

# PSC CHRONICLES

## Monthly Current Affairs Digest

# FEBRUARY 2026

**Articles Covered**  
44+ across 11 sections

**Quick Revision**  
40 One-Liners

**Practice MCQs**  
20 Questions with Explanations

### Curated for APPSC & TGPSC Aspirants

Polity • Economy • Science • Defence • Environment • Andhra Pradesh • Telangana

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**How to use this digest:** Read each section's articles for core understanding, use the 40 one-liners for rapid revision before exams, and attempt the 20 MCQs to test your retention. Check your answers in the Answers & Explanations section at the end. Focus especially on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana sections for state-specific questions.

1	Polity & Governance
2	National Schemes & Missions
3	Andhra Pradesh
4	Telangana
5	Economy & Banking
6	Science & Technology
7	Defence & Security
8	Environment & Ecology
9	International Relations
10	History & Culture
11	Awards & Sports
—	Quick Revision: 40 One-Liners
—	Practice MCQs: 20 Questions
—	Answers & Explanations

## Section 1: Polity & Governance

### ● India AI Impact Summit 2026 Inaugurated by PM Modi

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in February 2026.
- The summit focused on AI in manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture and governance with major international collaborations.
- Collaboration with Columbia University announced for AI in manufacturing; India co-hosted the Global South AI Summit 2026.
- India-UAE collaboration on AI, data centres and digital infrastructure was a highlight of the summit.
- PM Modi held bilateral meetings on the sidelines with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed, French President Macron and other world leaders.
- India's AI leadership is being leveraged as a diplomatic and economic tool for global partnerships.

### ● Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 – Women's Reservation

- The Lok Sabha failed to pass the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 in February 2026.
- The Bill aimed to fast-track the implementation of 33% reservation for women in legislatures.
- The Women's Reservation Act (2023) requires delimitation before coming into effect – the Bill sought to bypass this condition.
- Opposition parties demanded immediate implementation without the delimitation pre-condition.
- Articles 330A and 332A (reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies respectively) are the key constitutional provisions.

### ● Menaka Guruswamy – India's First Openly LGBTQ+ Member of Parliament

- Menaka Guruswamy took oath as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha in February 2026.
- She became India's first openly queer (LGBTQ+) Member of Parliament.
- She is a renowned Supreme Court advocate known for arguing the Section 377 decriminalisation case in 2018.
- Her nomination marks a historic step in India's inclusive political representation.
- The Rajya Sabha has 245 total seats – 233 elected by state legislatures and 12 nominated by the President.

### ● ECI Launches International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) officially commenced the IEVP 2026 for elections in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry.
- IEVP invites international delegations to observe India's election process and electoral management practices.
- India's EVMs and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system is showcased as a model for developing nations.
- The programme enhances India's soft power in election management internationally.
- ECI was constitutionally established under Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

## Section 2: National Schemes & Missions

### ● NSO to Launch India's First-Ever NHIS & ASISSE from April 2026

- The NSO (under MoSPI) announced India's first National Household Income Survey (NHIS) and Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE).
- Both will run for one year from April 2026; announced at the All-India Workshop of Trainers (AIWOT) in Chennai.
- NHIS collects data on household income, living conditions and income distribution to support policy formulation.
- ASISSE covers the incorporated services sector using GSTN data for state-level GVA, capital formation and employment estimates.
- Both surveys will be conducted digitally using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology.
- Coverage: all of India except hard-to-access villages in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### ● India Energy Week 2026 Held in Goa

- The 4th edition of India Energy Week (IEW 2026) was held at ONGC's Advanced Training Institute (ATI) in Goa from January 27–30, 2026.
- Theme: 'Energizing Growth, Securing Economies, and Enriching Lives.'
- GAIL (India) and Japan's Mitsui O.S.K. Lines signed a long-term charter agreement for LNG carrier 'GAIL BHUWAN'.
- ONGC and OIL signed an MoU for collaboration in oil and gas exploration; BPCL and Tata Motors signed an MoU for Mega EV Charging Hubs.
- India and Canada signed a joint statement on strategic energy sector cooperation.
- IEW 2026 concluded with awards for startups and industry leaders in clean energy and upstream technology.

### ● UMEED Platform Gets Two New Modules – MoMA Initiative

- Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) launched the 'Survey Module' and 'Waqf Property Lease Management Module' on the UMEED central portal.
- UMEED (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development) portal was originally launched in June 2025.
- The Survey Module provides a comprehensive digital framework for recording and managing Waqf property survey data.
- The Waqf Property Lease Module facilitates end-to-end digital management of leasing details of Waqf properties.
- The new modules were launched by Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Secretary, MoMA in New Delhi.

### ● Indian Railways Launches 1st LNG-Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU Train

- Indian Railways launched India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
  - Two 1,400 HP DEMU Driving Power Cars (DPCs) were modified with 2,200-litre LNG tanks at ICD Sabarmati.
  - The dual-fuel system enables up to 40% diesel substitution with LNG; units completed 2,000+ km of field trials.
  - Annual savings estimated at Rs 11.9 lakh per DPC and Rs 23.9 lakh annually for an 8-coach DEMU train.
  - LNG reduces CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter emissions significantly compared to pure diesel.
-

## Section 3: Andhra Pradesh

### ● CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre Inaugurated in Visakhapatnam

- Union MoS (IC) Dr. Jitendra Singh (Ministry of Science & Technology) inaugurated the Shore-Based Lab of CSIR-NIO Regional Centre at Visakhapatnam, AP.
- The Rs 32-crore facility (4,550 sq m) was built by CPWD at Yendada Village, Rushikonda.
- It focuses on marine geological and geophysical surveys of the Eastern Continental Margin of India (ECMI).
- Research includes bathymetry mapping, tectonic studies, deep-sea exploration and monsoon research in the Bay of Bengal.
- The centre strengthens offshore oil, gas and seabed mineral exploration, boosting national energy security.
- It contributes to the Blue Economy – fisheries, coastal resilience, skill development and harmful algal bloom forecasting.

### ● CM Chandrababu Naidu Reviews Super Six and Welfare Scheme Delivery

- AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu chaired a review meeting at the State Secretariat in February 2026.
- He directed ministers and officials to ensure benefits of government programmes reach the ground level.
- Major schemes reviewed: Super Six, free bus travel for women, Anna Canteens, pensions and farmer financial support.
- The Super Six is a flagship NDA-TDP alliance scheme package in Andhra Pradesh post the 2024 elections.
- The review also covered financial assistance to mothers for the education of students.

### ● Wings India 2026 Held in Hyderabad – Key Aerospace Developments

- Wings India 2026, India's premier aviation and aerospace event, was held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- IOCL signed a Lol with Akasa Air at Wings India 2026 for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) supply exploration.
- Odisha partnered with BonV Aero at Wings India 2026 to establish India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor.
- Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport and aerospace ecosystem were highlighted as key aviation hubs.
- SAF reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from aviation by up to 80% compared to conventional jet fuel.

## Section 4: Telangana

### ● Telangana Launches MeeSeva Services on WhatsApp

- Telangana launched MeeSeva services on WhatsApp, making over 580 Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services accessible via messaging.
- This makes Telangana a pioneer in using social messaging platforms for citizen service delivery.
- MeeSeva is Telangana's integrated digital citizen service platform launched originally in 2011.
- The WhatsApp integration reduces physical visits to service centres, enhancing digital inclusion and convenience.
- Telangana was the first Indian state to launch an IT policy (1999) and has consistently led in digital governance innovation.

### ● Telangana Budget 2026-27 – Welfare and Development Focus

- Telangana presented its Budget 2026-27 with focus on welfare schemes, infrastructure and rural development.
- Key allocations targeted the Maha Lakshmi Scheme (Rs 2,500/month for women heads of families) and Rythu Bharosa for farmers.
- Maha Lakshmi also provides gas cylinders at Rs 500 and free TSRTC bus travel across Telangana.
- Budget reflected the Congress government's implementation of its 'Six Guarantees' promised before the 2023 state elections.
- Infrastructure spending prioritised Hyderabad's IT Corridor development, roads and irrigation projects.

### ● Wings India 2026 Showcases Hyderabad as Aerospace Hub

- Wings India 2026 held in Hyderabad reinforced the city's status as India's aerospace and aviation hub.
- Multiple MoUs and LoIs were signed at the event, including for UAV testing, SAF supply and airline services.
- Hyderabad hosts DRDL (Defence Research and Development Laboratory) and multiple aerospace MNCs.
- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Hyderabad is one of India's busiest international gateways.
- Telangana's aerospace sector contributes significantly to the state's GDP and employment.

## Section 5: Economy & Banking

### ● India-World Bank Sign USD 8–10 Billion Annual Partnership Framework

- India and the World Bank Group (WBG) announced a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with USD 8–10 billion in annual financing for 5 years.
- The plan is fully aligned with India's 'Viksit Bharat' vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.
- Three key pillars: investing in critical infrastructure, strengthening business-friendly environment, and scaling risk-management tools for private investment.
- Focus areas include green energy, urban infrastructure, health, education and digital public goods.
- India is the World Bank's largest borrower, reflecting the multilateral lender's confidence in India's growth trajectory.

### ● SBI Launches Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata

- SBI, India's largest Public Sector Bank, launched its Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- GTFC is designed to streamline inland trade and import/export transaction processing.
- It supports all SBI branches across eastern and northern India with faster turnaround and robust compliance.
- Technology deployed includes AI, ML and Blockchain, moving away from traditional paper-based trade systems.
- Staff strength: 277 total; 61% (169 employees) are from West Bengal, boosting local employment.
- GTFC has contributed Rs 1.40 crore GST to West Bengal since 2024.

### ● India-US Bilateral Trade Framework Agreement Announced

- President Donald Trump and PM Narendra Modi announced a long-awaited bilateral trade framework in February 2026.
- The agreement includes tariff reductions, supply chain integration and enhanced market access.
- India-US bilateral goods and services trade crossed USD 200 billion in 2024-25.
- The US is India's largest trading partner for merchandise exports.
- The deal aims to boost India's electronics, pharmaceutical, textile and IT exports to the US.

### ● IOCL–Akasa Air Lol for Sustainable Aviation Fuel

- IOCL (a Maharatna CPSE, established 1959) signed a Lol with Akasa Air at Wings India 2026, Hyderabad.
- The Lol establishes a framework to assess potential future SAF supply volumes, delivery locations and timelines.
- SAF is produced from sustainable feedstocks (agricultural waste, used cooking oil, forestry residues).
- SAF can reduce lifecycle GHG emissions from aviation by up to 80% versus conventional jet fuel.
- India's MoPNG has set SAF blending targets to decarbonise the rapidly growing aviation sector.

## Section 6: Science & Technology

### ● India Hosts AI Impact Summit 2026 – Key Technology Announcements

- The India AI Impact Summit 2026 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; PM Modi inaugurated it.
- Major AI-in-manufacturing collaboration announced with Columbia University.
- India co-hosted the Global South AI Summit 2026, positioning itself as a leader among developing nations.
- India-UAE collaboration on AI, data centres and digital infrastructure was formalised at the summit.
- AI Policy framework updates and regulatory sandboxes for AI were discussed as part of India's national AI strategy.

### ● DRDO Successfully Tests Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute

- DRDO conducted a successful qualification test for the Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute on February 18, 2026.
- The test involved VSSC (Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre) and ISRO's ADRDE (Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment).
- The drogue parachute is deployed at high altitude to stabilise and decelerate the crew module before main parachutes open.
- This is a critical safety component for India's human spaceflight mission – Gaganyaan.
- Gaganyaan aims to send a 3-member crew to Low Earth Orbit (LEO, 400 km altitude) for 3 days.
- The parachute system was developed indigenously, reducing import dependency in critical space safety technology.

### ● DRDO Achieves GaN Semiconductor Breakthrough

- DRDO cracked the code to manufacture Gallium Nitride (GaN) Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs).
- GaN chips support India's SBS-3 (Space-Based Surveillance) programme through superior microwave and radar capabilities.
- SSPL (Solid State Physics Laboratory) and GAETEC are key agencies in this development.
- GaN enables higher power density, efficiency and frequency performance versus traditional silicon chips.
- This reduces India's strategic dependency on imported semiconductors for defence applications.

### ● DRDO-ISRO Collaborate on Himalayan Meteorology and High-Altitude Operations

- DRDO and ISRO joined hands to deploy space-based technology for monitoring Himalayan snow cover and mountain meteorology.
- Improved forecasts will aid military logistics in India's high-altitude border areas including Ladakh and Arunachal.
- A separate DRDO-CSIR partnership will develop wearable sensors for real-time physiological monitoring of defence personnel.
- These wearable devices will support Army and IAF operations in extreme high-altitude environments.
- Indo-US 24th Joint Technical Group (JTG) Plenary (hosted by DRDO) advanced cooperation on critical emerging defence technologies.

## Section 7: Defence & Security

### ● India–Israel Ties Elevated to 'Special Strategic Partnership'

- PM Modi visited Israel in February 2026; bilateral ties elevated to 'Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity.'
- Both nations pledged deeper cooperation in defence technology, cybersecurity, agri-tech and a future Free Trade Agreement.
- Israel is India's 3rd-largest source of defence imports (after Russia and France); bilateral defence trade exceeds USD 2 billion annually.
- Key defence items: Barak-8 missile systems, Heron drones, Spike anti-tank missiles and radar systems.
- India abstained on key UN resolutions related to the Israel-Hamas conflict, maintaining its traditional non-alignment stance.

### ● DRDO Hosts 24th Indo-US Joint Technical Group Plenary

- DRDO hosted the 24th Indo-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) Plenary Meeting on Defence Science and Technologies.
- Discussions covered AI in defence, hypersonic technology, counter-drone systems and electronic warfare.
- The JTG is a key pillar of the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- The meeting reinforced the India-US strategic defence partnership following the iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology) framework.
- India and the US are deepening co-production and co-development of advanced military technologies under INDUS-X.

### ● India's First National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor in Odisha

- Odisha partnered with BonV Aero at Wings India 2026 for India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor at Rangeilunda Airport, Ganjam.
- Drones will operate in airspace up to 1,000 metres for BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) and swarm drone trials.
- AI-based navigation and autonomous airspace management will be tested in real dynamic conditions.
- The corridor is under Gol's B-MAAN (Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network) scheme.
- This corridor will advance India's ambition to become a global drone hub by developing and testing advanced UAV systems.

## Section 8: Environment & Ecology

### ● Patna Bird Sanctuary & Chhari-Dhand – India's 97th & 98th Ramsar Sites

- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav (MoEFCC) announced Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) as Ramsar sites.
- India's total Ramsar sites now stand at 98 – the highest count among Asian nations.
- Patna Bird Sanctuary spans ~109 hectares on the Upper Ganga Canal; key habitat for migratory and resident birds.
- Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal wetland in the Great Rann of Kutch, forming a shallow water body during monsoon.
- India's first Ramsar sites were Chilka Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo NP (Rajasthan) in 1981; Tamil Nadu leads with 20 Ramsar sites.
- Sundarban Wetland (WB) is India's largest Ramsar Site (4,230 km<sup>2</sup>); Renuka Lake (HP) is the smallest (0.2 km<sup>2</sup>).

### ● India's Green Energy Push – LNG, SAF and EV Charging

- India's LNG dual-fuel DEMU train (IR) reduces CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter versus pure diesel traction.
- IOCL-Akasa Air Lol for SAF marks India's push toward decarbonising its fast-growing aviation sector.
- BPCL and Tata Motors signed an MoU to jointly develop India's largest Mega EV Charging and Engagement Hubs.
- India aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 under its NDC commitments to the Paris Agreement.
- India and Canada signed a joint statement on strategic energy cooperation at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa.

### ● Earthshot Prize 2026 Scheduled in Mumbai

- The prestigious Earthshot Prize 2026 was scheduled to be held in Mumbai, India.
- Founded by Prince William, the Earthshot Prize awards five prizes of £1 million each for environmental solutions.
- The five 'Earthshots': Protect & Restore Nature, Clean Our Air, Revive Our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World, and Fix Our Climate.
- India hosting the Earthshot Prize underscores its growing global profile in environmental conservation.
- India's climate commitments include achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

## Section 9: International Relations

### ● India–France 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' & Year of Innovation 2026

- India and France elevated bilateral ties to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February 2026.
- PM Modi and French President Macron jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on February 17.
- Cooperation expanded in defence, nuclear energy, AI, space technology and Indo-Pacific maritime security.
- France is a key partner in India's Rafale jet programme and the P75 (India) submarine project.
- India-France bilateral trade exceeded €13 billion; both are partners in the EU-India FTA negotiations.
- The Year of Innovation celebrates 78 years of India-France diplomatic relations (since 1948).

### ● India–Israel Elevated to 'Special Strategic Partnership'

- PM Modi's February 2026 visit to Israel resulted in elevation of ties to 'Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity.'
- Both nations agreed to deepen cooperation in defence technology, cyber, agri-tech, health-tech and a future FTA.
- India's humanitarian concern for civilian protection in the Gaza conflict was raised during discussions.
- Israel is India's 3rd-largest defence import source; bilateral ties have grown significantly since India-Israel full diplomatic normalisation in 1992.
- The visit also explored Israeli agricultural and water-management technology transfer for Indian farming.

### ● India–US Bilateral Trade Framework and Strategic Ties

- President Trump and PM Modi announced a bilateral trade framework including tariff reductions and supply chain integration.
- India-US bilateral goods and services trade exceeded USD 200 billion in 2024-25.
- The US is India's largest export partner; key sectors include IT services, pharmaceuticals, textiles and diamonds.
- India-US relations are anchored in the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership (2020).
- The framework builds on the QUAD security alliance and iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology).

### ● PM Modi's Multilateral Engagements at AI Summit 2026

- PM Modi held bilateral meetings with leaders of France, the UAE (Abu Dhabi Crown Prince), Slovakia, Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and the Netherlands.
- India-UAE cooperation on AI, data centres and digital infrastructure was a focus of talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled.
- India hosted the Global South AI Summit 2026, consolidating its position as a voice for developing nations in AI governance.
- India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) – Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker – was showcased as a global model.
- India's AI governance framework and proposed AI Regulatory Sandbox were also discussed with international partners.

## Section 10: History & Culture

### ● India-France Year of Innovation 2026 – Cultural and Scientific Exchange

- The 2026 India-France Year of Innovation was inaugurated on February 17 in Mumbai by PM Modi and President Macron.
- It celebrates 78 years of India-France diplomatic relations (established 1948).
- Focus areas: AI, renewable energy, space technology, creative arts and scientific research.
- France's cultural connections with India include Pondicherry (formerly French India), the French Institute in India and Alliance Française chapters across India.
- The Year of Innovation includes events across major Indian and French cities promoting mutual research and cultural exchange.

### ● ESIC Celebrates 75th Foundation Year – A Social Security Milestone

- ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation) commenced its 75th Foundation Year celebrations on February 24, 2026.
- ESIC was established on February 24, 1952 under the ESI Act, 1948 – India's first major industrial social security law.
- The milestone event was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, addressed by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ESIC today covers 13+ crore beneficiaries including insured persons and family members across India.
- It provides comprehensive coverage: medical care, sickness, maternity, disability and death benefits for workers.

### ● Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal – Education Icon Passes Away

- Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal (Fr. Stany), Jesuit priest and education icon, passed away at age 99 in New Delhi.
- Born July 3, 1926 in Alappuzha, Kerala; served as CBSE Chairman from 1980 to 1987.
- He played a pivotal role in founding the National Open School in November 1989, now NIOS – a key open learning institution.
- Awarded the Padma Shri (India's 4th highest civilian honour) in 1974 for literature and education.
- His 2005 book 'The Role of Teachers on National Regeneration' remains a seminal work in educational philosophy.

## Section 11: Awards & Sports

### ● SAIL Earns 'Great Place to Work' Certification – Third Consecutive Year

- SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited), a Maharatna PSU and India's largest steelmaker, earned the 'Great Place to Work' certification for Feb 2026–Feb 2027.
- This is the third consecutive year SAIL has received this certification from the Great Place To Work Institute, India.
- SAIL achieved a notable increase in its TRUST INDEX© score, reflecting high employee satisfaction.
- SAIL DARPAN initiative promotes a transparent, performance-driven system for objective employee evaluation.
- SAIL is headquartered in New Delhi and operates major steel plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Burnpur.

### ● Gummadi Gopalakrishna Honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2025

- Gummadi Gopalakrishna received the prestigious Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2025.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama, established in 1952.
- The Akademi Award is one of India's highest recognitions in the performing arts, presented by the President of India.
- Telugu performing arts have a rich tradition with Kuchipudi classical dance and Harikatha (devotional storytelling) as iconic art forms.
- The recognition highlights Andhra Pradesh and Telangana's contribution to India's classical and folk arts heritage.

### ● India Energy Week 2026 – Startup and Clean Energy Awards

- India Energy Week 2026 (Goa) concluded with awards for startups, industry leaders and academic institutions.
- Awards recognised contributions to clean energy, upstream technology and sustainable energy exploration.
- The event was organised by FIPI (Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry) and dmg events under MoPNG patronage.
- India aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 under its NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution).
- India's startup ecosystem in clean energy, including green hydrogen, solar and EV technology, was showcased.

### ● Ramsar Site Recognitions – Conservation Awards

- Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) were designated India's 97th and 98th Ramsar sites.
- India now has 98 Ramsar sites – the highest number among Asian nations.
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971; India acceded in 1982.
- India's National Wetland Conservation Programme funds conservation, restoration and wise use of wetland ecosystems.
- The Chilka Lake (Odisha) – India's first Ramsar site (1981) – hosts Asia's largest inland saltwater lake.



## Quick Revision — 40 One-Liners

1. India AI Impact Summit 2026 was inaugurated by PM Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
2. DRDO successfully tested the Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute on February 18, 2026, with VSSC and ISRO's ADRDE.
3. India and France elevated bilateral ties to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February 2026.
4. India-France Year of Innovation 2026 was inaugurated by PM Modi and President Macron on February 17 in Mumbai.
5. India-Israel ties were elevated to 'Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity.'
6. Menaka Guruswamy became India's first openly LGBTQ+ Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).
7. ECI launched the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) 2026 for Assam, Kerala and Puducherry.
8. India-World Bank CPF: USD 8–10 billion annually for 5 years aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047.
9. NSO to launch India's first NHIS and ASISSE surveys from April 2026 using CAPI technology.
10. CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre (Rs 32 crore) inaugurated at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
11. Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat) are India's 97th and 98th Ramsar sites.
12. India's total Ramsar site count is now 98 – highest among Asian nations.
13. DRDO achieved the GaN semiconductor (MMIC) manufacturing breakthrough supporting India's SBS-3 programme.
14. Indian Railways launched India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.
15. SBI launched its Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata; uses AI, ML and Blockchain.
16. IOCL and Akasa Air signed a Lol for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) supply at Wings India 2026.
17. India-US bilateral trade framework announced by President Trump and PM Modi in February 2026.
18. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 on women's reservation failed to pass in the Lok Sabha.
19. DRDO hosted the 24th Indo-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) Plenary Meeting on Defence Science.
20. Telangana launched MeeSeva services on WhatsApp with 580+ G2C services.
21. India hosted the Global South AI Summit 2026, reinforcing its leadership among developing nations.
22. ESIC celebrated its 75th Foundation Year on February 24, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam.
23. SAIL earned the 'Great Place to Work' certification for the 3rd consecutive year (Feb 2026–Feb 2027).
24. DRDO and ISRO joined hands for Himalayan snow cover monitoring using space-based technology.
25. Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal (CBSE Chairman 1980–87, Padma Shri 1974) passed away at age 99.
26. Odisha to establish India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor at Rangeilunda Airport, Ganjam.
27. India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa (Jan 27–30); theme: 'Energizing Growth, Securing Economies.'
28. GAIL and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines signed charter agreement for LNG carrier 'GAIL BHUWAN' at IEW 2026.
29. AP CM Chandrababu Naidu reviewed Super Six and welfare scheme delivery in February 2026.
30. BPCL and Tata Motors signed MoU to develop India's largest Mega EV Charging Hubs.
31. ONGC and OIL signed an MoU at India Energy Week 2026 for oil and gas exploration collaboration.
32. World Leprosy Day 2026 observed on January 25 (73rd); theme: 'Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma.'

**33.** MoMA launched Survey Module and Waqf Property Lease Management Module on the UMEED portal.

**35.** India's LNG dual-fuel DEMU train enables up to 40% diesel substitution and 222 km daily on a full refill.

**37.** India and Canada signed a joint statement on strategic energy cooperation at India Energy Week 2026.

**39.** Wings India 2026 aviation event was held in Hyderabad, featuring major aerospace MoUs and Lols.

**34.** DRDO-CSIR partnership to develop wearable physiological monitoring sensors for high-altitude defence ops.

**36.** Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched Mukhyamantri Gramoththan Yojana (MGY) from Anand district.

**38.** Earthshot Prize 2026 was scheduled to be held in Mumbai, India.

**40.** UMEED platform was originally launched in June 2025 under the Waqf Management, Empowerment Act 1995.

## Practice MCQs — 20 Questions

Attempt all questions. Answers with explanations are in the last section.

**Q1. India's first National Household Income Survey (NHIS) is to be launched by which organisation from April 2026?**

- A) RBI
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) NSO (National Statistical Office)
- D) NABARD

**Q2. India's 97th and 98th Ramsar sites, designated in early 2026, are:**

- A) Chilka Lake and Loktak Lake
- B) Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand
- C) Wular Lake and Sambhar Lake
- D) Renuka Lake and Ashtamudi Lake

**Q3. The CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre inaugurated in Visakhapatnam in 2026 was built at a cost of:**

- A) Rs 12 crore
- B) Rs 22 crore
- C) Rs 32 crore
- D) Rs 42 crore

**Q4. What was the theme of India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa?**

- A) 'Clean Energy for All'
- B) 'Energizing Growth, Securing Economies, and Enriching Lives'
- C) 'India's Path to Net Zero'
- D) 'Green Hydrogen Revolution'

**Q5. Which airline signed a Lol with IOCL for Sustainable Aviation Fuel at Wings India 2026?**

- A) IndiGo
- B) Air India
- C) Vistara
- D) Akasa Air

**Q6. India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train was launched at which railway depot?**

- A) Vadodara
- B) New Delhi Junction
- C) Sabarmati (ICD), Ahmedabad
- D) Chennai Egmore

**Q7. India-France bilateral ties were elevated to which level in February 2026?**

- A) Strategic Partnership
  - B) Comprehensive Economic Partnership
  - C) Special Global Strategic Partnership
  - D) Enhanced Strategic Partnership
- 

**Q8. How many G2C services are accessible through WhatsApp under Telangana's MeeSeva?**

- A) 250+
  - B) 380+
  - C) 580+
  - D) 780+
- 

**Q9. ESIC completed how many years of establishment in February 2026?**

- A) 65 years
  - B) 70 years
  - C) 75 years
  - D) 80 years
- 

**Q10. India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor is to be established in:**

- A) Maharashtra
  - B) Gujarat
  - C) Odisha
  - D) Telangana
- 

**Q11. Which LNG carrier was associated with the GAIL–Mitsui O.S.K. Lines agreement at IEW 2026?**

- A) GAIL SHAKTI
  - B) GAIL BHUWAN
  - C) GAIL URJA
  - D) GAIL SAGAR
- 

**Q12. Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal served as Chairman of CBSE during:**

- A) 1970–1977
  - B) 1975–1982
  - C) 1980–1987
  - D) 1985–1992
- 

**Q13. The India-World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF 2026) provides annual financing of:**

- A) USD 3–5 billion
  - B) USD 5–7 billion
  - C) USD 8–10 billion
  - D) USD 12–15 billion
- 

**Q14. DRDO's February 2026 qualification test was for which component of the Gaganyaan mission?**

- A) Heat Shield
  - B) Crew Escape System
  - C) Drogue Parachute
  - D) Service Module Engine
-

**Q15. SAIL's 'Great Place to Work' certification (Feb 2026–Feb 2027) is consecutive for which year?**

- A) First
  - B) Second
  - C) Third
  - D) Fourth
- 

**Q16. Which DRDO semiconductor technology breakthrough supports India's SBS-3 (Space-Based Surveillance) programme?**

- A) Silicon Carbide (SiC) chips
  - B) Gallium Nitride (GaN) MMICs
  - C) Indium Phosphide (InP) chips
  - D) Germanium transistors
- 

**Q17. India-Israel ties elevated in February 2026 to:**

- A) Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
  - B) Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity
  - C) Defence and Technology Partnership
  - D) Enhanced Bilateral Framework
- 

**Q18. The 2026 India-France Year of Innovation was inaugurated in which city?**

- A) New Delhi
  - B) Bengaluru
  - C) Mumbai
  - D) Chennai
- 

**Q19. Which technology does India's first LNG-diesel DEMU train use for up to 40% diesel substitution?**

- A) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
  - B) Hydrogen fuel cells
  - C) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
  - D) Compressed Biogas (CBG)
- 

**Q20. Menaka Guruswamy's historical significance in February 2026 was becoming:**

- A) First woman Chief Justice of India
  - B) India's first openly LGBTQ+ Member of Parliament
  - C) First woman President of the Bar Council of India
  - D) India's first woman Defence Minister
-

## Answers & Explanations

**Q1. India's first National Household Income Survey (NHIS) is to be launched by which organisation from April 2026?**

**Answer: (C)**

• The National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI announced India's first NHIS along with ASISSE, both conducted digitally using CAPI from April 2026, covering all of India except hard-to-access A&N; Islands.

**Q2. India's 97th and 98th Ramsar sites, designated in early 2026, are:**

**Answer: (B)**

• Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) were designated India's 97th and 98th Ramsar sites, taking India's total to 98 – the most among Asian nations.

**Q3. The CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre inaugurated in Visakhapatnam in 2026 was built at a cost of:**

**Answer: (C)**

• The Rs 32-crore CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre was built by CPWD at Yendada Village, Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam (4,550 sq m) and inaugurated by Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh.

**Q4. What was the theme of India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa?**

**Answer: (B)**

• India Energy Week 2026 (4th edition) was held at ONGC's ATI in Goa, Jan 27–30, 2026. Theme: 'Energizing Growth, Securing Economies, and Enriching Lives.' Major energy deals including the GAIL BHUWAN charter were signed.

**Q5. Which airline signed a Lol with IOCL for Sustainable Aviation Fuel at Wings India 2026?**

**Answer: (D)**

• IOCL (Maharatna CPSE, est. 1959) signed a Letter of Intent with Akasa Air at Wings India 2026 (Hyderabad) to jointly explore future Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) supply – part of India's green aviation push.

**Q6. India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train was launched at which railway depot?**

**Answer: (C)**

• Indian Railways launched India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at ICD Sabarmati, Ahmedabad. Two 1,400 HP DPCs were modified with 2,200-litre LNG tanks enabling up to 40% diesel substitution.

**Q7. India-France bilateral ties were elevated to which level in February 2026?**

**Answer: (C)**

• India and France elevated ties to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February 2026. PM Modi and President Macron also jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on February 17.

**Q8. How many G2C services are accessible through WhatsApp under Telangana's MeeSeva?**

**Answer: (C)**

• Telangana launched MeeSeva on WhatsApp with 580+ Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, making Telangana a pioneer in social messaging-based citizen service delivery.

**Q9. ESIC completed how many years of establishment in February 2026?****Answer: (C)**

• ESIC was established on February 24, 1952 under the ESI Act, 1948. In February 2026, it celebrated its 75th Foundation Year at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, addressed by Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

**Q10. India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor is to be established in:****Answer: (C)**

• Odisha partnered with BonV Aero at Wings India 2026 to set up India's first National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor at Rangeilunda Airport, Ganjam district, under the Gol's B-MAAN scheme.

**Q11. Which LNG carrier was associated with the GAIL–Mitsui O.S.K. Lines agreement at IEW 2026?****Answer: (B)**

• GAIL (India) Limited and Japan's Mitsui O.S.K. Lines signed a long-term charter agreement for the LNG carrier 'GAIL BHUWAN' at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa, strengthening India's LNG maritime infrastructure.

**Q12. Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal served as Chairman of CBSE during:****Answer: (C)**

• Father Kunnunkal (Fr. Stany) served as CBSE Chairman 1980–87, founded the National Open School (Nov 1989), and received the Padma Shri in 1974 for literature and education. He passed away at age 99.

**Q13. The India-World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF 2026) provides annual financing of:****Answer: (C)**

• India and the World Bank Group announced a CPF with USD 8–10 billion in annual financing over 5 years. The framework is aligned with India's 'Viksit Bharat' vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

**Q14. DRDO's February 2026 qualification test was for which component of the Gaganyaan mission?****Answer: (C)**

• DRDO (with VSSC and ISRO's ADRDE) conducted a successful qualification test for the Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute on Feb 18, 2026. The drogue stabilises and decelerates the crew module before main parachutes deploy.

**Q15. SAIL's 'Great Place to Work' certification (Feb 2026–Feb 2027) is consecutive for which year?****Answer: (C)**

• SAIL (India's largest steelmaker, a Maharatna PSU) earned the 'Great Place to Work' certification for the 3rd consecutive year. SAIL DARPAN promotes a transparent, performance-driven employee evaluation system.

**Q16. Which DRDO semiconductor technology breakthrough supports India's SBS-3 (Space-Based Surveillance) programme?****Answer: (B)**

• DRDO achieved the GaN (Gallium Nitride) MMIC manufacturing breakthrough. GaN chips support the SBS-3 programme through superior microwave/radar performance, developed via SSPL and GAETEC, reducing import dependency.

**Q17. India-Israel ties elevated in February 2026 to:****Answer: (B)**

• PM Modi's February 2026 visit to Israel elevated bilateral ties to 'Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity.' Key areas: defence technology, cyber, agri-tech and a future Free Trade Agreement.

**Q18. The 2026 India-France Year of Innovation was inaugurated in which city?**

**Answer: (C)**

• PM Modi and French President Macron jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on February 17, 2026. It celebrates 78 years of India-France diplomatic relations (since 1948).

**Q19. Which technology does India's first LNG-diesel DEMU train use for up to 40% diesel substitution?**

**Answer: (C)**

• Indian Railways' first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train uses Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for up to 40% diesel substitution. It launched at ICD Sabarmati, Ahmedabad and completed 2,000+ km of field trials.

**Q20. Menaka Guruswamy's historical significance in February 2026 was becoming:**

**Answer: (B)**

• Menaka Guruswamy took oath as Rajya Sabha MP in February 2026, becoming India's first openly LGBTQ+ MP. She is renowned as the Supreme Court advocate who argued the Section 377 decriminalisation case in 2018.

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