices, like deflation.

Key Features

• National Level Series

• Representative Inflation: This series is All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) with base year 2024 for the month of January, 2025 and January, 2027 is 100. (When base year is 100, corresponding inflation rates for 2024 and 2025 are 0.00% and 0.00%, respectively).

in **January 2026**, marking the first inflation reading under the revised **CPI base year 2024** series.

- The **base revision** exercise updated the **CPI basket** and item weights using findings from the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24**.
- Total items in **CPI basket** increased from **299 to 358**, including **goods** rising from **259 to 308** and **services** from **40 to 50**, reflecting expansion of the **services economy** and modern consumption trends.
- Price data collection coverage expanded to **1,465 rural markets** (earlier 1,181) and **1,395 urban markets** (earlier 1,114), improving **national price representation**.
- The new CPI series includes price data from **12 online marketplaces** (cities with population above **25 lakh**), marking a major **methodological advancement** in **digital price tracking**.
- **Telangana** recorded the **highest combined CPI inflation** at **4.92%**, with food inflation at 2.74%, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.
- Next **CPI release** (February 2026 data) is scheduled for **12 March 2026 (Thursday)** or the next working day if a holiday.
- The **CPI 2024 series** adopts the **Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018** developed by the **United Nations Statistics Division**, replacing the earlier **six-group classification** structure.
- Under the **revised classification** framework, expenditure is structured into **12 divisions, 43 groups, 92 classes, 162 subclasses, and 358 item categories**, enabling **granular consumption analysis**.
- Revised **expenditure weights** reflect updated household spending behaviour from **HCES 2023–24**, with **Food & Beverages** share declining but still remaining the largest component.
- **Food & Beverages** hold the highest CPI weight at **36.75%**, followed by **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels** at **17.67%**, making them the most **inflation-sensitive** categories.
- Other key weight categories include **Transport (8.80%), Clothing & Footwear (6.38%), and Health (6.10%)**, while Recreation, Education, and Personal Care carry lower weights.
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures changes over time in **retail prices** of goods and services consumed by households, serving as India's **primary inflation indicator**.
- The CPI 2024 compilation uses the **Young/Modified Laspeyres' Index** for higher-level indices and the **Jevons Index (Short Index Formula)** for elementary indices calculation.

About Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation :

- Minister of State : Rao Inderjit Singh

NPCI International Signs Pact with PayNet Malaysia to Enable QR-Based Merchant Payments Between India and Malaysia

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the international arm of **NPCI**, signed an agreement with **Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet)** to enable **QR-based merchant payments** between **India and Malaysia**.
- The initiative will be rolled out in a **phase-wise manner** to ensure smooth implementation.
- In the **first phase**, **Indian travellers** in Malaysia can use their **UPI apps** to make payments at **DuitNow QR** merchant locations.
- In a **later phase**, **Malaysian visitors** to India will be able to make payments by scanning **UPI QR codes** using their **DuitNow apps**.
- **Indian tourists** will have access to **millions of DuitNow QR acceptance points** across Malaysia, including restaurants, retail stores, tourist attractions, and other establishments.
- This collaboration strengthens **cross-border payment connectivity** by enabling **interoperable QR payment infrastructure** that supports secure, efficient, and **seamless merchant payments** for travellers in both countries.

NPCI Intl inks pact with Malaysia's PayNet for UPI-DuitNow acceptance

The rollout of this initiative will happen in a phase-wise manner, NPCI said in a statement

NEW DELHI: NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has signed an agreement with Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet), Malaysia's national payments network, to enable QR-based merchant payments between India and Malaysia. The rollout of this initiative will happen in a phase-wise manner, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said in a statement.

In the first phase, Indian travellers visiting Malaysia will be able to use their UPI apps to make seamless cross-border merchant payments at DuitNow QR acceptance touchpoints, it said. "DuitNow QR is Malaysia's national QR standard, operated by PayNet. In the subsequent phase, Malaysians visiting India will be able to scan UPI QR codes to make merchant payments using their DuitNow apps," it said.

With this integration, Indian tourists will gain access to millions of DuitNow QR merchant touchpoints in Malaysia, across restaurants, retail stores, tourist attractions, and other establishments, it said.

Similarly, Malaysian visitors to India will benefit from acceptance at millions of UPI QR-enabled merchant locations across the country, it said.

The collaboration between NPCI International and PayNet Malaysia strengthens cross-border payment connectivity between India and Malaysia by enabling interoperable QR payment infrastructure that supports secure, efficient and seamless merchant payments for travellers in both countries, it added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI platform integrating AgriStack and ICAR agricultural systems

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the launch of **Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)**, a **multilingual AI tool** integrating **AgriStack portals** and **ICAR agricultural practice packages** with AI systems.
- **AgriStack** was launched in **2024** under the Centre's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Mission** to consolidate agriculture data on a single platform.
- **AgriStack** is a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for the farm sector under the **Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM)**, approved by the Union Cabinet in **September 2024**.
- **AgriStack** comprises three foundational registries: **Farmer Registry**, **Geo-referenced Village Maps**, and **Crop Sown Registry**, maintained by **State Governments/UTs**.
- Each farmer receives a **Unique Digital Identity** (similar to Aadhaar), known as **Kisan Pehchaan Patra**, containing landholding details and crop information.
- The Centre targets completion of the **Farmer Registry** with **dynamic Records of Rights (RoR)** synchronisation by **March 2027**; North Eastern States target: **March 2028**.
- The **Crop Sown Registry** records season-wise crop data through **mobile-based Digital Crop Surveys**.



- The **Geo-referenced Village Map Registry** contains land record geographic data linked with **latitude-longitude coordinates**.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** packages provide **scientific agricultural practice data** integrated into the AI platform.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

NSSTA Celebrates 18th Foundation Day with Focus on Viksit Bharat @2047

- **National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA)**, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), celebrated its **18th Foundation Day** at **Mahalanobis Auditorium, Knowledge Park-II, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Theme: **“Reimagining Capacity Building for Official Statistics to Achieve Vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.”**
- NSSTA functions as a **premier Central Training Institute** for strengthening India’s **official statistical system** through skill development, ethics, and technological advancement.
- Dr. **Saurabh Garg**, Secretary, MoSPI, described **data as the “fifth factor of production”**, alongside land, labour, capital, and technology.
- Key reforms highlighted:
 - **Restructuring of Indian Statistical Service (ISS)**
 - Deployment of **ISS officers across 60 ministries**
 - Focus on **district-level granular data dissemination**
- The Union Minister inaugurated the **Digital Data Lab** to promote **digital skilling, AI-enabled statistical systems, and Mission Karmayogi strengthening**.
- Mr. **Stefan Priesner**, UN Resident Coordinator, termed statistics as the **“grammar of development”**, crucial for achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030** and India’s **Vision 2047**.
- Journals **“AAROHAN”** and **“PRATIBIMB”** were released by ISS probationers.
- A panel discussion was held on **“Communicating Statistics to Policymakers and the Public.”**
- Certificates were awarded to top performers in **iGOT Karmayogi courses**.
- The event reaffirmed NSSTA’s commitment to **data-driven governance, AI integration, advanced analytics, and building a future-ready statistical workforce** aligned with **Viksit Bharat@2047** vision.



RECENT NEWS

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has presented a ₹9.13 trillion Budget for the financial year 2026–27, reflecting an increase of 12.2% over the previous year’s

outlay. The Budget was tabled in the State Assembly by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna.

NITI Aayog Releases 6th Edition of Trade Watch Quarterly (Q2 FY26)

- NITI Aayog released the **6th edition of “Trade Watch Quarterly”** for Q2 FY26 (July–September 2025) in New Delhi.
- The report was released by **Vice-Chairman Suman Bery** in the presence of **Member Arvind Virmani**.
- The publication provides a detailed analysis of **global and domestic trade trends**, with a special focus on **India’s electronics trade**.
- India’s total exports (**merchandise + services**) recorded a growth of **~8.5%** in Q2 FY26.
- **Export growth outpaced imports**, sustaining overall trade expansion.
- Global trade growth moderated but remained positive, with **services trade outperforming goods trade**.
- Trade among developing economies has expanded nearly **fourfold since 2005**, reflecting stronger integration with the **Global South**.
- Electronics emerged as the **second-largest export item** in India’s export basket.
- India’s share in global electronics demand grew at a **CAGR of 17.2% (2015–2024)** compared to global growth of **4.4%**.
- Electronics exports increased nearly **fivefold (2016–2024)**, reaching **USD 42.1 billion**.
- Global electronics trade stands at **USD 4.6 trillion**.
- Major export destinations include **United States, United Kingdom, and UAE**.
- Strength areas: **Mobile phones, Consumer electronics, Communication equipment**.
- The Union Budget allocated **₹40,000 crore** under the **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme** to boost domestic production.
- Future growth areas include **PCB design, Semiconductor assembly & testing, Power electronics, Embedded systems**.
- India ranks among the **top six global e-commerce markets**, with electronics contributing nearly **50% of online retail sales**.
- E-commerce exports are projected to contribute **20–30% of India’s merchandise exports by 2030**.
- The report highlights the need for **global value chain integration, tariff rationalisation, logistics efficiency, and skill development** to sustain export competitiveness.



RECENT NEWS

- NITI Aayog has come out with an ambitious clean energy plan for Andhra Pradesh. The policy blueprint aims to transform the State into one of India’s top renewable energy hubs by 2035.

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Uttar Pradesh Tables First-Ever Economic Survey 2025-26; Charts Roadmap for \$1 Trillion Economy

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025-26 in the State Legislature, outlining a data-driven strategy to transform the state into a **\$1 trillion economy** in the medium term.
- The survey emphasises **investment-led growth, infrastructure expansion, industrial diversification, fiscal discipline, and human development.**
- **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) (2024-25): ₹30.25 lakh crore**, nearly double from ₹13.30 lakh crore in 2016-17.
- **Projected GSDP (2025-26): ₹36 lakh crore**, reflecting nearly **12% growth rate.**
- **CAGR (2016-17 to 2024-25): 10.8%.**
- Uttar Pradesh's contribution to India's economy increased to **9.1%.**
- **Per Capita Income (2024-25): ₹1,09,844**, expected to reach **₹1,20,000 in 2025-26.**
- Achieving the \$1 trillion target (approx. ₹83 lakh crore) will require sustained **capital investment and productivity enhancement.**
- The state has created an **investment pipeline exceeding ₹50 lakh crore** in industrial proposals.
- Infrastructure expansion includes **22 expressways**, making UP India's expressway hub.
- Uttar Pradesh has the **largest rail network** in the country.
- The state plans to expand to **24 airports**, including **five international airports.**
- Governance reforms follow the **Triple "S" Framework – Safety, Stability, and Speed**, supported by digital clearance platform **Nivesh Mitra.**
- Number of registered factories crossed **30,000**, with **25% growth in industrial Gross Value Added (GVA)**, highest among major states.
- Cluster-based industrial development:
 - **Lucknow** – AI City & Capital Region
 - **Kanpur** – Drone Manufacturing & Testing Hub
 - **Noida** – IT, Electronics & Data Centres
 - **Bundelkhand** – Defence Industrial Corridor
- Uttar Pradesh ranks **4th in Startup Ecosystem** and **4th in Export Preparedness Index 2024**, while ranking **1st among landlocked states.**
- Agriculture contributes **20.6% of India's total foodgrain output.**
- The state accounts for **15.66% of India's milk production**, highest in India.
- Uttar Pradesh is the **largest producer of sugarcane, milk, and potatoes.**
- Agricultural GVA per hectare increased from **₹0.98 lakh (2017-18) to ₹1.73 lakh (2024-25).**
- Irrigated area expanded to **2.76 crore hectares**, with crop intensity rising to **193.7%.**
- State Budget 2025-26 stands at **₹8.33 lakh crore**, more than double over nine



The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday (9 February) tabled its Economic Survey 2025-26 in the state legislature, outlining the ambitious roadmap to transform India's most populous state into a \$1 trillion economy in the coming years.

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years.

- **Fiscal deficit capped at 3% of GSDP.**
- **Revenue surplus projected at 2.6% of GSDP.**
- Own tax revenue increased **2.5 times to ₹2.09 lakh crore.**
- **Debt-to-GSDP ratio at 28%**, below the national average.
- Urbanisation projected to reach **35.8% by 2046.**
- Plans include development of **Lucknow State Capital Region** and creation of **100 new townships.**

About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Becomes First Major Port to Receive IGBC Platinum and Shunya Certifications

- **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** became the **first Major Port in India** to receive the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rating.**



- The certification was awarded to the **Administration Building** for excellence in **sustainability, energy efficiency and eco-friendly infrastructure.**
- The Administration Building operates under a **Green Policy and structured waste management plan.**
- It is equipped with **rooftop solar panels** and a **high Solar Reflectance Index roof coating**, reducing the **Urban Heat Island effect** and improving energy efficiency.
- Resource conservation measures include:
 - **Internet of Things-enabled water meters**
 - **Indoor Air Quality monitoring systems**
 - **Rainwater harvesting systems**
 - **Water-saving plumbing fixtures**
- These initiatives led to a **37 per cent reduction in potable water consumption.**
- All wastewater is treated through an **on-site Sewage Treatment Plant** and fully reused within the premises.
- The Administration Building operates on **100 per cent renewable energy.**

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- **89 per cent electricity** is generated through **on-site solar power**.
- **11 per cent electricity** is sourced from **off-site renewable energy**.
- VOC Port also secured **Shunya and Shunya Plus certifications** from the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** under the **Ministry of Power**.
 - **Shunya Certification** signifies a **Net Zero Energy Building**.
 - **Shunya Plus Certification** denotes a **Net Positive Energy Building**.
- Under this framework:
 - **Port Hospital and Central Industrial Security Force Barracks** received **Shunya Plus Certification**.
 - **Administrative Building and Guest House** received **Shunya Certification**.
- The Port emphasised **health, safety and accessibility**, implementing:
 - **No Smoking Policy**
 - Use of **eco-friendly housekeeping chemicals**
 - **Non-slippery ramps and differently-abled-friendly toilets**
 - **Electric wheelchairs**
 - **Braille-enabled lifts with audio assistance**
- The campus maintains **over 70 per cent green cover**.
- The achievement aligns with **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Harit Sagar – Green Port Guidelines**, setting a benchmark for **sustainable and renewable energy-driven port infrastructure** in India.

About Tamil Nadu:

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **National Parks:** Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park, Guindy National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary, Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Vallanadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

Rajasthan Budget 2026–27 Presented with Focus on Fiscal Consolidation and Vision 2047

- The **Rajasthan Government** presented the **State Budget 2026–27** in the Legislative Assembly.
- The Budget was presented by **Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Divya Kumari**.
- The Budget focuses on **fiscal consolidation, capital expenditure growth, agriculture, infrastructure expansion and social welfare**, aligned with **Vision 2047 (Viksit Rajasthan 2047)**.
- The government reiterated adherence to **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management norms**.
- The **total Budget outlay** for 2026–27 is approximately **₹6.11 lakh crore**.
- **Key Fiscal Indicators (₹ Lakh):**



Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Divya Kumari presents the Rajasthan Budget 2026-27 to the Deputy Chief Minister.

A ₹6.11 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27, presented in the Rajasthan Assembly in Wednesday (February 11, 2026), laid focus on infrastructure, renewable energy and investment promotion, while the State's economy was estimated to reach ₹2.52 lakh crore and the per capita income was slated to increase from ₹1.07 lakh to ₹2.02 lakh.

- **Revenue Receipts:** ₹3,25,74,013
- **Revenue Expenditure:** ₹3,50,05,407
- **Capital Receipts:** ₹2,85,43,386
- **Capital Expenditure:** ₹2,60,90,222
- **Revenue Deficit:** ₹24,31,393
- **Fiscal Deficit:** ₹79,49,252 (around **3.69%** of **Gross State Domestic Product**)
- **Primary Deficit:** ₹35,81,730
- **Budget Surplus:** ₹21,770
- **Market Borrowings:** ₹27,65,278
- The fiscal deficit has been kept within **permissible limits**, reflecting financial discipline.
- **Major Sector Allocations (₹ Lakh):**
 - **Education, Sports, Art and Culture:** ₹68,98,947
 - **Medical, Health and Family Welfare:** ₹32,52,630
 - **Agriculture and Allied Activities:** ₹18,29,068
 - **Rural Development:** ₹33,59,821
 - **Industries and Minerals:** ₹1,41,006
- Key initiatives in **Education and Youth Development** include:
 - **VIBRANT Programme** for mentoring and entrepreneurship in colleges.
 - **Raj-PAHAL initiative** including **School on Wheels** for migrant children.
 - Upgrade of **400 schools into Chief Minister RISE institutions**.
 - **DREAM Programme** to benefit **50,000 students**.
 - Training of **1,000 youth in foreign languages** to enhance global employability.
- In **Agriculture and Climate**, the Budget announced:
 - **Carbon Credit Pilot Project** to promote climate-friendly farming.
 - **Digital Agriculture Mission (Raj-AIMS)** using Artificial Intelligence and satellite data.
 - **Mission Raj GIFT** for Geographical Indication tagging and market expansion.
- In **Health and Social Sector:**
 - Launch of **RAJ-SURAKSHA emergency response system**.
 - **Raj-MAMTA Mental Health Programme** with Centre of Excellence at **SMS Medical College, Jaipur**.
 - **500-bed expansion at JK Lon Hospital** and **200-bed paediatric facility at Rajasthan University of Health Sciences**.
- For **Women Empowerment:**
 - Establishment of **Rural Women Business Process Outsourcing centres** with **₹100 crore allocation**.
 - Loan limit under **Mukhyamantri Lakhpati Didi Yojana** increased to **₹1.5 lakh**.
 - Loan limit up to **₹1 crore** under **Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Udyam Protsahan Yojana**.
- In **Tourism, Information Technology and Infrastructure:**
 - Development of **ultra-luxury tourism zone at Khuri, Jaisalmer**.

- Launch of **Thar Cultural Circuit** and a **war museum in Jhunjhunu**.
- Announcement of **New Information Technology Policy** and establishment of **Rajasthan Cyber Crime Control Centre**.
- **₹32,000 crore allocation** for the **Yamuna water project in Shekhawati**.
- Launch of **PRITHWI Project** with **₹1,500 crore allocation** for wildlife conservation.
- The Budget projects **per capita income exceeding ₹2 lakh** in the coming years under the **Viksit Rajasthan 2047** roadmap.
- Announcement of the **Rajasthan State Testing Agency (RSTA)** to ensure transparency in competitive examinations.

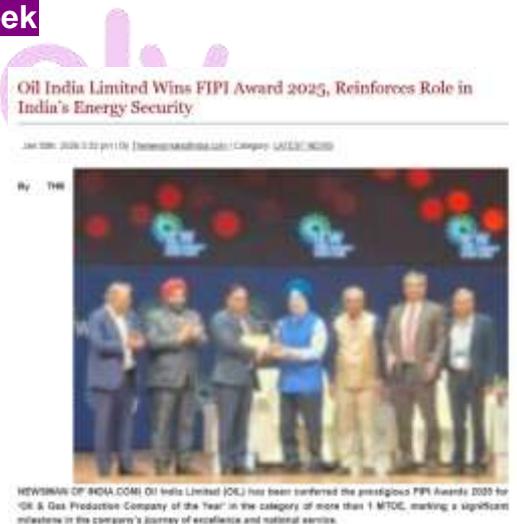
About Rajasthan:

- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Haribhau Bagade
- Chief Minister: Bajan Lal Sharma
- National Parks: Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), Desert National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary, Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Oil India Limited Wins FIPI Award 2025 at India Energy Week

- **Oil India Limited (OIL)** has won the **FIPI Award 2025** under the category **'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year'** (more than 1 MTOE).
- The award recognises OIL's **strong production performance** and contribution towards **India's energy security**.
- The award was presented by the **Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI)** during **India Energy Week held in Goa**.
- The ceremony was attended by **Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri** and **Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- **Dr Ranjit Rath**, Chairman and Managing Director of OIL, received the award on behalf of the company.
- OIL has demonstrated strong growth through:
 - Expansion of exploration activities
 - Improved recovery from mature oil fields
 - Adoption of advanced technologies
 - Enhanced operational efficiency
 - These initiatives contribute to:
 - Increase in domestic oil and gas production
 - Reduction in crude oil imports



- Strengthening India's energy infrastructure
- Support to the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance) mission
 - OIL is a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
 - The company has a strong operational presence in the **Northeast region** and is expanding its footprint across India.
 - The recognition reinforces OIL's role in ensuring **sustainable energy growth and national energy security**.

RANKING AND INDEX

Rajasthan Leads India's Wool Production in FY24; India Ranks 9th Globally

- **India ranks 2nd in sheep population globally and 9th in wool production.**
- Total sheep population in India stands at **77.4 million**.
- India's total wool production in **FY24: 33.69 million kg**.
- **Rajasthan** emerged as the largest wool-producing state with **16,013.50 thousand kg**, accounting for **47.53% share** of national output.
- Rajasthan's dominance is supported by its **arid climate and extensive grazing lands**.
- Major sheep breeds in Rajasthan include **Marwari and Chokla**, producing mainly **coarse wool** used in carpets and blankets.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** produced **7,770 thousand kg (23.06%)**, known for fine wool from **Changthangi and Merino sheep**, used in shawls and handicrafts.
- **Karnataka** produced **6,472 thousand kg**, mainly medium to coarse wool for rugs and textiles.
- **Telangana** recorded **4,422 thousand kg**, supported by state-backed sheep rearing schemes.
- **Gujarat** produced **2,083 thousand kg**, contributing coarse wool for carpet industries.
- **Maharashtra** recorded **1,601.28 thousand kg**, mainly from drought-prone regions.
- **Himachal Pradesh** produced **1,422.69 thousand kg**, known for wool used in warm garments and handicrafts.
- Other contributors include:
 - **Uttar Pradesh** – 942 thousand kg
 - **Andhra Pradesh** – 778.23 thousand kg
 - **Haryana** – 674.61 thousand kg
 - In terms of **Annual Growth Rate (AGR)**:
 - **Punjab** recorded highest growth at **22.04%**
 - **Tamil Nadu** – **17.19%**
 - **Gujarat** – **3.20%**
 - Types of wool produced in India:
- **Carpet Grade – 85%**



The Wool Producing States in India in 2024. When it comes to annual growth rate (AGR), Punjab recorded the highest increase at 22.04 per cent.

Make a content note on this

India's top wool producing states in 2024: Wool is an important fibre used in making winter clothing, carpets, floor coverings, and several industrial products. India has the second-largest sheep population in the world, with 77.4 million sheep, and ranks sixth globally in wool production. The country's wool industry is spread across both organised and unorganised sectors.

- **Apparel Grade – 5%**
- **Coarser Grade – 10%**
 - The wool industry operates in both **organised and unorganised sectors**.
 - Organised sector includes **composite mills, spinning units, and carpet manufacturing units**.
 - Unorganised sector comprises **power looms, handlooms, knitting units, and dyeing facilities**.
 - Employment impact:
- Around **1.2 million people** employed in the organised sector
- Nearly **2 million people** employed in related industries
- Carpet weaving alone provides employment to about **0.3 million workers**
 - Contribution based on sheep categories:
- **Ewes – 71.13%**
- **Rams and wethers – 14.54%**
- **Lambs – 14.33%**
 - With nearly half of national output contributed by Rajasthan, India's wool sector plays a significant role in **rural livelihood, textile production, and carpet exports**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Shikhar Dhawan Named Brand Ambassador for Delhi Government's Delhi Khel Mahakumbh Sports Initiative

- **Shikhar Dhawan**, former India cricketer and **Arjuna Awardee**, has been appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** of the **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh**, a major sports initiative of the **Delhi Government**.
- The **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh** is an initiative of the **Directorate of Education and Sports**, Government of NCT of Delhi, aimed at strengthening **grassroots sports participation and talent identification**.
- The initiative focuses on **promoting sports, nurturing young talent, and integrating sports with education** and youth development in the capital.
- The **motto** of the event is "**Aao Delhi Khele**", highlighting **mass participation and youth engagement** in sports.
- The initial phase will feature **seven sports — Kabaddi, Football, Athletics, Wrestling, Basketball, Volleyball, and Squash**.
- Competitions will be conducted across **16 different stadiums/venues** in Delhi.
- The event will witness participation from thousands of young athletes representing all **12 districts** of Delhi.
- The **official mascot 'Ranveer'** was unveiled, symbolising **energy, courage, and the sporting spirit** of Delhi's youth.



- The **Mahakumbh** is designed as a **large-scale multi-sport platform** bringing together school and community-level athletes to provide **structured competition, exposure, and pathways** towards professional sports careers.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Air Force to Showcase Combat Strength at Exercise Vayushakti-26 in Pokhran on 27 February 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will conduct **Exercise Vayushakti-26** on **27 February 2026** at **Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer**, showcasing its combat readiness and **firepower capability**.

Key Highlights :

- Vayushakti-26** is a **large-scale operational exercise** aimed at demonstrating the IAF's role as the nation's **“first, fastest and fiercest responder.”**
- The exercise will highlight the IAF's ability to **rapidly punish adversaries**, dominate the operational environment and convert **tactical actions into strategic outcomes**.
- It will exhibit **rapid response capability, precision strike power and full-spectrum aerial warfare** operations in high-intensity combat scenarios.
- Frontline fighter aircraft** participating include **Tejas, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30MKI, MiG-29 and Hawk** executing **coordinated strike missions**.
- Strategic and tactical airlift platforms** such as **C-130J, C-295 and C-17** will demonstrate **rapid troop deployment** and **logistics mobility**.
- Rotary-wing platforms** including **Chetak, ALH MK-IV, Mi-17 IV, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Apache and Chinook** will perform assault, support and rescue operations.
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)** will undertake **surveillance, reconnaissance and strike roles** during the exercise.
- The drill will feature advanced weapon systems such as **Short Range Loitering Munitions (SRLM)** for precision targeting.
- Akash Surface-to-Air Missile Systems** will demonstrate **indigenous air defence capability**.
- SpyDer Air Defence Systems** will showcase **quick-reaction aerial threat interception**.
- Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS)** will highlight **anti-drone warfare preparedness**.
- Operations will be conducted in **day, dusk and night conditions** to simulate realistic combat environments.
- The exercise reflects the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in strengthening **self-reliant defence capabilities**.
- Guided by the core values **“Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek,”** the drill emphasises **precision, invincibility and accuracy** in air operations.

CURTAIN RAISER EXERCISE VAYUSHAKTI 2026

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate its prowess through Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Air to Ground Range, Jaisalmer on 27 February 2026.

As the First, Fastest & Fiercest responder, the Indian Air Force will highlight its ability to rapidly punish the enemy, dominate operational environment from the outset and decisively influence the course of operations by transforming tactical actions into strategic outcomes. The exercise will also showcase prowess of our IAF pilots in crucial role in simultaneous assistance & disaster management by providing rapid relief and rescue & evacuation for war-torn areas within the country as well as abroad.

Full spectrum operations by fighter, transport and helicopter platforms including Tejas, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30MKI, MiG-29, Hawk, C-130J, C-295, C-17, Chetak, ALH MK-IV, Mi-17 IV, LCH, Apache, Chinook and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) will be executed. The exercise will also feature advanced weapon systems such as Short Range Loitering Munitions (SRLM), Akash, SpyDer and Counter Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS), carrying out air, land and sea missions.

Vayushakti-26 will also highlight the success of Operations Swadesh, reaffirming IAF's prowess to respond asymmetric, long-range precision targeting, multi-domain operations and its ability to deliver decisive effects with indigenous platforms guided by the vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Guided by the core values "Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek", the exercise aims to ensure the nation by reaffirming the IAF's role as a key component of India's national security architecture.



- **Vayushakti-26** will also demonstrate the IAF's role in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (HADR)** missions.

Indian Army to conduct inaugural International Military Adventure Challenge Cup 2026 in Eastern Himalayas

- The **Indian Army** will host the inaugural **International Military Adventure Challenge Cup (IMACC) 2026** from **18–23 February 2026** in the foothills of the **Eastern Himalayas**.
- **IMACC 2026** aims to bring together military teams from **India and friendly foreign nations** for a week-long series of **adventure and endurance competitions**.
- The event is designed to test **core soldier attributes** including physical fitness, **mental resilience**, teamwork, leadership, and **decision-making under pressure** in demanding **mountain terrain conditions**.
- Participating countries include **Bhutan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia**, while Indian representation includes the **Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
- The competitions will feature **terrain-based challenges, endurance events, navigation, obstacle crossing, survival skills, and coordinated team manoeuvres** in tough mountain environments.
- **IMACC replicates real operational conditions**, enhancing **operational preparedness** and promoting best practices in **adventure-based military training**.
- **International military sports events**, under the **International Military Sports Council (CISM)**, foster **camaraderie and mutual trust** among armed forces globally, following the motto "**Friendship through Sport**".
- **India** has been an active participant in **CISM activities** and previously hosted the **4th CISM Military World Games in 2007**, strengthening its profile in global military sporting events.

Indian Army To Host First-Ever IMACC 2026 In Eastern Himalayas



India, United Kingdom to deepen military training with IAF instructors training British fast jet pilots for first time

- **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** have agreed to deepen **military training cooperation**, with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** instructors set to train **British fast jet pilots** for the first time.
- The agreement was announced following the **19th UK-India Air Staff Talks** held in **New Delhi**.
- **Three Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs)** from the IAF will be deployed to **RAF Valley**, the UK's premier training base for fast jet pilots, initially for a **two-year period**.



- This marks the **first occasion** that Indian QFIs will impart fast jet training to **Royal Air Force (RAF)** pilots at **RAF Valley**, reflecting growing trust and **operational compatibility** between the two air forces.
- In **January 2026**, an IAF officer was deployed as an instructor at the **Royal Air Force College Cranwell**, which trains future RAF officers.
- With this development, **Indian officers** now serve as instructors across **all three major British military academies**:
- Indian Navy officer at **Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth** since **May 2024**
- Indian Army officer at **Royal Military Academy Sandhurst** since **May 2025**
- IAF officers at **RAF Valley** from **2026**
- In **2025**, India and the UK conducted the **largest-ever maritime exercise** involving **Carrier Strike Groups**, followed by the joint Army exercise **Ajeya Warrior** in Rajasthan.
- The IAF participated in the UK's multilateral air exercise **Cobra Warrior** in **2023** for the first time, while the RAF joined India's **Tarang Shakti** exercise in **2024**.
- **RAF Valley** on Anglesey houses **No. 4 Flying Training School** and trains aircrew for mountain and maritime operations globally.
- IAF instructors will train RAF pilots on **BAE Hawk T2** or **Texan T1** aircraft, with the **Hawk** also being India's main **advanced jet trainer**, manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** under licence from **BAE Systems**.

Indian Coast Guard Chief Paramesh Sivamani Inaugurates MJP Waterjet Production Facility in Goa, Boosting Maritime Aatmanirbharta

- **Paramesh Sivamani**, Director General of **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, inaugurated the **Waterjet Production & Testing Facility of Marine Jet Power (MJP) India** at **Goa**, marking a major step toward **Maritime Aatmanirbharta**.
- With this facility established under the **Manufacturing & Transfer of Technology** framework, India became the **third country globally** after the **United States and South Korea** to host such an advanced waterjet production and testing ecosystem.
- The facility will strengthen the **domestic supply chain**, enable **indigenous testing** of waterjet propulsion systems, and position India as a **regional hub** for **South Asia** and adjoining regions.
- The initiative is expected to boost **employment generation**, support the **MSME ecosystem**, and enhance **technology absorption** and **indigenisation capabilities** in the maritime sector.
- The **Indian Coast Guard** currently operates **100+ MJP waterjet propulsion systems** onboard its vessels, with **42 additional systems** planned for ships under construction, improving **operational sustenance**.

Director General ICG inaugurates Waterjet Production & Testing Facility in Goa

Photo On: 15 FEB 2026 14:04 by ICG Goa

The Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Sh. Dr. Paramesh Sivamani inaugurated the Waterjet Production & Testing Facility of Marine Jet Power (MJP) India at Goa on 15 February 2026, marking a significant milestone in India's pursuit of maritime indigenisation. With this advanced production and testing facility under the Manufacturing & Transfer of Technology (MoT) framework, India becomes the third country globally, after the United States and South Korea, to host such a facility. The newly inaugurated facility will boost the domestic supply chain, enable indigenous testing of waterjet systems and promote a robust local testing and servicing ecosystem. The initiative will also contribute to employment generation, support the MSME ecosystem and advance technology absorption in the sector. ICG currently operates more than 100 MJP waterjet propulsion systems onboard its vessels, with 42 additional systems planned for ships under construction. The facility is expected to boost employment generation, support the MSME ecosystem and enhance technology absorption and indigenisation capabilities in the maritime sector. DG, ICG attended the MoT's first anniversary and highlighted that the achievement is the outcome of sustained multi-tiered support rendered since 2021. During the visit, DG ICG also reviewed the progress of the indigenously built Air Caviton Vehicle at Chivande & Company Pvt Ltd. The project marks India's first indigenously built Air Caviton Vehicle program with support. MoT's indigenisation continues with delivery of the first vessel scheduled for May 2026.



- The new facility will significantly enhance **indigenous maintenance, repair and lifecycle support** capabilities for **ICG platforms**.
- This achievement resulted from **sustained multi-tier engagements** initiated since **2023**, reinforcing **ICG's commitment** to self-reliance in maritime technology.
- During the visit, **DG ICG** also reviewed progress of **six indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)** at **Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd**.
- This project represents **India's first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle programme** with nearly **50% indigenous content**.
- The delivery of the **first ACV** under the programme is scheduled for **May 2026**, strengthening **coastal security** and **rapid response capability**.

Second Edition of Indian Navy Half Marathon Held in New Delhi

- The **second edition** of the **Indian Navy Half Marathon** was conducted in **New Delhi**, featuring three race categories: **21.1 km, 10 km, and 5 km**.
- The **Half Marathon** was flagged off by **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** in the presence of **Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, while the **10 km run** was flagged off by **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya**.
- The event was graced by **Padma Bhushan awardees Saina Nehwal and PR Sreejesh**, along with senior management of the title partner **IDFC First Bank**, officials of **IOCL**, and other associate partners.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Unicorn India Ventures Launch ₹600-Crore DeepTech Fund with ₹400-Crore Greenshoe to Back Early-Stage Startups

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** and **Unicorn India Ventures** jointly launched the **₹600-crore IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund I** with an additional **₹400-crore greenshoe option** to support **early-stage deeptech startups**.
- The fund will invest in **engineering-led and IP-driven startups** across sectors such as **robotics, space technology, defence tech, semiconductors, and medical technology**.



IIT Madras Research Park, Unicorn India Ventures announce Rs. 600 Crore deep tech fund at E-Summit 2026

Indian deep tech ecosystem

Prof. V. Kamasani, Director, IIT Madras, made this landmark announcement during the inauguration of Entrepreneurship Summit 2026 on the campus today (16th Feb 2026). The Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell), IIT Madras is hosting the 11th edition of its flagship annual event, from 6th to 9th February, 2026.

IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) is partnering with Unicorn India Ventures (UIV) to launch a Rs. 600 crore deep tech fund called IIT Madras Unicorn Frontier Fund I. The fund will have Rs. 400 crore 'greenshoe option' and target 25+ startups, initially. IITMRP and UIV will play an equal role in strategic portfolio construction with a significant portion of the companies to be sourced from IITM's larger ecosystem and balance from the wider

Key Highlights :

- Initial investments will range between **₹8–10 crore** in **25+ startups**, primarily targeting firms at **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 3–4**, where core technology is validated for commercialisation.

- The fund is structured as a **10-year corpus** (with a **2-year extension option**), with **60%** allocated for building the initial portfolio and **40%** reserved for **follow-on funding** to help startups cross the “**valley of death.**”
- **IIT Madras Research Park** is partnering in the initiative, with both entities playing an equal role in **strategic portfolio construction**.
- A significant portion of startups will be sourced from the **IIT Madras innovation ecosystem**, while the rest will come from the broader **Indian deeptech landscape**.
- The announcement was made by **V. Kamakoti**, Director of IIT Madras, during the **Entrepreneurship Summit 2026** held on campus (**6–8 February 2026**).
- The fund launch event was attended by **Swapnil Jain**, Co-founder of **Ather Energy**, an IIT Madras-incubated startup.
- **E-Summit 2026**, organised by the **Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell), IIT Madras**, featured **PitchFest** and **Elevate**, offering **on-the-spot investments** from angel to Series-A funds.
- The **Startup Expo (7–8 February 2026)** showcased **80+ startups** to students, investors, and industry leaders.
- **50 E-Cell supported ventures** progressed from ideation to **Minimum Viable Product (MVP)** through initiatives like **Ideasprint** and **Bootcamp**.
- **21 school startups** under the **E-21 initiative** were also showcased, with top five teams qualifying for **Ideabaaz Season 2**.

Mud Volcano Erupts Near Jol Tekri in Diglipur; Authorities Restrict Public Access in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- A **mud volcano eruption** occurred near **Jol Tekri, Diglipur** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, leading authorities to restrict public access as a precautionary measure.
- **Diglipur**, located in **North Andaman**, witnessed the eruption after **loud rumbling sounds**, followed by the **flow of mud**, confirming active **underground geological movement**; no casualties or structural damage were reported.
- A **mud volcano** is different from a **lava volcano** as it ejects **mud, water and gases** instead of molten rock, and its activity is driven by **underground pressure** and **fluid/gas movement**.
- **Mud volcanoes** are also known as “**sedimentary volcanoes**” or “**gas-oil volcanoes**”, and they act as important indicators of **subsurface tectonic and fluid dynamics**.
- The **Andaman region** is geologically sensitive because it lies near the **convergence of multiple tectonic plates**, making it prone to **seismic and volcanic activity**.
- In India, the only known mud volcano is located on **Baratang Island**, which is part of the Andaman island chain.



- **Geologists** plan to collect **gas and sediment samples** from the **Diglipur eruption site** to study **deeper crustal processes** and improve understanding of future geological risks.
- **Monitoring methods** may include **satellite imagery** and **ground-based sensors** to track ongoing or future activity.
- The eruption has temporarily affected **nearby forest ecosystems**, with mud covering **soil and vegetation**, though no major wildlife loss has been reported.

APPS & PORTALS

SH Act 2013 Ensures Safe and Secure Workplace Environment for Women

- The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act)** aims to provide a **safe and secure working environment** for women.
- The **SH Act** covers **all women**, irrespective of age or employment status, in **public and private sectors**, organised and unorganised, including **domestic workers**.
- The Act establishes institutional mechanisms for redressal through **Internal Committees (IC)** and **Local Committees (LC)**.
- An **Internal Committee** is **mandatory** in workplaces with **10 or more employees** to handle **complaints of sexual harassment**.
- A **Local Committee** is constituted at the **district level** to address cases in workplaces with **fewer than 10 employees** or complaints against employers.
- The Act enforces compliance through **strict penalties** for employers who fail to implement its provisions.
- A **first violation** attracts a fine of **₹50,000**, while **repeat violations** may lead to a **double fine** and possible **cancellation or non-renewal** of business licences.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** is the **nodal ministry** responsible for effective implementation of the Act.
- The **MWCD** launched the **Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box)** on **29th August 2024**.
- **SHe-Box** serves as a **single-window, centralised digital platform**, creating a **central repository** to strengthen **monitoring** of the Act's implementation and track cases filed and disposed of nationwide.



SPORTS NEWS

India Tops Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 with 94 Medals

- **India finished 1st in the medal tally** at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.

- **Total Medal Tally:**
 - **51 Gold**
 - **23 Silver**
 - **20 Bronze**
 - **Total: 94 Medals**
- On the final day, India won **6 Gold, 3 Silver, and 4 Bronze**, consolidating its dominance.
- **25m Centre Fire Pistol (Senior):**
 - Amanpreet Singh – **Gold (589-24x)**
 - Gurpreet Singh – **Silver (584-20x)**
 - Ankur Goel – **Bronze (570-11x)**
 - India also won **Team Gold**.
- **25m Pistol (Junior):**
 - Suraj Sharma – **Gold (585-25x)**
 - Mukesh Nelavalli – **Silver (582-21x)**
 - Abhinav Deshwal – **Bronze (573-17x)**
 - India achieved **podium sweep** and secured **Team Gold**.
- **50m Rifle Prone (Women – Senior):**
 - Sift Kaur Samra – **Silver (623.2)**
 - Tejaswani Sawant – **Bronze**
 - Team Gold won by Sift Kaur Samra, Tejaswani Sawant, and Manini Kaushik.
- **50m Rifle Prone (Women – Junior):**
 - Dhavalika Devi Nyamurus – **Bronze (614.1)**
 - Prachi Gaikwad, Anuskha Thokur, and Dhavalika Devi Nyamurus won **Team Gold**.
- India recorded **multiple podium sweeps** and strong performances across **senior and junior categories**.
- The championship highlighted India's **depth in pistol and rifle events** and reinforced its position as a **leading shooting nation in Asia**.



Daily CA One- Liner: February 15 & 16

- **National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA)**, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), celebrated its **18th Foundation Day** at **Mahalanobis Auditorium, Knowledge Park-II, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**
- **NITI Aayog** released the **6th edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly"** for **Q2 FY26 (July–September 2025)** in **New Delhi**
- **The Government of Uttar Pradesh presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025-26 in the State Legislature**, outlining a data-driven strategy to transform the state into a **\$1 trillion economy** in the medium term
- **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** became the **first Major Port in India** to receive the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rating**

- The **Rajasthan Government** presented the **State Budget 2026–27** in the Legislative Assembly.
- **India** ranks **2nd in sheep population** globally and **9th in wool production**
- **Oil India Limited (OIL)** has won the **FIPI Award 2025** under the category ‘**Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year**’
- **India** finished **1st in the medal tally** at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** reported further improvement in **Digital Payments** during the **six months ending September 2025**, continuing the upward growth trend.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released India’s first retail inflation data under the new **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** series (**Base Year: 2024=100**).
- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the international arm of **NPCI**, signed an agreement with **Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet)** to enable **QR-based merchant payments** between **India and Malaysia**.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the launch of **Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)**, a **multilingual AI tool** integrating **AgriStack portals** and **ICAR** agricultural practice packages with AI systems.
- **Shikhar Dhawan**, former India cricketer and **Arjuna Awardee**, has been appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** of the **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh**, a major sports initiative of the **Delhi Government**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will conduct **Exercise Vayushakti-26** on **27 February 2026** at **Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer**, showcasing its combat readiness and **firepower capability**.
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- **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** have agreed to deepen **military training cooperation**, with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** instructors set to train **British fast jet pilots** for the first time.
- **Paramesh Sivamani**, Director General of **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, inaugurated the **Waterjet Production & Testing Facility** of **Marine Jet Power (MJP) India** at **Goa**, marking a major step toward **Maritime Aatmanirbharta**.
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