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Top Stories of The Day

- *Rajya Sabha Takes Up **Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill** for Greater Central Regulation of Mineral-Bearing Lands and State Levies*
- *Amit Shah Launches **Gramin Gyan Setu App** to Digitally Integrate Libraries and Expand Rural Access to Learning Resources*
- *Parliament Passes **NCDC Amendment Bill** Strengthening Cooperative Sector Financing*
- *Parliament Passes Bill Renaming **Kerala as Keralam** to Reflect Malayalam Linguistic Identity and Cultural Heritage*
- *Indian Navy Launches Next-Generation **Offshore Patrol Vessel Shruti** at GRSE to Strengthen Maritime Security and Indigenous Shipbuilding*
- *Skyroot Aerospace Signs **Three-Launch Vikram-1** Agreement with HEX20 Space for Earth Observation and Payload Demonstration Missions*
- *Former BARC Nuclear Scientist **M.P. Parameswaran Dies** at 91 After Championing Science Communication and Scientific Temper*
- *Gujarat Approves Four **Natural Farming Centres** of Excellence with ₹20 Crore Allocation for Farmer Training and Sustainable Agriculture*
- *CZA Approves Asia's First Desert-Themed Drive-Through Night Safari at **Juna Deesa** with ₹542.14 Crore Investment*
- ***Ambani Family** Tops Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2026, Followed by Birla and Jindal Families*

Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2026: Greater Central Role in Mineral Regulation



- The Rajya Sabha has taken up the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which seeks to amend the MMDR Act, 1957. The Bill aims to strengthen regulation of mineral-bearing lands, promote investment and ensure greater certainty in the mining sector.

Key Provisions:

- The Bill proposes to empower the Central Government to regulate mineral-bearing lands and restrict specified taxes, cess and other levies imposed by States on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands. The objective is to reduce multiple and unpredictable levies, improve mining viability and strengthen domestic mineral production.

Constitutional Context:

- The issue is important for Centre–State relations.

Entry	List	Details
Entry 54	Union List	Regulation of mines and mineral development under Parliamentary control.
Entry 23	State List	Regulation of mines and mineral development, subject to Entry 54.
Entry 50	State List	Taxes on mineral rights, subject to Parliamentary limitations.
Entry 49	State List	Taxes on lands and buildings.

- Thus, the Bill raises questions regarding fiscal federalism and Parliament's power to restrict State taxation.

Supreme Court Link:

- The proposed changes come against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment in Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India Ltd., which held that royalty is not a tax and recognised the power of States to impose taxes on mineral rights, subject to constitutional limitations.
- The 2026 Bill seeks to place restrictions on certain State levies relating to mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands, making Centre–State fiscal relations and federalism an important dimension of the legislation.

Royalty vs Tax

Royalty	Tax
Payment associated with enjoyment/extraction of mineral rights	Compulsory levy imposed by public authority
Governed by mining/legal framework	Imposed under taxing power
Supreme Court held royalty is not a tax	State taxation powers derive from constitutional entries

Significance:

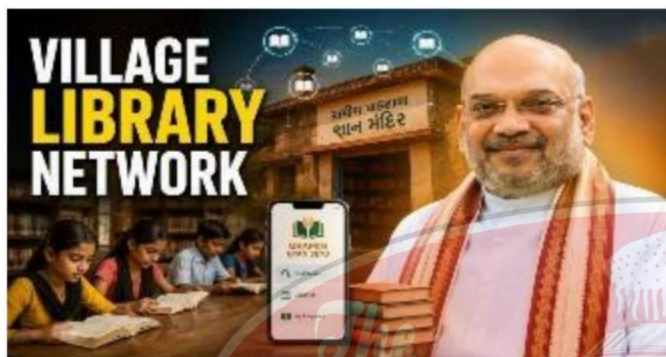
- The Bill is linked to India's critical mineral security, important for EVs, batteries, renewable energy, electronics, semiconductors and defence. It complements the National Critical Mineral Mission, which seeks to strengthen exploration, mining, processing, overseas acquisition and recycling.

Exam Focus Points:

- Act: MMDR Act, 1957
- Key Issue: Mineral-bearing lands and State levies
- Constitutional Link: Entries 23 and 50 of State List and Entry 54 of Union List.
- Major Judicial Link: Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India Ltd., 2024.

- Important Supreme Court Finding: Royalty is not a tax.
- Strategic Link: Critical minerals and mineral security.

Gramin Gyan Setu App Launched to Integrate Libraries in Gandhinagar



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the Gramin Gyan Setu app through video conferencing to integrate libraries in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency of Gujarat. The initiative seeks to connect libraries through a common digital platform and improve access to books and learning resources, particularly in rural areas.

books in Indian languages and expanding digital libraries. NEP also envisages using technology to promote lifelong learning.

Additional Facts: Digital Education in India

Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya:

- A digital initiative of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, providing access to quality digital books across languages, genres and geographical locations.

DIKSHA:

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing — a national digital platform for school education under the broader digital-education framework.

What is Gramin Gyan Setu?

- The app is designed to integrate local libraries, enabling better access to available reading resources and promoting a culture of reading and knowledge-sharing.
- The initiative is significant in the context of digital inclusion, rural education and lifelong learning, as digital platforms can help overcome geographical limitations in access to educational resources.

Link with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- The initiative is consistent with the NEP 2020, which emphasises strengthening and modernising public libraries, setting up rural libraries and reading rooms, improving access to

PM e-VIDYA:

- Integrates multiple modes of digital and online education, including DIKSHA, television, radio and podcasts.

Constitutional Context:

- Article 21A: Provides the Right to Education—free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- Library and digital-access initiatives complement this constitutional objective by improving access to educational resources.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: Gramin Gyan Setu app launched in Gandhinagar.

- Objective: Integrate libraries through a digital platform.
- Location: Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Gujarat.
- Key Themes: Digital inclusion, rural education, libraries and lifelong learning.
- Policy Link: NEP 2020.
- Digital Education Link: DIKSHA, PM e-VIDYA, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya.
- Constitutional Link: Article 21A – Right to Education.

NCDC Amendment Bill, 2026 Passed to Strengthen Cooperative Sector



About NCDC:

- The National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established in 1963 under an Act of Parliament, based on the NCDC Act, 1962. It is a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Cooperation.

Its activities include financing cooperatives involved in:

- Parliament has passed the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) Amendment Bill, 2026, with the Rajya Sabha approving it after the Lok Sabha. The Bill amends the National Co-operative Development Corporation Act, 1962 and seeks to expand NCDC's role in financing and promoting the cooperative sector.
- Agriculture and allied sectors
- Dairy and fisheries
- Food processing
- Storage and cold chains
- Marketing
- Handloom and sericulture
- Rural industries
- NCDC provides financial assistance for both long-term projects and working capital requirements.

What Does the Bill Propose?

The amendment broadens NCDC's operational scope by:

- Allowing NCDC to undertake activities relating to industrial goods.
- Enabling State Governments to extend NCDC funding to any entity engaged in cooperative development.
- Allowing NCDC to provide loans and grants directly to cooperative societies and entities engaged in cooperative development.
- The reforms aim to improve access to finance and support diversification of cooperative activities.
- The amendment is important for promoting cooperative-led economic development, particularly among farmers and rural communities. Cooperatives can improve farmers' bargaining power, facilitate aggregation and marketing, create employment and strengthen rural value chains.
- The government has also approved a ₹2,000 crore grant-in-aid to NCDC for 2025–26 to 2028–29, enabling it to mobilise up to ₹20,000 crore from the market for cooperative-sector financing.

Significance:

Additional Facts: Cooperative Sector:

- India has over 8 lakh cooperative societies with around 30 crore members. PACS are being computerised and diversified into multiple business activities.
- The Ministry of Cooperation was created in 2021 with the objective of strengthening the cooperative movement and promoting the principle of “Sahakar se Samridhhi”.

Constitutional Context:

- Article 43B: The State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies.
- 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011: Gave constitutional recognition to cooperatives by introducing Article 43B, adding “Co-operative Societies” to Article 19(1)(c) and incorporating Part IXB.

- However, the Supreme Court in Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah (2021) held that Part IXB, insofar as it dealt with cooperative societies within the States, required ratification by half of the States under Article 368(2).

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: NCDC Amendment Bill, 2026 passed by Parliament.
- Parent Law: NCDC Act, 1962.
- NCDC Established: 1963.
- Ministry: Ministry of Cooperation.
- Key Change: Expanded financing and operational scope of NCDC.
- Constitutional Link: Article 43B; Article 19(1)(c); Part IXB.
- Key Case: Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah, 2021.
- Policy Theme: Cooperative-led rural development and financial inclusion.

Kerala to be Renamed “Keralam” After Parliament Passes Bill



Why “Keralam”?

- Keralam is the name of the State in Malayalam, and the proposed change seeks to align the constitutional name with its Malayalam identity and linguistic heritage. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal in February 2026.

Constitutional and Legal Context:

Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament by law to:

- Parliament has passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, with the Rajya Sabha approving it, after the Lok Sabha passed it a day earlier.
- The Bill seeks to change the name of the State from “Kerala” to “Keralam” in the First Schedule of the Constitution.
- The move follows a request from the Kerala Legislative Assembly, which passed a resolution in 2024.

- Form a new State.
- Increase or diminish the area of a State.
- Alter the boundaries of a State.
- Alter the name of a State.
- Before introducing such a Bill, the President's recommendation is required. Where the proposal affects the area, boundaries or name of a State, the President refers it to the concerned State Legislature for expressing its views.

Article 4:

- A law made under Articles 2 and 3 may amend the First and Fourth Schedules and make consequential provisions. Such a law is not treated as a constitutional amendment under Article 368.

Historical Context:

- Kerala was formed on 1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, largely on linguistic lines for Malayalam-speaking regions.
- Kerala Piravi Day: 1 November.
- The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on 24 June 2024 seeking the name change.

Significance:

- The move highlights the role of language, cultural identity and federalism in India's State reorganisation. It also demonstrates Parliament's constitutional power to alter State names while following the consultative procedure prescribed under Article 3.

Additional Facts:

- First Schedule: Lists the States and Union Territories of India.
- Fourth Schedule: Allocates seats in the Rajya Sabha to States and Union Territories.
- States Reorganisation Act, 1956: Created a major restructuring of India's States, primarily on linguistic lines.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 passed by Parliament.
- New Name: Keralam.
- Constitutional Provision: Article 3.
- Relevant Schedule: First Schedule.
- State Resolution: 24 June 2024.
- State Formation: 1 November 1956.
- Key Concept: Parliament can alter the name of a State by ordinary legislation; Article 368 procedure is not required.

Indian Navy's Next-Generation OPV 'Shruti' Launched at GRSE



- The Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Shruti' (Yard 3037) was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

About Shruti and NGOPVs:

- The NGOPV programme involves indigenously designed and built vessels intended to strengthen maritime surveillance and security. The ships are approximately 113 m long, 14.6 m

wide, with a displacement of around 3,000 tonnes, a speed of up to 23 knots and an endurance of 8,500 nautical miles at 14 knots.

They are designed for multiple roles, including:

- Maritime surveillance and coastal security
- Anti-piracy and anti-smuggling operations
- Anti-poaching and trafficking control
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations
- Protection of offshore assets
- Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations
- Special and out-of-area contingency operations

Significance:

- The vessel strengthens India's maritime domain awareness and presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), particularly for protecting offshore economic assets and maintaining secure sea lanes.
- It also reflects the government's emphasis on indigenous warship design and construction, reducing dependence on foreign defence platforms. GRSE became a Navratna CPSE in June 2026, highlighting its growing role in India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Additional Facts:

- GRSE: A Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, headquartered in Kolkata.
- NGOPV Programme: GRSE is building four NGOPVs, with the wider programme also involving Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- Maritime Security: OPVs are particularly useful for EEZ surveillance, anti-piracy, anti-

trafficking, search and rescue and protection of maritime resources.

- Atmanirbhar Bharat: Indigenous naval platforms contribute to defence indigenisation, domestic manufacturing, employment and technological capability.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: NGOPV Shruti launched at GRSE, Kolkata.
- Yard: 3037.
- Type: Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- Builder: GRSE.
- Key Themes: Maritime security, Atmanirbhar Bharat, indigenous shipbuilding.
- Key Roles: Surveillance, anti-piracy, HADR, SAR and protection of offshore assets.
- Strategic Context: Indian Ocean Region and maritime domain awareness.

Skyroot Aerospace Signs 3-Launch Deal for Vikram-1 Missions



- Skyroot Aerospace has signed a three-launch agreement with Kerala-based HEX20 Space for dedicated missions using the Vikram-1 orbital launch vehicle, with the missions scheduled to begin in late 2027. The agreement strengthens India's emerging private space-launch ecosystem and demonstrates growing commercial demand for indigenous launch services.

About Vikram-1:

- Vikram-1 is Skyroot's small-satellite launch vehicle designed primarily for deployment into

Low Earth Orbit (LEO). It is intended to provide flexible, dedicated and rideshare launch options for small satellites. Skyroot lists a payload capacity of up to 350 kg to LEO and 260 kg to Sun-synchronous Orbit.

- The agreement will support Earth-observation and payload-demonstration missions, strengthening India's capabilities in commercial space transportation.

About Skyroot Aerospace:

- Skyroot Aerospace is a Hyderabad-based private space-tech company developing the Vikram series of launch vehicles.
- In November 2022, Skyroot's Vikram-S became the first privately developed Indian rocket to undertake a suborbital launch from Sriharikota under Mission Prarambh.

About HEX20 Space:

- HEX20 Space, headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is developing

modular satellite platforms. Its satellite-bus technology can accommodate different payloads for commercial, academic and other applications.

Significance:

The agreement highlights:

- Growth of India's private space sector.
- Development of a domestic commercial launch ecosystem.
- Increased participation of startups in satellite and launch services.
- Potential growth in India's space economy.
- Support for Atmanirbhar Bharat in space technology.
- Greater access to space for small-satellite operators.

Additional Facts:

- IN-SPACE: The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre acts as the single-window agency for promoting, enabling and regulating private-sector space activities in India.

- Indian Space Policy 2023: Seeks greater participation of private entities across the entire space value chain, including satellites, launch vehicles and space-based services.
- Mission Prarambh: Vikram-S reached a peak altitude of 88.8 km during its 2022 suborbital flight.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: Skyroot-HEX20 three-launch agreement.
- Launch Vehicle: Vikram-1.
- Missions: Earth observation and payload demonstration.
- Scheduled: From late 2027.
- Skyroot: Hyderabad-based private space company.
- HEX20: Thiruvananthapuram-based space-tech startup.
- Key Themes: Private space sector, commercial space, LEO, space economy, Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Policy Link: Indian Space Policy 2023 and IN-SPACE.

Former Nuclear Scientist and People's Science Advocate M.P. Parameswaran Dies at 91



- Former BARC scientist, science communicator and people's science advocate M.P. Parameswaran passed away at the age of 91 in Kerala.
- He was known for taking scientific knowledge beyond laboratories and classrooms and making it accessible to ordinary people.

Scientific Career:

- M.P. Parameswaran was trained as a nuclear engineer and worked at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). He later moved from formal scientific research towards science popularisation, education and grassroots development. He played an important role in transforming the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) into a wider people's science movement.

Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP):

- KSSP was established in 1962 initially as a forum of science writers. It later developed into a major people's science organisation, promoting scientific temper, literacy,

environmental awareness and social development. Parameswaran was among its important leaders and helped popularise science through regional-language communication.

Contribution to Scientific Temper:

- His work is significant in the context of Article 51A(h) of the Constitution, which makes it a Fundamental Duty of citizens to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- His approach emphasised that science should not remain confined to experts but should contribute to democratic decision-making, social development and empowerment of communities.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: M.P. Parameswaran, former nuclear scientist and science advocate, dies at 91.
- Institution: BARC – Department of Atomic Energy.
- Science Movement: Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP).
- Constitutional Link: Article 51A(h) – Scientific Temper.
- Key Themes: Science communication, scientific temper, literacy, grassroots development.
- Important Concept: People's Science Movement.

Gujarat to Establish Four Centres of Excellence for Natural Farming



improving soil health, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience.

The Centres of Excellence will:

- The Gujarat Government has approved four Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for natural farming for 2026–27, with an allocation of ₹20 crore.
- The centres will be established in Navsari, Morbi, Bhavnagar and Chhota Udepur districts.
- Each centre will have modern facilities and capacity to train 100 farmers at a time, serving as training, demonstration and knowledge hubs for natural farming.
- Train farmers in natural-farming practices.
- Demonstrate location-specific farming models.
- Reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
- Lower input costs and potentially improve farm profitability.
- Promote soil health and biodiversity.
- Strengthen climate-resilient agriculture.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing among farmers and agricultural institutions.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF):

What is Natural Farming?

- Natural farming is a chemical-free, agroecological approach that relies on locally available resources, livestock-integrated farming, diversified crops and natural bio-inputs. It aims to reduce dependence on externally purchased agricultural inputs while

- The initiative complements the National Mission on Natural Farming, approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- The Mission has an overall outlay of ₹2,481 crore and seeks to promote natural farming across India. Its objectives include reducing input costs, improving soil health, strengthening

agroecological research and developing farmer-friendly certification mechanisms.

- As of March 2026, 18,786 clusters, covering about 8.80 lakh hectares, had been formed and 18.19 lakh farmers enrolled under NMNF.

Additional Facts:

- Earlier Programme: Natural farming was promoted under Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP), a component of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), before being scaled up as NMNF in 2024.
- Bio-inputs: NMNF promotes locally prepared inputs such as Jeevamrit and Beejamrit and provides for Bio-input Resource Centres.
- Gujarat Link: Gujarat has been an important centre for natural-farming promotion, including

the Gujarat Natural Farming Science University at Halol.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: Four Natural Farming Centres of Excellence approved in Gujarat.
- Allocation: ₹20 crore for 2026–27.
- Locations: Navsari, Morbi, Bhavnagar, Chhota Udepur.
- Capacity: 100 farmers per centre at a time.
- National Scheme: National Mission on Natural Farming.
- Approved: November 2024.
- Outlay: ₹2,481 crore.
- Key Themes: Sustainable agriculture, soil health, climate resilience, input-cost reduction.

Deesa to Get Asia's First Desert-Themed Night Safari



Why in News?

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved Gujarat's proposed Desert Zoological Park and Drive-through Night Safari at Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district. The project is being described as Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park. It is estimated to cost around ₹542.14 crore and will cover nearly 103 hectares. The project will be developed by the Gujarat Forest Department.

Key Features:

- The proposed facility is expected to house around 2,700 animals and birds belonging to nearly 83 species. It will feature five dedicated night-safari enclosures, along with a reptile

safari, aviary, butterfly park, aquarium, rainforest biome and interpretation centre. The project will showcase wildlife associated with Indian, African and Australian desert ecosystems. Indian species planned include chinkara, blackbuck, Indian wild ass, desert fox, caracal, Indian wolf and Asiatic lion, along with selected exotic desert species.

Environmental Significance:

- The project aims to combine wildlife conservation with sustainable ecotourism. Proposed environmental measures include solar energy, rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment, solid-waste management, native plantations and green buffer zones. The location was selected considering its natural sand dunes, proximity to the Banas River, and road and railway connectivity. The project will also support wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, conservation breeding and environmental education.

Central Zoo Authority (CZA):

- The CZA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It plays an important role in the

recognition, regulation and monitoring of zoos in India. For examinations, CZA should be distinguished from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which is primarily responsible for tiger conservation and management of tiger reserves.

Gujarat: Important Wildlife Facts:

- Gir National Park is famous for the Asiatic lion
- the Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary in the Little Rann of Kutch protects the Indian wild ass
- Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar is known for blackbuck
- Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kutch is India's first marine national park.

Exam Focus Points:

- Current Issue: CZA approves Asia's first desert-themed night safari in Gujarat.
- Location: Juna Deesa, Banaskantha, Gujarat.
- Area: 103 hectares.
- Cost: ₹542.14 crore.
- Species: ~83 species; ~2,700 animals/birds.
- Approval: Central Zoo Authority (CZA).
- Agency: Gujarat Forest Department.
- Key Features: 5 night-safari enclosures, reptile safari, aviary and butterfly park.

Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2026



growth among major family businesses during the year.

Overall Value

- The Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2026 report has ranked India's leading family-owned business groups by the value of their businesses. The Ambani family retained the top position, while the Kumar Mangalam Birla family moved into second place. The report highlights the growing economic significance of India's family-controlled enterprises.

- According to the 2026 report, India's 300 most valuable family businesses together are worth approximately ₹138 lakh crore (\$1.46 trillion). The top 10 families alone have a combined valuation of around ₹70.5 lakh crore, demonstrating the significant role of family-owned enterprises in India's corporate economy.

Key Exam Facts:

- Hurun India: Research and wealth-ranking organisation that publishes various rankings on Indian businesses and entrepreneurs.

Report: Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2026.

Top Family Businesses:

- The Ambani family, led by Mukesh Ambani and associated with Reliance Industries, topped the list with a business valuation of about ₹28.23 lakh crore. The Birla family, led by Kumar Mangalam Birla and associated with the Aditya Birla Group, ranked second. The Jindal family, associated with JSW, ranked third, with its valuation reaching around ₹8 lakh crore in FY26. The Jindal family recorded the strongest

Rank	Family	Company/Group
No. 1	Ambani family	Reliance Industries
No. 2	Kumar Mangalam Birla family	Aditya Birla Group

No. 3	Jindal family	JSW
Top 300	—	Combined value: ₹138 lakh crore
Top 10	—	Combined value: ₹70.5 lakh crore

Additional Fact:

- The ranking measures business value, not simply the personal net worth of family members. Therefore, it should not be confused with the Hurun India Rich List, which ranks individuals/families based on wealth.

- Key Theme: Family businesses, corporate valuation, wealth creation, industrial growth and succession.

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which Act is proposed to be amended by the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2026? **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.**
- ❖ Which policy emphasises strengthening rural libraries, reading rooms and digital libraries? **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- ❖ Under which constitutional provision is the State directed to promote the voluntary formation, autonomous functioning and democratic control of cooperative societies? **Article 43B**
- ❖ Under which Article of the Constitution can Parliament alter the name of an existing State? **Article 3.**
- ❖ Shruti, recently launched by the Indian Navy, is what type of vessel? **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV).**
- ❖ Which launch vehicle is associated with Skyroot Aerospace's commercial launch agreement with HEX20 Space? **Vikram-1.**
- ❖ Name the former BARC scientist, science communicator and people's science advocate, who passed away recently? **M.P. Parameswaran**
- ❖ Which Central Government mission promotes natural farming as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme? **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF).**
- ❖ Which state has received CZA approval for Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park at Juna Deesa? **Gujarat.**
- ❖ Which family topped the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2026 list? **Ambani family (Reliance Industries).**



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IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Current Affairs hold a crucial place in the preparation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. A comprehensive understanding of recent national and international developments helps aspirants strengthen their General Studies foundation and develop a well-rounded perspective on important issues. Topics such as government policies, schemes, economy, international relations, science and technology, environment, defence, social justice, governance, reports, indices, appointments, awards, and major global events are highly relevant for both the Prelims and Mains examinations. Regular study of current affairs not only enhances factual knowledge but also improves analytical ability, critical thinking, answer-writing skills, and decision-making aptitude. Since UPSC questions often connect contemporary developments with static subjects, consistent preparation of current affairs enables aspirants to understand issues in depth and present balanced, informed, and relevant answers. It also plays an important role in Essay writing, Ethics, and the Personality Test, giving candidates a strong edge throughout the examination process.

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