

NMAI Current Affairs MCQ Monthly Current Affairs MCQ (1 to 31 January 2026)

Q. Kavach Version 4.0, recently commissioned across multiple railway sections, is best described as:

- A. A foreign-developed signalling software adopted by Indian Railways
- B. An automatic fare collection and passenger information system
- **C. India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection system ✓**
- D. A high-speed rail technology used only on bullet train corridors

Explanation: Kavach 4.0 is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, approved by RDSO, designed to prevent train collisions, Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD) incidents, and overspeeding.

Q. In its 30 January 2026 ruling, the Supreme Court held that the right to menstrual hygiene is intrinsically linked to which constitutional provision?

- A. Article 14 – Right to Equality
- B. Article 15 – Prohibition of Discrimination
- C. Article 19 – Right to Freedom
- **D. Article 21 – Right to Life and Personal Liberty ✓**

Explanation: The Supreme Court ruled that menstrual hygiene is an essential component of the Right to Life under Article 21, as it affects dignity, health, privacy, and equality of women and girls.

Q. According to the Economic Survey 2025–26, what is the projected real GDP growth rate for India in FY26?

- A. 6.5%
- B. 7.0%
- **C. 7.4% ✓**
- D. 8.1%

Explanation: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2025–26 in the Lok Sabha on 29 February 2026. The Survey projects strong real GDP growth of 7.4% for India, along with a historic low inflation rate of 1.7%.

Q. Why did the Supreme Court keep the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 in abeyance?

- A. Because the Regulations lacked approval of the Union Cabinet
 - B. Due to procedural lapses in framing the Regulations
 - **C. Due to doubts over constitutional validity, including vagueness and potential misuse ✓**
 - D. Because universities failed to implement the Regulations
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Q. Which Service was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent at the Republic Day Parade 2026?

- A. Indian Army
 - B. Indian Air Force
 - **C. Indian Navy ✓**
 - D. Assam Regiment
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Q. Which force won the Best Marching Contingent award among Central Armed Police Forces and Auxiliary Forces in 2026?

- A. CRPF
 - B. BSF
 - C. ITBP
 - **D. Delhi Police ✓**
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Q. Which state's tableau titled "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta" secured first place in 2026?

- A. Gujarat
 - **B. Maharashtra ✓**
 - C. Kerala
 - D. Uttar Pradesh
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Q. Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, died in a tragic plane crash on 28 January 2026 when a Learjet 45 (VT-SSK) crash-landed at which airport?

- A. Pune Airport
 - B. Mumbai Airport
 - **C. Baramati Airport ✓**
 - D. Nagpur Airport
-

Q. The India–European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is described as the _____.

- A. Deal of the decade
- B. Turning point in trade
- C. Global trade booster
- D. "Mother of all deals" ✓

Explanation: On 27 January 2026, India and the European Union officially concluded negotiations on a landmark FTA, described as the "mother of all deals" due to its scale and strategic impact.

Q. What milestone will be achieved during the Budget Session 2026 in relation to the Union Budget?

- A. First Budget under GST regime
- B. First Union Budget presented by a President
- C. Introduction of Digital Rupee in Budget
- D. Ninth consecutive Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ✓

The Budget Session of Parliament 2026 began on 28 January with President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of both Houses.

Q. Which of the following is a major change introduced in the UGC's 2026 Equity Regulations compared to the 2012 guidelines?

- A. They remain advisory in nature
- B. They now include OBC students along with SC/ST students ✓
- C. Institutions are free to voluntarily adopt them
- D. They only apply to central universities

Explanation: The 2026 regulations expand protection to OBC students, correcting earlier gaps and making the framework more inclusive and legally binding.

Q. Who received the Ashoka Chakra during the 77th Republic Day 2026 celebration?

- A. Captain Vikram Batra
- B. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla ✓
- C. Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma

- D. Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan

Explanation: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was awarded the Ashoka Chakra for his historic role in Axiom Mission-4 (Ax-4), making him the first Indian astronaut to receive India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

Q. Which country has been announced as Bangladesh's replacement for the T20 World Cup 2026?

- A. Ireland
- B. Nepal
- C. Scotland ✓
- D. Netherlands

Explanation: The ICC confirmed that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in Group C of the T20 World Cup 2026, to be held in India and Sri Lanka.

Q. Which veteran Bollywood actor received the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 2026?

- a. Rajesh Khanna
- b. Dharmendra Singh Deol ✓
- c. Amitabh Bachchan
- d. Jeetendra

Explanation: Veteran actor Dharmendra Singh Deol was awarded the Padma Vibhushan (posthumously) as part of the Padma Awards 2026.

Q. In January 2025, Indian Railways deployed its first humanoid robot ASC ARJUN at which railway station?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chennai Central
- C. Visakhapatnam ✓
- D. Secunderabad

Explanation: Indian Railways deployed its first humanoid robot ASC ARJUN at Visakhapatnam Railway Station to enhance passenger safety, security, and service delivery. The robot works alongside Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel.

Q. The Rozgar Mela initiative of the Government of India is primarily aimed at:

- A. Providing skill training and internships to unemployed youth

- **B. Fast-tracking recruitment and distributing appointment letters for government jobs ✓**
- C. Encouraging private sector participation in employment generation
- D. Offering financial assistance for self-employment schemes

Explanation: The Rozgar Mela initiative aims to accelerate government recruitment by directly distributing appointment letters to newly selected candidates across various ministries and departments.

Q. Parakram Diwas is celebrated to honor which Indian freedom fighter?

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- **C. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ✓**
- D. Mahatma Gandhi

Parakram Diwas is celebrated every year on 23 January to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's courage, leadership, and contribution to India's freedom struggle.

Q. Basant Panchami, which marks the arrival of spring, is primarily dedicated to which goddess?

- A. Goddess Lakshmi
- B. Goddess Durga
- **C. Goddess Saraswati ✓**
- D. Goddess Parvati

Basant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja, is celebrated across India to worship Goddess Saraswati — the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, and arts. In 2026, it was observed on 23 January.

Q. The first phase of the Census beginning April 1, 2026 focuses on which aspect?

- A. Population enumeration
- **B. Houselisting and housing enumeration ✓**
- C. Employment survey
- D. Agricultural census

The Government of India has notified 33 questions for the first phase of Census 2026. This phase will collect data on households, housing conditions, and basic amenities.

Q. In January 2026, the Union Government has extended the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to which financial year?

- A. 2027–28
- B. 2028–29
- C. 2029–30
- D. 2030–31 ✓

Explanation: On 21 January 2026, the Union Government approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) till 2030–31. The decision also included equity support of ₹5,000 crore to SIDBI to boost MSMEs.

Q. What was the former name of Amrit Udyan located at Rashtrapati Bhavan?

- A. Raj Bhavan Garden
- B. Central Vista Garden
- C. Mughal Gardens ✓
- D. President's Green Estate

Explanation: Amrit Udyan, earlier known as Mughal Gardens, is located at Rashtrapati Bhavan. It will be open to the public from 3 February to 31 March 2026 during the annual Udyan Utsav.

Q. The Sixth Edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 was inaugurated in January 2026 at which venue?

- a. Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Itanagar
- b. NDS Stadium, Leh ✓
- c. Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune
- d. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi

Explanation: The Sixth Edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 began on 20 January 2026 at NDS Stadium, Leh. The event was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

Q. Who authored the book "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response" released on 20 January 2026?

- a. Nripendra Mishra
- b. Surendra Kumar Pachauri ✓
- c. Vinod Rai
- d. Amit Khare

Explanation: On 20 January 2026, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book in New Delhi. The book is authored by Surendra Kumar Pachauri, a former Secretary to the Government of India.

Q. In which Swiss town is the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting traditionally held?

- A. Geneva
- B. Zurich
- **C. Davos ✓**
- D. Basel

Explanation: The World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland is a global gathering where leaders from politics, business, academia, and civil society meet annually to discuss pressing global challenges and shape future solutions. Dates: January 19–23, 2026.

Q. Who is the youngest leader elected as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)?

- A. J.P. Nadda
- B. Amit Shah
- **C. Nitin Nabin ✓**
- D. Rajnath Singh

Explanation: Nitin Nabin has been elected unopposed as the new National President of the BJP, formally taking charge on January 20, 2026. At 45 years old, he is the youngest person ever to lead the BJP.

Q. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India on 19 January 2026 in what capacity?

- a. Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
- **b. President of the United Arab Emirates ✓**
- c. UAE Foreign Minister
- d. UAE Defence Minister

Explanation: President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, visited India on January 19, 2026, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Q. Under which Act was the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) constituted in 2006?

- A. Civil Defence Act
- **B. Disaster Management Act ✓**

- C. Indian Penal Code
- D. Environmental Protection Act

Explanation: The NDRF was constituted in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. NDRF Raising Day is celebrated every year on 19 January.

Q. What is the primary purpose of the "Board of Peace" in Trump's Gaza Peace Plan announced in January 2026?

- A. To oversee military operations in Gaza
- **B. To supervise technocratic governance and reconstruction ✓**
- C. To expand trade relations with Gaza
- D. To establish a new political party

Explanation: The "Board of Peace" is part of Phase Two of Trump's Gaza Peace Plan, focusing on demilitarisation, technocratic governance, and reconstruction.

Q. India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train flagged off on 17 January 2026 operates between which two stations?

- a. Mumbai – Ahmedabad
- **b. Howrah – Guwahati (Kamakhya) ✓**
- c. Delhi – Varanasi
- d. Chennai – Bengaluru

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train on 17 January 2026, connecting Howrah with Guwahati (Kamakhya).

Q. Who has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in January 2026?

- A. Rakesh Asthana
- **B. Praveen Vashista ✓**
- C. Rajiv Gauba
- D. Ajit Doval

Explanation: Praveen Vashista, a 1991-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the CVC. He took the oath of office on 16 January 2026, completing the three-member structure of the Commission.

Q. Which officer was appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) on 14 January 2026?

- A. Praveen Kumar ✓
- B. Rakesh Aggarwal
- C. Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
- D. Sadanand Vasant Date

Explanation: On 14 January 2026, the Government of India appointed new Director Generals for three major security agencies — BSF, ITBP, and NIA. Praveen Kumar was appointed as the DG of BSF.

Q. Startup India was officially launched on which date?

- a. 26 January 2015
- b. 16 January 2016 ✓
- c. 2 October 2014
- d. 15 August 2017

Explanation: Startup India was launched on 16 January 2016 and has completed a decade of transforming India into a major global startup hub. It shifted India from a nation of job seekers to job creators and is celebrated every year as National Startup Day (16 January).

Q. Which two EU leaders will be the Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations?

- a. Charles Michel and Josep Borrell
- b. António Luís Santos da Costa and Ursula von der Leyen ✓
- c. Mario Draghi and Christine Lagarde
- d. Olaf Scholz and Roberta Metsola

Explanation: The President of the European Council, António Luís Santos da Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, were the Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January at Kartavya Path.

Q. Army Day commemorates the appointment of which officer as India's first Commander-in-Chief?

- A. Sam Manekshaw
- B. K.S. Thimayya
- C. K.M. Cariappa ✓

- D. Bipin Rawat

Explanation: The 78th Army Day was celebrated on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, commemorating the 1949 appointment of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

Q. In which Middle East country were widespread anti-government protests held in December 2025 and January 2026 due to economic hardships and soaring prices?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- **B. Iran ✓**
- C. Turkey
- D. Egypt

Explanation: In January 2026, Iran witnessed its most serious unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The protests began in late December 2025 over economic hardships and rising prices, and later expanded into nationwide anti-government demonstrations against the clerical leadership.

Q. The name "Lohri" is believed by many to be a combination of which two traditional food words?

- A. Ladoo and Rorhi
- **B. Til and Rorhi ✓**
- C. Loh and Ri
- D. Gur and Rewri

(Til means sesame seeds and Rorhi means jaggery)

Lohri is a popular harvest and winter festival celebrated mainly in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and North India. It is observed every year on 13 January.

Q. Armed Forces Veterans' Day (14 January) marks the retirement anniversary of which military leader?

- A. General Bipin Rawat
- B. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw
- **C. Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa ✓**
- D. General K.S. Thimayya

Explanation: Armed Forces Veterans' Day is observed every year on 14 January to honour the service, sacrifice, and contributions of India's military veterans. This day marks the retirement anniversary of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa in 1953.

Q. India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026. Which of the following is the official theme of India's presidency?

- A. Global South: Unity and Prosperity
- **B. Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability ✓**
- C. Digital Future for Inclusive Growth
- D. Humanity First: Peace and Progress

Explanation: India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026, which will also mark the 20th anniversary of the BRICS grouping. India's presidency theme focuses on strengthening resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability among BRICS nations.

Q. Which film won the Golden Globe for Best Movie – Drama in 2026?

- A. The Revenant
- **B. Hamnet ✓**
- C. Marty Supreme
- D. One Battle After Another

Q. Which film won the Golden Globe for Best Movie – Musical or Comedy in 2026?

- A. Marty Supreme
- B. K-Pop Demon Hunters
- **C. One Battle After Another ✓**
- D. Barbie

Explanation: The dark comedy One Battle After Another won Best Movie – Musical or Comedy.

Q. Who is the Chancellor of Germany who visited India in January 2026 to strengthen bilateral strategic relations?

- A. Olaf Scholz
- **B. Friedrich Merz ✓**
- C. Angela Merkel
- D. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Explanation: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited India on January 12–13, 2026, to strengthen strategic ties.

Q. National Youth Day is observed every year on 12 January to mark the birth anniversary of which Indian personality?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Bhagat Singh
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Swami Vivekananda ✓

National Youth Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a great spiritual leader, philosopher, and youth icon of India.

Q. What is the primary payload carried by ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission launched on 12 January 2026?

- A. CARTOSAT-3
- B. EOS-N1 (Anvesha) ✓
- C. RISAT-2BR2
- D. INSAT-3D

ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 mission from Sriharikota. EOS-N1 (Anvesha), developed by DRDO, is a strategic Earth observation satellite capable of high-precision imaging.

Q. Greenland is a self-governing territory under the sovereignty of which country?

- A. Norway
- B. Denmark ✓
- C. Iceland
- D. Canada

Greenland is a self-governing territory under the Kingdom of Denmark and holds major strategic importance due to its Arctic location and mineral resources.

Q. Which two cities hosted Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 matches from January 9 to February 5, 2026?

- A. Delhi & Pune
- B. Mumbai & Ahmedabad
- C. Navi Mumbai & Vadodara ✓
- D. Jaipur & Kolkata

Explanation: The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026, the 4th edition of India's women's T20 league, was held from January 9 to February 5, 2026, across Navi Mumbai and Vadodara.

Q. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, celebrated every year on January 9, commemorates the return of which leader to India?

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- **C. Mahatma Gandhi ✓**
- D. Sardar Patel

Explanation: Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is observed on January 9 to mark Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.

Q. The Budget Session of Parliament is important primarily because it includes:

- A. State Budget Presentation
- B. Lok Sabha Elections
- **C. Economic Survey & Union Budget Presentation ✓**
- D. Judiciary Appointments

Explanation: The Budget Session of Parliament 2026 began on January 28, 2026, and runs till April 2, 2026. It includes the President's Address, Economic Survey, and the presentation of the Union Budget.

Q. What is the primary milestone being commemorated by the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' in January 2026?

- A. The completion of the new high-speed rail to Veraval
- B. 500 years since the reconstruction by Queen Ahilyabai Holkar
- C. 100 years of the Diamond Jubilee of Indian Independence
- **D. 1,000 years since the first documented attack by Mahmud of Ghazni ✓**

Explanation: The Somnath Swabhiman Parv is observed from 8 January to 11 January 2026 to mark a major civilizational milestone — 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple by Mahmud of Ghazni in January 1026.

Q. Who is the nodal ministry responsible for conducting the Census in India?

- A. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- **B. Ministry of Home Affairs ✓**

- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Finance

The Government of India has issued the notification for the first phase of Census of India 2027. House Listing Operations will be conducted from 1 April to 30 September 2026.

Q. What is the official theme for the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026?

- A. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
- B. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One World, One Family
- **C. Indian Military History: Valour and Wisdom @ 75 ✓**
- D. Digital India: Future of Reading

Explanation: The 53rd New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 will be held from January 10 to January 18 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The official theme "Valour and Wisdom @ 75" pays tribute to the Indian Armed Forces and their invaluable contribution to the nation's unity and security since Independence.

Q. NHAI in January 2026 achieved two Guinness World Records for laying which material on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor?

- A. Portland Cement
- **B. Bituminous Concrete ✓**
- C. Fly Ash Concrete
- D. Rubberized Asphalt

NHAI set two Guinness World Records for the longest continuous bituminous concrete layer and highest volume laid within 24 hours on the Vanawolu–Vankarkunta section of the six-lane Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor.

Q. In January 2026, India became the first country to commercially produce which road construction material?

- A. Polymer-modified asphalt
- **B. Bio-bitumen ✓**
- C. Fly ash cement
- D. Glassphalt

On 7 January 2026, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that India has become the world's first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction.

Q. As per the first advance estimates released on 7 January 2026, India's real GDP growth rate for 2025–26 has been projected at:

- A. 6.5%
- B. 7.0%
- C. **7.4% ✓**
- D. 8.2%

India's real GDP for 2025–26 is estimated to grow at 7.4%, higher than the previous fiscal year (6.5%). As per the first advance estimate released on 7 January 2026 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDP is expected to exceed ₹201 lakh crore in the current fiscal year, compared to the provisional estimate of ₹187 lakh crore for 2024–25.

Q. Indian Railways is the largest electrified rail network in the world, surpassing which countries?

- A. USA and UK
- B. **China and Russia ✓**
- C. Japan and Germany
- D. France and Italy

Indian Railways has become the world's largest electrified rail system, completing 100 years of electrification in 2025. Nearly all of India's 70,000 route-kilometre broad-gauge network is now powered by electricity.

Q. The Integrated Security Hub (ICCC) inaugurated in January 2026 is located at which place?

- A. Port Blair
- B. Diglipur
- C. Car Nicobar
- D. **Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands ✓**

The ICCC was inaugurated on 3 January 2026 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Sri Vijaya Puram in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Q. India's largest integrated inland Rainbow Trout farm was inaugurated in January 2026 in which state?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand

- C. Telangana ✓
- D. Jammu & Kashmir

On 5 January 2026, Union Minister of Fisheries Rajiv Ranjan Singh, along with Union Coal Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy, inaugurated India's largest integrated inland Rainbow Trout farm in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana.

Q. India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train was launched in January 2026 on which route?

- A. Delhi – Mumbai
 - B. Chennai – Bengaluru
 - C. Kolkata (Howrah) – Guwahati ✓
 - D. Mumbai – Ahmedabad
-

Q. What was the codename of the U.S. military operation conducted in Venezuela in January 2026?

- A. Operation Iron Shield
 - B. Operation Absolute Resolve ✓
 - C. Operation Freedom Storm
 - D. Operation Southern Watch
-

Q. World Braille Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. On which date is World Braille Day observed every year?

- A. 2 January
- B. 3 January
- C. 4 January ✓
- D. 5 January

World Braille Day is observed every year on 4 January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille script.

Q. India surpassed which country to become the world's largest producer of rice in January 2026?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Thailand
- C. United States

- **D. China ✓**

India emerged as the world's largest producer of rice, overtaking China, according to Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who made the announcement in New Delhi on 4 January 2026.

Q. Who has been appointed as the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team?

- A. Graham Reid
- B. Janneke Schopman
- **C. Sjoerd Marijne ✓**
- D. Michael Nobbs

On 2 January 2025, Sjoerd Marijne was appointed as the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team, as announced by Hockey India.

Q. India's first bullet train, scheduled to be launched on 15 August 2027, will operate on which high-speed rail corridor?

- A. Delhi–Varanasi
- B. Chennai–Bengaluru
- C. Delhi–Ahmedabad
- **D. Mumbai–Ahmedabad ✓**

India's first bullet train is scheduled to be inaugurated on 15 August 2027. The high-speed rail service will operate on the 508-km Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor.

Q. Exercise Desert Cyclone II was conducted between which two armed forces from 18–30 December 2025?

- A. Indian Army and US Army
- B. Indian Navy and UAE Navy
- **C. Indian Army and UAE Land Forces ✓**
- D. Indian Air Force and UAE Air Force

The second edition of the joint military exercise Desert Cyclone II between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces concluded successfully on 30 December 2025 at Al-Hamra Training City, Abu Dhabi.

Q. What is the official title of the Grand International Exposition showcasing the sacred Piprahwa relics related to Bhagwan Buddha, inaugurated in New Delhi in January 2026?

- A. Relics of Kapilavastu: The Buddha Legacy
- B. Sacred India: Buddhist Heritage and Art
- C. Buddha and the Path of Enlightenment
- D. **The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One ✓**

Explanation: The exposition "The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" brings together repatriated Piprahwa relics along with authenticated artefacts from national museum collections, highlighting India's civilizational and spiritual connection with the teachings of Bhagwan Buddha.

Q. Who took charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 January 2026?

- A. Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh
- B. Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari
- C. **Nagesh Kapoor ✓**
- D. Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Nagesh Kapoor assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 January 2026.

Q. India test-fired two 'Pralay' missiles in a salvo mode on 31 December 2025. The test was conducted off which state's coast?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. **Odisha ✓**
- d. Andhra Pradesh

Q. On 31 December 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 6-lane greenfield access-controlled highway connecting which major cities?

- a. Pune–Nagpur
- b. **Nashik–Solapur–Akkalkot ✓**
- c. Mumbai–Aurangabad
- d. Indore–Bhopal