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Top Stories of The Day

- *Spain Defeats Argentina 1–0 to Win FIFA World Cup 2026 Title, Lifting Second Trophy in Football History*
- *India Secures 1 Gold and 3 Silver Medals at 37th International Biology Olympiad 2026 in Lithuania*
- *Indian Embassy in Azerbaijan Opens Permanent Exhibition Showcasing UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India*
- *Article 370 Wins Best Feature Film Award at 72nd National Film Awards, Yami Gautam Named Best Actress*
- *PV Sindhu Creates History by Becoming First Indian to Win Japan Open 2026 Women's Singles Title*
- *Gujarat Tops NITI Aayog's First Investment Friendliness Index 2026 Among Large States*
- *Rohit Sharma Becomes Oldest Indian Cricketer to Score ODI Century at 39 Years Against England*
- *India Achieves Historic Success at International Chemistry Olympiad 2026 with Four Gold Medals and Joint Rank 1 Finish*
- *DCGI Approves QDENGAs as India's First Dengue Vaccine for Individuals Aged 4–60 Years*
- *Union Cabinet Approves National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026 to Boost Domestic Fertilizer Production*

Spain Wins FIFA World Cup 2026 Title



- Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup, defeating Argentina 1–0 in the final.
- Ferran Torres scored the match-winning goal in extra time.
- Spain lifted its second FIFA World Cup trophy, the first since 2010.
- It became the first European team since Italy (1938) to win a World Cup hosted in the Americas.
- Spain completed a remarkable run after also winning UEFA Euro 2024, highlighting its dominance in international football.

Key Highlights:

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| • Edition: 23rd FIFA World Cup |
| • Final Venue: New York New Jersey Stadium (MetLife Stadium), East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA |
| • Hosts: United States, Canada and Mexico |

Full list of FIFA World Cup 2026 award winners:

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|--|
| • Golden Ball: Rodri (Spain) |
| • Silver Ball: Lionel Messi (Argentina) |
| • Bronze Ball: Kylian Mbappe (France) |
| • Golden Boot: Kylian Mbappe (France) |
| • Silver Boot: Lionel Messi (Argentina) |
| • Bronze Boot: Jude Bellingham (England) |
| • Golden Glove: Unai Simon (Spain) |
| • FIFA Young Player Award: Pau Cubarsi (Spain) |

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| • FIFA Fair Play Trophy: The Netherlands |
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About FIFA World Cup:

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| • Organised by: Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). |
| • First Edition: 1930 (Uruguay). |
| • Frequency: Every four years. |

Current Format (2026):

- 48 teams (expanded from 32).
- 12 groups of 4 teams.
- Top two teams from each group plus the eight best third-placed teams advance to the Round of 32.
- Hosts of 2026: United States, Canada and Mexico.
- First jointly hosted World Cup by three nations.

About FIFA:

- | |
|---|
| • Full Form: Fédération Internationale de Football Association. |
| • Founded: 1904. |
| • Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland. |
| • President: Gianni Infantino. |
| • Members: 211 National Football Associations. |

Spain in FIFA World Cup:

- | |
|---|
| • First World Cup Title: 2010 (defeated Netherlands 1–0). |
| • Second World Cup Title: 2026 (defeated Argentina 1–0). |
| • Nickname: La Roja. |
| • FIFA World Cup 2026 |
| • First World Cup featuring 48 teams. |
| • Hosted by three countries (USA, Canada, Mexico). |
| • 104 matches played under the expanded format. |

Exam Focus Points:

Champion: Spain.	FIFA Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland.
Runner-up: Argentina.	FIFA President: Gianni Infantino.
Winning Goal: Ferran Torres.	Tournament Format: 48 teams, 12 groups.
Spain's Titles: 2010 and 2026.	
Hosts: USA, Canada and Mexico.	

India Wins 1 Gold and 3 Silver Medals at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026



- India achieved an outstanding performance at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, by winning one gold and three silver medals.

Indian Medal Winners:

Gold: Bhavyaa Gunwal (Haryana)
Silver: Soumil Maity (West Bengal)
Silver: Nishit Kalani (Rajasthan)
Silver: Anmol Kumar (Punjab)

About the International Biology Olympiad (IBO)

- An annual international competition for pre-university students in Biology.
- First held: 1990.
- Tests both theoretical knowledge and practical laboratory skills.
- Each participating country sends a team of four students selected through national-level Olympiads.
- One of the International Science Olympiads conducted for school students.

Selection of Indian Team:

- Students are selected through the National Standard Examination (NSE) and subsequent Olympiad stages.
- The programme is coordinated by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE).
- HBCSE functions as the National Centre for Olympiad Programmes in India.
- HBCSE is a constituent institution of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

About Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE):

Established: 1974.
Director: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya
Parent Institution: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).
Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)

Established: 1945.
Director: Jayaram N. Chengalur
Founder: Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha.
Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
Autonomous Institution under: Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.

About Lithuania:

Capital: Vilnius
Currency: Euro (€)
President: Gitanas Nausėda
Prime Minister: Mindaugas Sinkevičius

- Region: Baltic region of Northern Europe
- Member of: European Union (EU), NATO, Eurozone, Schengen Area

Exam Focus Points:

- Event: 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026.
- Host: Vilnius, Lithuania.

- India's Performance: 1 Gold and 3 Silver medals.
- Gold Medalist: Bhavyaa Gunwal.
- National Olympiad Coordinator: HBCSE.
- Parent Institution of HBCSE: TIFR.
- Administrative Ministry of TIFR: Department of Atomic Energy.

Indian Embassy in Azerbaijan Inaugurates Permanent Exhibition on UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India



- The Embassy of India in Azerbaijan inaugurated a Permanent Exhibition on UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India in Baku.
- The exhibition aims to showcase India's rich cultural and natural heritage and strengthen India–Azerbaijan cultural relations.
- It promotes India's soft power diplomacy, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.
- The exhibition is open to the public and features photographs and information on India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The inaugural event also included a Heritage & Fashion Walk, Indian Street Food Festival, and cultural performances highlighting India's diverse traditions.

About UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Recognised under the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- Inscribed by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Categories:

- Cultural Heritage
- Natural Heritage
- Mixed Heritage
- Sites are selected based on their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

India and UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Total UNESCO World Heritage Sites (2026): 44
- Cultural Sites: 36
- Natural Sites: 7
- Mixed Site: 1 (Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim)
- Latest UNESCO World Heritage Site: Maratha Military Landscapes of India (2025)
- India is among the countries with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Major UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India:

Cultural Sites:

- Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh)
- Qutub Minar (Delhi)
- Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra)
- Hampi (Karnataka)
- Dholavira (Gujarat)
- Jaipur City (Rajasthan)

Natural Sites:

- Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
- Sundarbans National Park (West Bengal)
- Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)
- Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand)

Mixed Site

- Khangchendzonga National Park (Sikkim)

About UNESCO:

- Full Form: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Established: 1945
- Director-General: Khaled El-Enany
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Parent Organisation: United Nations (UN)
- World Heritage Convention Adopted: 1972
- World Heritage Committee: 21 elected State Parties

About Azerbaijan:

- Capital: Baku
- Currency: Azerbaijani Manat (AZN)
- President: Ilham Aliyev
- Prime Minister: Ali Asadov
- Region: South Caucasus
- Borders: Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, and the Caspian Sea

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: 5

India–Azerbaijan Relations:

- Diplomatic relations established in 1992.
- Cooperation spans energy, trade, culture, tourism, education, and connectivity.
- Azerbaijan is strategically located in the South Caucasus and is an important partner in the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Exam Focus Points:

- Exhibition inaugurated at Indian Embassy, Baku.
- Theme: UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India.
- UNESCO World Heritage Convention: 1972.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- India has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (36 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed).
- Latest UNESCO Site of India: Maratha Military Landscapes of India (2025).
- Azerbaijan's Capital: Baku.
- Azerbaijan's Currency: Azerbaijani Manat (AZN).
- World Heritage Committee comprises 21 State Parties.

Hindi Film Article 370 Wins Best Film Award at the 72nd National Film Awards

- The Hindi film Article 370 won the Best Feature Film award at the 72nd National Film Awards.
- Yami Gautam won the Best Actress award for her performance in Article 370.
- Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion) shared the Best Actor award.

- The awards were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi.
- The National Film Awards recognize excellence in Indian cinema across Feature Films, Non-Feature Films, and Writing on Cinema.

Major Award Winners:

- Best Feature Film: Article 370
- Best Actress: Yami Gautam
- Best Actor: Mammooty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)
- Feature Film Jury Chairman: Jayaraj



About National Film Awards:

- Instituted: 1954
- First Awards Presented: 1954
- Presented By: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India
- Administered By: National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

Highest Honours:

- Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)
- Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus)

Categories:

- Feature Films
- Non-Feature Films
- Writing on Cinema
- Purpose: To promote excellence, aesthetic quality, and national integration through cinema.

About Article 370:

- Language: Hindi
- Genre: Political Action Thriller
- Director: Aditya Suhas Jambhale

- Producer: Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, Lokesh Dhar
- Lead Cast: Yami Gautam, Priyamani
- Release Year: 2024
- Theme: Based on the events surrounding the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir in 2019.

About Article 370 of the Indian Constitution:

- Part of Part XXI – Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions.
- Granted special autonomous status to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Abrogated: 5 August 2019.

Through:

- Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 (C.O. 272).
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- Jammu & Kashmir was reorganised into:
- Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
- Union Territory of Ladakh

Exam Focus Points:

- Best Feature Film: Article 370.
- Best Actress: Yami Gautam.
- Best Actor: Mammooty and Kartik Aaryan.
- 72nd National Film Awards announced by: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- National Film Awards instituted in: 1954.
- Administered by: National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
- Highest Film Honour in India: Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Article 370 abolished on: 5 August 2019.
- Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act: 2019.
- Feature Film Jury Chairman: Jayaraj.

PV Sindhu Clinches Maiden Japan Open Title, Becomes First Indian Champion



- P. V. Sindhu scripted history by winning her maiden Japan Open 2026 women's singles title.
- She became the first Indian shuttler to win the prestigious Japan Open.
- In the final, Sindhu defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in straight games 21–17, 21–17.
- The victory ended Sindhu's nearly two-year title drought and earned her first BWF Super 750 title.
- The triumph comes ahead of the 2026 BWF World Championships, boosting India's medal prospects.

About Japan Open 2026 Champions:

- Men's singles: Christo Popov (France)
- Women's singles: P. V. Sindhu (India)
- Men's doubles: Fajar Alfian (Indonesia), Muhammad Shohibul Fikri (Indonesia)
- Women's doubles: Kim Hye-jeong (South Korea), Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
- Mixed doubles: Feng Yanzhe (China), Huang Dongping (China)

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

- Founded: 1934 (as the International Badminton Federation)
- Renamed as BWF: 2006
- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President: Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (Thailand)
- Members: 200+ national badminton associations.

P. V. Sindhu – Key Achievements:

- Full Name: Pusarla Venkata Sindhu
- Birthplace: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Olympic Medals: 2
- Silver – Rio 2016
- Bronze – Tokyo 2020
- World Champion: 2019 (First Indian to win the BWF World Championships)
- Commonwealth Games: Gold (Mixed Team, 2018); Gold (Women's Singles, 2022)

Awards:

- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna
- Padma Bhushan
- Padma Shri
- Arjuna Award
- Current Coach: Irwansyah Adi Pratama.

Exam Focus Points:

- Champion: P. V. Sindhu.
- Runner-up: Akane Yamaguchi (Japan).
- Tournament: Japan Open 2026.
- Category: BWF Super 750.
- Historic Achievement: First Indian to win the Japan Open.
- Final Score: 21–17, 21–17.
- BWF Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- BWF Founded: 1934.
- Former Name of BWF: International Badminton Federation (IBF).
- World Champion (2019): P. V. Sindhu.
- 2026 BWF World Championships Host: New Delhi, India.



- NITI Aayog released the first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026 to assess the investment ecosystem across States and Union Territories.
- Gujarat emerged as the most investment-friendly large state, while Uttarakhand topped the Hilly & North-Eastern States category and Goa ranked first among Union Territories & City States.
- The Index aims to promote competitive and cooperative federalism by encouraging reforms that attract domestic and foreign investments.
- The report found that no State or Union Territory achieved the 'Top Performer' benchmark of 60 marks, highlighting significant scope for further reforms.

Peer Group Categories:

- Large States
- Hilly & North-Eastern States
- Union Territories & City States
- No State scored above 60, indicating no "Top Performer" under the benchmark.

Top Performers:

Large States:

- Gujarat
- Maharashtra
- Tamil Nadu
- Odisha
- Goa

Hilly & North-Eastern States:

- Uttarakhand
- Assam
- Himachal Pradesh

Union Territories & City States:

- Goa
- Delhi
- Chandigarh

About Investment Friendliness Index (IFI):

- Launched By: NITI Aayog
- First Edition: 2026
- Objective: Measure how effectively States and UTs create an environment conducive to investments.
- Announced In: Union Budget 2025–26.
- Origin: Prepared following the Prime Minister's direction at the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog (2024).

Focus Areas:

- Government Policy
- Regulatory Framework
- Infrastructure
- Business Environment
- Resource Availability
- Financial Health
- Institutional Capacity

About NITI Aayog:

- Full Form: National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- Established: 1 January 2015.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairperson: Prime Minister of India.
- Vice-Chairperson: Appointed by the Prime Minister.
- Replaced: Planning Commission.

- Objective: Promote cooperative federalism, policy innovation, and sustainable development.

Difference Between Planning Commission and NITI Aayog

Planning Commission	NITI Aayog
Established in 1950	Established in 2015
Followed a top-down planning approach	Follows a bottom-up approach
Allocated plan funds	Functions as a policy think tank
Focused on Five-Year Plans	Focuses on long-term strategy and reforms
Replaced by NITI Aayog	Promotes cooperative & competitive federalism

- First Edition: Investment Friendliness Index 2026.
- Released By: NITI Aayog.
- Large State Leader: Gujarat.
- Hilly & North-Eastern State Leader: Uttarakhand.
- UT & City State Leader: Goa.
- Coverage: 36 States and UTs.
- Indicators: 84.
- Announced in: Union Budget 2025–26.
- NITI Aayog Established: 1 January 2015.
- Replaced: Planning Commission.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Objective: Promote competitive and cooperative federalism.

Exam Focus Points:

Rohit Sharma Becomes Oldest Indian to Score an ODI Century



- Rohit Sharma created history by becoming the oldest Indian cricketer to score a century in One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- At the age of 39 years and 80 days, he surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's previous record.
- Rohit scored a brilliant 138 off 110 balls against England in the third ODI at Lord's Cricket Ground, London.
- He also became the first Indian batter to score an ODI century at Lord's and helped India register a memorable victory.

Historic Achievement:

- Oldest Indian to score an ODI century.
- First Indian to score an ODI hundred at Lord's.

- Surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record.

Rohit Sharma's Major ODI Records:

- Highest Individual ODI Score: 264 vs Sri Lanka (World Record).
- Only batter to score three ODI double centuries.
- Most centuries in a single ICC Cricket World Cup: 5 (2019).
- Most ODI centuries by an Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli.
- First Indian to score an ODI century at Lord's.
- Most ODI centuries in a visiting country after his Lord's hundred.

About One Day International (ODI) Cricket:

Format: 50 overs per side.
Governed By: International Cricket Council (ICC).
First Men's ODI: Australia vs England, 5 January 1971, Melbourne.
ICC Men's Cricket World Cup: Played every four years in ODI format.

About Lord's Cricket Ground:

- Location: London, England.
- Established: 1814.
- Known As: "The Home of Cricket".
- Owned By: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- Hosts the ICC World Test Championship Finals, World Cup finals, and other major international matches.

- Only player with three ODI double centuries: Rohit Sharma.
- Lord's Cricket Ground is the headquarters of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of the Laws of Cricket.
- The Laws of Cricket are maintained by the MCC, while the ICC governs international cricket.

Exam Focus Points:

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

- Founded: 1909 (as Imperial Cricket Conference).
- Renamed: International Cricket Council in 1989.
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Chairman: Jay Shah.
- Members: 108 (12 Full Members and 96 Associate Members).

- Oldest Indian to score an ODI century: Rohit Sharma.
- Age at the record: 39 years 80 days.
- Venue: Lord's Cricket Ground, London.
- Opponent: England.
- Score: 138 (110 balls).
- Previous Record Holder: Sachin Tendulkar.
- Highest Individual ODI Score: 264 (Rohit Sharma).
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, UAE.
- Lord's is known as: The Home of Cricket.
- Owner of Lord's: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

Additional Facts:

- Highest Individual ODI Score: Rohit Sharma – 264 vs Sri Lanka (2014).
- Most ODI Runs: Sachin Tendulkar.
- Most ODI Centuries: Virat Kohli.

India Wins Four Gold Medals at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026



- India achieved its best-ever performance at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026 by winning four gold medals.

- All four members of the Indian team secured gold medals, helping India finish joint Rank 1 along with China, Vietnam, and the Individual Participant (Russia).
- Kabeer Chhillar, JEE (Advanced) 2026 AIR-1, was among the four gold medal winners.
- The Olympiad was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with participation from 363 students representing 93 countries.

Indian Gold Medal Winners:

- Kabeer Chhillar (JEE Advanced 2026 AIR-1)

- Debadatta Priyadarshi
- Harshit Singla
- Madhav Kishore

About International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO):

- Established: 1968
- First Edition: Prague, Czechoslovakia
- Frequency: Annual
- Participants: Pre-university (school-level) students
- Objective: Promote excellence in chemistry education and foster international scientific cooperation.

Events Include:

- Practical Laboratory Examination
- Theoretical Examination

India's Participation in IChO:

- India has been participating in the International Chemistry Olympiad since 1999.
- The Indian team is selected through a multi-stage National Olympiad Programme.
- Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Mumbai, is the nodal centre for training and selecting the Indian team.
- HBCSE functions under the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

About Uzbekistan:

- Capital: Tashkent
- Currency: Uzbekistani Som (UZS)
- Official Language: Uzbek
- President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- Neighbouring Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan.

Exam Focus Points:

- Event: 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026.
- Host: Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- India's Medal Tally: 4 Gold Medals.
- Overall Rank: Joint 1st.
- Participating Countries: 93.
- Participants: 363.
- JEE Advanced AIR-1 among winners: Kabeer Chhillar.
- HBCSE Location: Mumbai.
- Parent Organisation of HBCSE: TIFR.
- TIFR functions under: Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- India has participated in IChO since: 1999.

DCGI Approves India's First Dengue Vaccine – QDENG



- India's drug regulator, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), has granted market authorisation to QDENG, making it the first dengue vaccine approved in India.
- Developed by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals (Japan), the vaccine is approved for individuals aged 4–60 years.
- QDENG can be administered without prior dengue infection or pre-vaccination screening, marking a major shift in India's dengue prevention strategy.

- The approval is significant as India accounts for nearly one-third of the global dengue burden, and dengue cases have increased sharply over the past two decades.

About QDENG (TAK-003):

- Type: Live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- Target: All four dengue virus serotypes.
- Administration: Two-dose schedule (generally administered three months apart).
- WHO Status: WHO-prequalified vaccine.
- Global Approval: Approved in 43 countries.
- Global Distribution: More than 32 million doses distributed since its launch in 2022.

Why is this Approval Important?

- Introduces India's first vaccine-based dengue prevention strategy.

Until now, dengue control relied mainly on:

- Mosquito/vector control
- Public awareness
- Early diagnosis
- Supportive treatment (no specific antiviral drug)
- Reduces the risk of severe dengue and dengue-related hospitalisation.
- Supports India's efforts to reduce the disease burden in endemic regions.

About Dengue:

- Cause: Dengue virus (Flavivirus).
- Vector: Female Aedes aegypti mosquito (also Aedes albopictus).
- Transmission: Mosquito bite.
- Virus Serotypes: DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, DENV-4.

Common Symptoms:

- High fever
- Severe headache

- Muscle and joint pain
- Skin rash

Severe Forms:

- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF)
- Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS)

About Drug Controller General of India (DCGI):

- Drugs Controller General of India (Incumbent): Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi
- Organisation: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Functions:

- Approves new drugs and vaccines.
- Regulates clinical trials.
- Grants market authorisation for medicines.
- Ensures safety, quality, and efficacy of pharmaceuticals.

About CDSCO:

- Full Form: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.
- National Drug Regulatory Authority of India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Works Under: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

About Takeda Pharmaceutical Company:

- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- Founded: 1781.
- Business: Global biopharmaceutical company focused on vaccines, oncology, gastroenterology, neuroscience, and rare diseases.

Exam Focus Points:

- India's first approved dengue vaccine: QDENGGA.
- Developer: Takeda Biopharmaceuticals.
- Approved by: DCGI.
- Target age group: 4–60 years.
- Protects against: Four dengue virus serotypes.

- No pre-vaccination screening required.
- Vector: Aedes aegypti mosquito.
- Regulatory authority: CDSCO under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Takeda Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- WHO-prequalified vaccine: QDENGGA.

Cabinet Approves National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026



- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026, a new policy framework to encourage investment in gas-based urea manufacturing plants in India.
- The policy aims to establish 8–9 new greenfield and brownfield urea plants, increase domestic urea production, reduce import dependence, and strengthen India's fertilizer security.
- The initiative is expected to attract both public and private investment while supporting the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and ensuring uninterrupted fertilizer availability for farmers.

- Encourage investments in modern gas-based fertilizer plants.
- Reduce dependence on imported urea.
- Promote energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable technologies.
- Strengthen India's agricultural and food security.
- Support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

About Urea:

- Chemical Formula: $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$
- Nutrient Content: 46% Nitrogen (highest among solid nitrogenous fertilizers)
- Type: Nitrogenous fertilizer
- Primary Use: Promotes vegetative growth in crops.

Major Crops Using Urea:

- Rice
- Wheat
- Sugarcane
- Maize
- Cotton

Why is NIPU-2026 Needed?

- India consumes around 40 million metric tonnes (MMT) of urea annually.
- Domestic production is about 30 MMT, requiring imports of nearly 10 MMT every year.
- Urea demand is growing at nearly 5% annually.
- The policy seeks to bridge this production gap and improve long-term fertilizer security.

Objectives of NIPU-2026:

- Increase indigenous urea production.

Types of Fertilizers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Fertilizer | Major Nutrient |
| Urea | Nitrogen (N) |
| DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) | Nitrogen & Phosphorus |

- | |
|---|
| • MOP (Muriate of Potash) Potassium |
| • SSP (Single Super Phosphate) Phosphorus |

Why are Gas-Based Urea Plants Preferred?

- Lower carbon emissions than naphtha or fuel oil-based plants.
- Higher energy efficiency.
- Reduced production cost.
- Cleaner manufacturing process.
- Supports India's natural gas-based industrial transition.

About the Department of Fertilizers:

- Ministry: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Role:

- Formulates fertilizer policies.
- Ensures timely availability of fertilizers.
- Administers fertilizer subsidy schemes.
- Promotes balanced nutrient use.

Major Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings:

- | |
|---|
| • National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) |
| • Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) |
| • Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT) |
| • Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) |
| • Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) |

Fertilizer Subsidy in India:

- The Government provides subsidies to keep fertilizers affordable for farmers.
- Urea is sold at a government-controlled Maximum Retail Price (MRP).
- India follows the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme for phosphatic and potassic

(P&K) fertilizers, while urea remains outside NBS and is regulated separately.

Additional Facts:

- Neem-Coated Urea was made mandatory in 2015 to reduce diversion and improve nitrogen-use efficiency.
- Nano Urea has been developed by IFFCO as an innovative liquid nitrogen fertilizer.
- India is among the largest producers and consumers of urea in the world.
- Major fertilizer-producing states include Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab.
- Natural gas is the principal feedstock for modern urea production in India.
- The policy is expected to reduce the fertilizer import bill and improve foreign exchange savings over time.

Exam Focus Points:

- | |
|--|
| • Policy: National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026. |
| • Approved By: Union Cabinet. |
| • Objective: Increase domestic urea production. |
| • New Plants Proposed: 8–9 gas-based plants. |
| • Current Urea Demand: ~40 MMT annually. |
| • Domestic Production: ~30 MMT annually. |
| • Chemical Formula of Urea: $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$. |
| • Nitrogen Content in Urea: 46%. |
| • Ministry Concerned: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. |
| • Neem-Coated Urea: Mandatory since 2015. |
| • Nano Urea: Developed by IFFCO. |

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which country won the FIFA World Cup 2026? **Spain.**
- ❖ Which three countries jointly hosted the FIFA World Cup 2026? **United States, Canada and Mexico.**
- ❖ Which country hosted the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026? **Lithuania.**
- ❖ How many medals did India win at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026? **Four medals (1 Gold and 3 Silver).**
- ❖ Who won India's Gold Medal at the IBO 2026? **Bhavyaa Gunwal (Haryana).**
- ❖ Where did the Indian Embassy inaugurate the Permanent Exhibition on UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India? **Baku, Azerbaijan.**
- ❖ Under which convention are UNESCO World Heritage Sites inscribed? **1972 World Heritage Convention.**
- ❖ Which film won the Best Feature Film award at the 72nd National Film Awards? **Article 370.**
- ❖ Who won the Best Actress award at the 72nd National Film Awards? **Yami Gautam.**
- ❖ Who became the first Indian to win the Japan Open badminton title? **P. V. Sindhu.**
- ❖ Which Japanese player did P. V. Sindhu defeat to win the Japan Open 2026 title? **Akane Yamaguchi.**

- ❖ Which state topped NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index 2026 among large states? **Gujarat.**
- ❖ Which state ranked first in the Hilly & North-Eastern States category of the Investment Friendliness Index 2026? **Uttarakhand.**
- ❖ Who became the oldest Indian to score a century in One Day Internationals (ODIs)?
Rohit Sharma.
- ❖ Which country hosted the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) 2026?
Uzbekistan (Tashkent).
- ❖ How many gold medals did India win at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) 2026? **Four Gold Medals.**
- ❖ Which is the first dengue vaccine approved in India? **QDENG (TAK-003).**
- ❖ Which organisation approved India's first dengue vaccine, QDENG? **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).**
- ❖ Which new policy was approved by the Union Cabinet to promote domestic urea production? **National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026.**
- ❖ How many new gas-based urea plants are proposed under NIPU-2026? **Eight to nine plants.**



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IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

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