

1. **National Arogya Fair 2026.** The President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Arogya Fair 2026 in **Shegaon, Buldhana, Maharashtra on 25 Feb 26.** The President conferred the **Lifetime Ayurvedic Gaurav Samman** on six individuals who have made important contribution in the field of AYUSH healthcare.



- **Key Notes.**

- **Theme Phrase:** "Aarogyam Paramam Sukham" (Good health is the greatest happiness).
- Ayurvedic Gaurav Samman was awarded to **Vaidya Devendra Triguna, Vaidya Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Dr. Manisha Kotekar, P. M. Varier and Dr. Ramdas.**
- **Important Personalities (Current Portfolios).**
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Shri Acharya Devvrat.
 - Union MoS (Independent Charge) for Ayush: Shri Prataprao Jadhav.
 - Secretary, Ministry of Ayush: Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha.

2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred with the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal."** On 25 Feb 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **"Speaker of the Knesset Medal"**, the highest honour of the Israeli Parliament (**Knesset**). This makes him the first world leader to receive this newly established decoration. The medal was conferred by Amir Ohana, Speaker of the Knesset.



- **Key Notes.**

- Since 2014, PM Modi has received over 30 international awards. Here are the most significant ones categorized by year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Country / Org</u>	<u>Award Name</u>
2026	Israel	Speaker of the Knesset Medal (Highest Parliamentary Honor)
2025	Namibia	Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis
2025	Brazil	Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross
2025	Oman	The First Class of the Order of Oman
2025	Ethiopia	Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia

<u>Year</u>	<u>Country / Org</u>	<u>Award Name</u>
2025	Trinidad & Tobago	Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
2025	Ghana	Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana
2025	Cyprus	Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III
2025	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana
2025	Mauritius	Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean
2025	Barbados	Honorary Order of Freedom

3. **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025.** In pursuit of the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision, the Government of India has introduced the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025**. Aimed at dismantling the legacy "inspector raj" in academia, the Bill seeks to replace the existing fragmented regulatory architecture—the University Grants Commission (**UGC**), the All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**), and the National Council for Teacher Education (**NCTE**)—with a single, streamlined umbrella commission.

The VBSA Bill is currently under the scrutiny of a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**, headed by BJP MP **D. Purandeswari**. While the consolidation of regulators promises to reduce bureaucratic red tape and align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the success of the VBSA will depend on its ability to balance centralized efficiency with institutional autonomy.

- **Key Notes.**

- It repeals the laws that established the **UGC, AICTE, and NCTE**, subsuming them into a single body.
- The "Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan" will be a **12-member umbrella commission**.
- The Commission will handle **regulatory standards and accreditation**, but **forfeits the power to disburse grants**.
- Grant disbursement will move to the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Chairperson:** Headed by **BJP MP D. Purandeswari**.

4. **The Mandate: Nationwide E20 Rollout.** The Government of India has issued a notification under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, mandating a nationwide shift in fuel standards to support energy security and environmental goals. From **1 Apr 26**, all Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are mandated to sell ethanol-blended petrol (up to 20% ethanol) across all States and Union Territories.

- **Key notes.**

- The mandated fuel must have a minimum **Research Octane Number (RON) of 95**.
- Ethanol has a high natural octane value (~108 RON). Insisting on a minimum of 95 RON prevents engine "knocking" (pre-ignition) and ensures combustion stability.
- The order was issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under Section 3 of the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, replacing the previous order from June 2021.
- E20 fuel is estimated to lower carbon emissions by approximately **30%** compared to E10.
- India achieved 10% blending in June 2022, five months ahead of schedule, leading the government to advance the 20% target from 2030 to **2025-26**.

5. **Youngest Prime Minister of Netherland Rob Jetten.** Rob Jetten has become the youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister of the Netherlands at 38. The D66 leader heads a three-party coalition after rising through Dutch politics since entering parliament in 2017.



- **Key Notes.**

- Netherlands' Capital: Amsterdam (Constitutional capital).
- Head of State: King Willem-Alexander (since 2013).
- Predecessor of Rob Jetten: Dick Schoof (who led a short-lived right-wing coalition).
- Currency - Euro
- Netherlands was the first country to legalise same-sex marriage, in 2001.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is headquartered in the **Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands**.

6. **Misc.**

- **Facebook Overseas Acquires 30% Stake in RIL Firm for ₹257 Crore.**

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) reported that Facebook Overseas, Inc., a wholly owned unit of Meta Platforms, has acquired a 30% stake in its subsidiary, Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd (REIL). The transaction involved the allotment of 25,65,52,500 equity shares to Facebook for approximately ₹256.6 crore.

- **BAFTA Awards 2026.** Manipuri film "**Boong**" directed by Lakshmipriya Devi's became the **first Indian film** to win **Best Children's & Family Film**, beating out Hollywood blockbusters like *Zootopia 2* at BAFTAs. Directed by Lakshmipriya Devi and produced by Farhan Akhtar along with Vikesh Bhutani,

Alan McAlex, Ritesh Sidhwani and Shujaat Saudagar, the film stars Gugun Kipgen and Bala Hijam.

- **R. Nallakannu (Feb 25):** The veteran **Communist Party of India (CPI)** leader and freedom fighter passed away in Chennai at the age of **101**. Known for his humble lifestyle and advocacy for farmers' rights, he served as the CPI's Tamil Nadu State Secretary for three tenures.



7. **Ministers and Heads of Organisations in News.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Primary Role</u>	<u>Additional Charge(s) / Portfolios</u>	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>State/UT</u>
Nirmala Sitharaman	Union Finance Minister	Minister of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha	Karnataka (Rep.)
Kiren Rijju	Parliamentary Affairs	Minister of Minority Affairs	Arunachal West	Arunachal Pradesh
H.D. Kumaraswamy	Heavy Industries	Minister of Steel	Mandya	Karnataka
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Communications	Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)	Guna	Madhya Pradesh
Dharmendra Pradhan	Education	Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	Sambalpur	Odisha
Chandra Mohan Patowary	Minister	Forest, Environment, and Climate Change	Dharmapur	Assam
Jogaram Patel	Minister	Parliamentary Affairs	Luni	Rajasthan

1. INS Anjadip (P73) is the third ship of which class of vessels?

- A) Petya-class
- B) Arnala-class
- C) Kalvari-class
- D) Talwar-class

2. Which indigenous sonar system, developed by DRDO, is used in the Arnala-class vessels?

- A) Humsa
- B) Abhay
- C) Ushas
- D) Nagin

3. What is the newly approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) for the 2026-27 season?

- A) ₹5,335 per quintal
- B) ₹5,500 per quintal
- C) ₹5,985 per quintal
- D) ₹6,125 per quintal

4. By what amount has the MSP for Raw Jute been increased for the 2026-27 season compared to the previous year?

- A) ₹500
- B) ₹650
- C) ₹750
- D) ₹800

5. Where is the headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO) located?

- A) Brussels, Belgium
- B) Geneva, Switzerland
- C) Washington D.C., USA
- D) New York, USA

6. Who is the current President of the World Bank (IBRD)?

- A) Kristalina Georgieva
- B) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- C) Ajay Banga
- D) Antonio Guterres

7. Which country is the 190th and latest member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A) Timor-Leste
- B) Nauru

- C) South Sudan
- D) Andorra

8. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development, represents which constituency?

- A) Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

9. Which portfolios are held by Ashwini Vaishnaw according to current government records?

- A) Home Affairs and Cooperation
- B) Information & Broadcasting and Railways
- C) Education and Skill Development
- D) Finance and Corporate Affairs

10. How many member states currently belong to the United Nations (UN)?

- A) 189
- B) 190
- C) 193
- D) 166

11. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

- A) Bahrain
- B) Kuwait
- C) Iraq
- D) United Arab Emirates

12. Which Article of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to alter the name of an existing State?

- A) Article 1
- B) Article 2
- C) Article 3
- D) Article 4

Answer Key

1. B) Arnala-class
2. B) Abhay
3. C) ₹5,985 per quintal
4. B) ₹650
5. B) Geneva, Switzerland
6. C) Ajay Banga
7. D) Andorra
8. A) Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
9. B) Information & Broadcasting and Railways
10. C) 193
11. C) Iraq
12. C) Article 3

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