Banking Wallah

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Lecture No.- 00

By- Sushmita Ma'am

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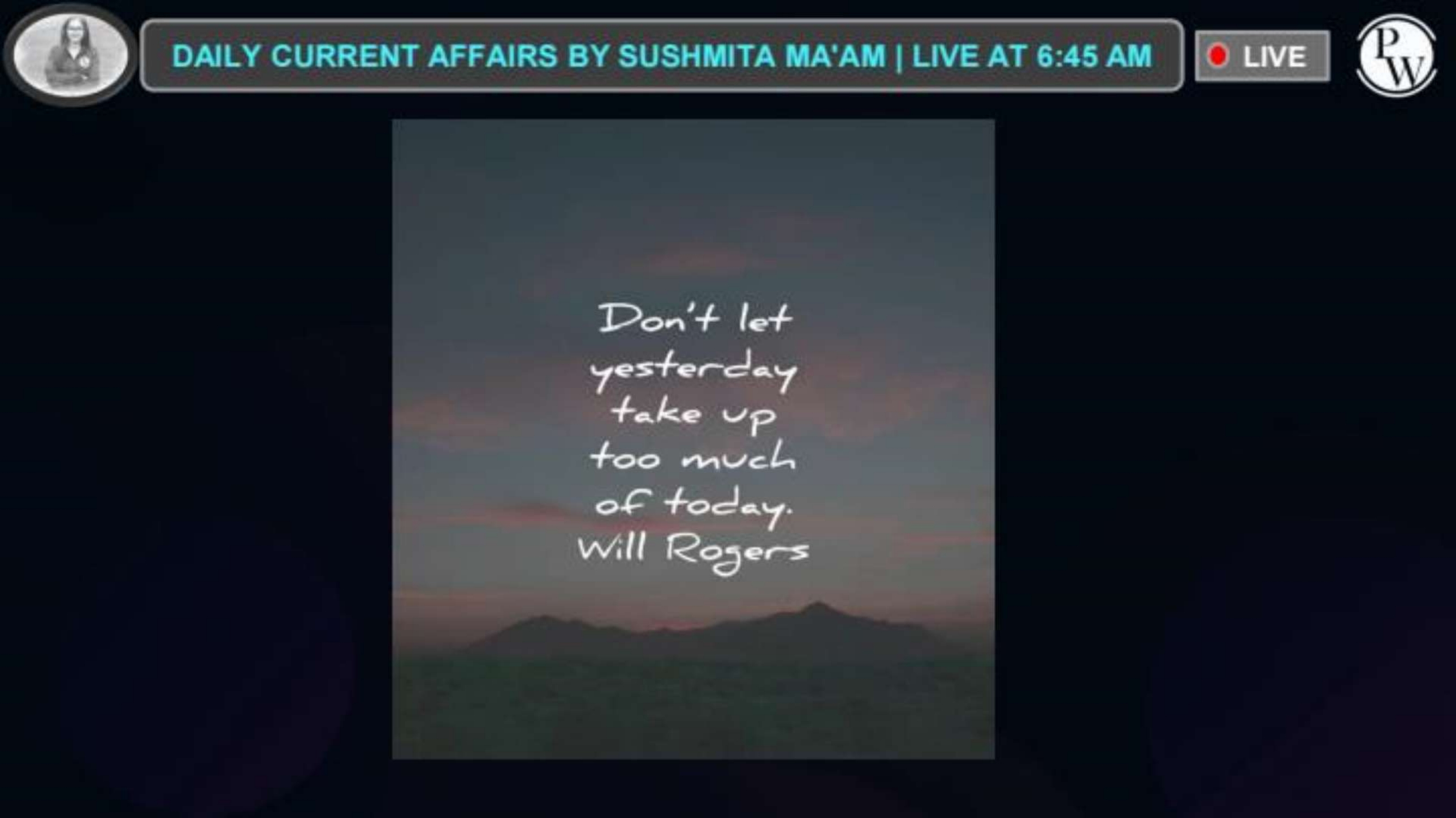
CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SUSHMITA MA'AM

- Important Notifications & Updates
- Class Notes of all YT Sessions
- Weekly Live Doubt Session
- Important PYQS
- Polls & Quiz

@CABYSUSHMITAMAM


DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SUSHMITA MA'AM | LIVE AT 6:45 AM
LIVE
Don't let
yesterday
take up
too much
of today.
Will Rogers

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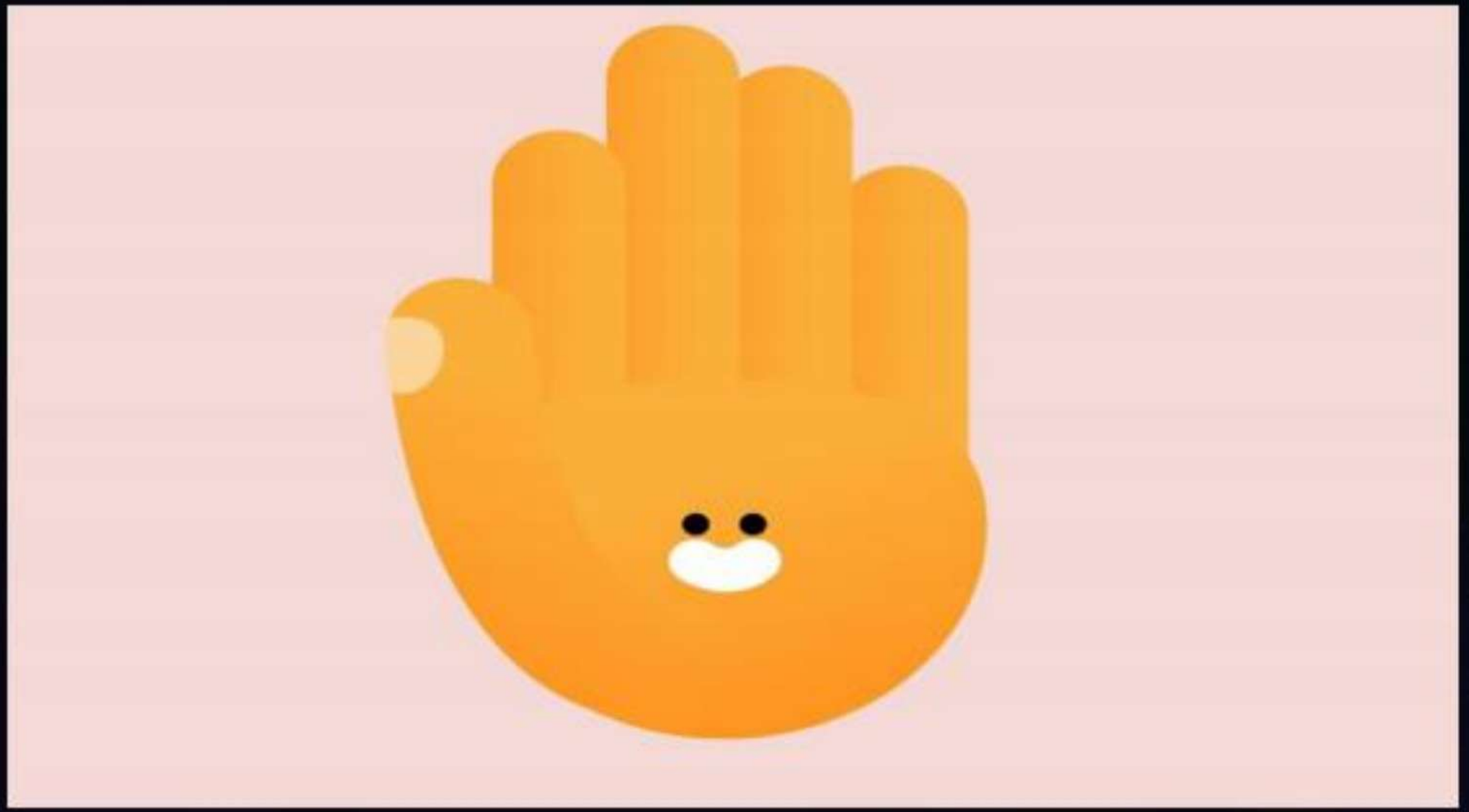
LIVE

TODAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

TODAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

1. Dharmendra Pradhan Releases "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se", Urdu Compilation of PM's Independence Day Speeches
2. India's first government AI clinic to boost public health system
3. ONGC Ltd. signed MoU with NSTFDC for execution of CSR funded infrastructure development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools
4. Former world billiards champion Manoj Kothari passes away at 67
5. Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Jaipur
6. Zelenskyy appoints ex-Canadian deputy premier as economic adviser
7. Indian Railways Utilises Over 80 Percent of CAPEX in First Three Quarters of Current Fiscal
8. State-run banks' headcount rises for first time in 5 years; Private banks' dips 0.9%
9. LG Sinha Inaugurates 2nd Khelo India Beach Games at Diu's Blue Flag Beach
10. Static Booster



IRAQ
KUWAIT
IRAN
AFGHANISTAN
PERSIAN GULF
Strait of Hormuz
BAHRAIN
QATAR
OMAN
PAKISTAN
GULF OF OMAN
UAE
SAUDI ARABIA
OMAN
ARABIAN SEA

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LIVE

Revision

Q. Based on the ruling by Venezuela's Supreme Court, why was Vice President Delcy Rodríguez tasked with assuming the role of acting president?

A. To begin negotiations with the United States

B. To guarantee administrative continuity and the defence of the nation

C. To replace Maduro permanently

D. To form a new constitution

Q. Regarding the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, what is the total number of chip design projects that have received official sanction?

A. 10

B. 16

C. 24

D. 35

Q. What is the primary operational role of the recently commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Samudra Pratap'?

A. Anti-submarine warfare

B. Pollution control and marine environmental protection

C. Anti-piracy operations only

D. Coastal tourism support

Q. In which city did the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament take place following its inauguration by PM Narendra Modi?

A. New Delhi

B. Jaipur

C. Varanasi ✓

D. Hyderabad

Q. Which marksman secured the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event during the 68th National Shooting Championship?

A. Shubham Bisla

B. Anmol Jain

C. Ajay Kumar

D. Jonathan Gavin Antony

Q. Which of the following is a major provision included in the newly launched Ladakh Sports Policy 2025?

A. Free education for athletes

B. 4% reservation in government jobs

C. Tax exemption for sports equipment

D. Mandatory fitness training in schools

Q. Which organization was responsible for conducting the national seminar titled “Aeronautics 2047” in Bengaluru?

A. HAL

B. ISRO

C. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)

D. Bharat Electronics Limited

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Q. What is the targeted economic growth percentage set by the Sultanate of Oman in its 2026 state budget?

A. 2%

B. 3%

C. 4%

D. 5%

Q. What is the estimated budgetary outlay required to cover subsidies for the Rabi 2025–26 season?

A. ₹36,500 crore

B. ₹37,952 crore

C. ₹39,100 crore

D. ₹35,750 crore

Q. In which geographic region is public trust in taxation reported to be the strongest, according to recent findings on global tax morale?

A. Europe

B. North America

C. Asia

D. South America

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Books & Authors News

Dharmendra Pradhan Releases "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se", Urdu Compilation of PM's Independence Day Speeches

धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने प्रधानमंत्री के स्वतंत्रता दिवस भाषणों के उर्दू संकलन "खुत्बात-ए-मोदी: लाल किला की फसील से" नामक पुस्तक का विमोचन किया

1. What was released?

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the book "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se" in New Delhi.

2. What does the book contain?

Compilation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speeches from the Red Fort (2014–2025).

Published in Urdu.

3. Who published the book?

Published by NCPUL — National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi.

NCPUL functions under the Ministry of Education.

Mandate: promote, preserve, and propagate Urdu across India.

4. Key themes highlighted in the speeches

Antyodaya — uplifting the last person

Welfare of the poor

Swachh Bharat

National unity & social harmony
Aspirations of 140 crore Indians
Vision of New India / Viksit Bharat
5. Why is the book important?
Promotes linguistic inclusion
Connects citizens with:
PM's ideas
Development priorities
National vision
Encourages discussion among:
students
researchers
scholars
general readers

6. Minister's expectations from NCPUL

Publish more works in Urdu on:

India's heritage

Culture & lifestyle

Knowledge traditions

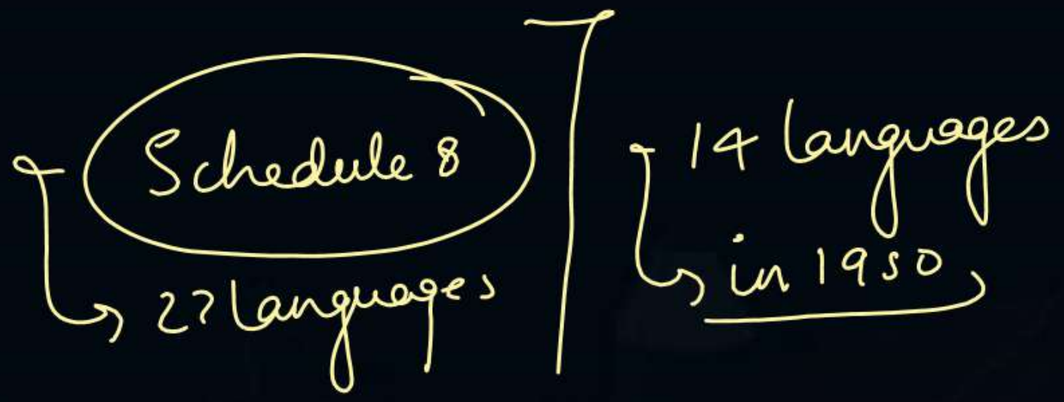
7. Message conveyed

"Khutbat-e-Modi" showcases:

Transformational journey of New India

Commitment to linguistic inclusivity

Making national speeches accessible to Urdu readers.



Q. The book “Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se” is a compilation of which of the following?

A. Prime Minister’s Mann Ki Baat speeches
B. Prime Minister’s Independence Day speeches from the Red Fort
C. Prime Minister’s foreign policy speeches
D. Prime Minister’s Parliamentary speeches

Q. The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) works under which Ministry?

A. Ministry of Culture
B. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
C. Ministry of Home Affairs
D. Ministry of Education → ?

4.6% of GDP

NEP 2020: 6% of GDP

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LIVE

Science / Tech News

India's first government AI clinic to boost public health system

भारत का पहला सरकारी AI क्लिनिक सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को सशक्त करेगा

1. What has been launched?

India's first government-run Artificial Intelligence (AI) clinic

Location: Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida

Aim: Integrate AI with public healthcare.

2. Purpose of the AI clinic

Early detection of diseases

Faster diagnosis & treatment planning

Improve survival rates and outcomes

3. What will AI be used for?

Genetic screening (for early risk detection)

Disease focus:

cancer

heart disease

kidney disease

liver disease

Interpretation of:
X-rays, ultrasounds, CT, MRI
Lab reports
Other clinical data

4. Statement from GIMS Director

Brig. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Gupta:
AI + genetic screening will analyse blood tests, scans, and clinical data.
Will also open doors for health-tech startups.

5. How AI clinics function

Use advanced algorithms + automation
Support doctors in:
diagnosis
treatment planning
patient management
Can work as:

standalone centres, or
part of hospital departments.

6. Key advantages

Faster & more accurate diagnosis
Reduced human error
Real-time decision support
Better healthcare access in remote areas with fewer specialists.

7. First-of-its-kind (Government)

AI already used in some private hospitals
But this is the first dedicated AI clinic in the government system
Model may be replicated across states.

8. Role of AI in medical science (broader impact)

Radiology — detects abnormalities missed by eye
Pathology — tissue analysis, faster reporting
Cancer screening — reduces false positives/negatives
Genomics — finds biomarkers, predicts treatment response
Supports precision medicine (custom drugs, lifestyle plans).

AI Impact Summit

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Q. Where has India's first government-run AI clinic been launched?

A. AIIMS Delhi
B. Safdarjung Hospital
C. GIMS, Greater Noida
D. PGIMER Chandigarh

Q. Which medical imaging technique uses magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of organs and tissues?

A. X-ray
B. CT Scan
C. MRI
D. Ultrasound

MoUs / Agreements News

ONGC Ltd. signed MoU with NSTFDC for execution of CSR funded infrastructure development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools

ओएनजीसी ने कॉरपोरेट सामाजिक दायित्व के तहत एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय विद्यालयों के वित्त पोषित अवसंरचना विकास हेतु एनएसटीएफडीसी के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए

1. What happened?

ONGC signed an MoU with

National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC).

Purpose: welfare and empowerment of tribal students in EMRS.

2. Organisations involved

ONGC – Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

NSTFDC – autonomous body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Supported by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. About EMRS (Eklavya Model Residential Schools)

Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Provides quality education + holistic development to tribal students.

499 EMRS functional across India (as of now).

4. What does the CSR project include?

ONGC sanctioned ₹28 crore for EMRS to support:

— Digital learning infrastructure
— Health & hygiene — especially for girls
(sanitary pad vending machines & incinerators)
— eacher capacity building
— Career counseling & entrepreneurship training

728 EMRS → 2026

5. Coverage & beneficiaries

144 EMRS in 11 States/UTs:

Andhra Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand.

Expected beneficiaries: over 35,000 tribal students.

6. Why is it important?

Enhances access to digital education
Improves health and hygiene infrastructure
Encourages career readiness & entrepreneurship
Strengthens govt–corporate partnership for tribal development
Supports broader goal of Viksit Bharat.

Q. ONGC recently signed an MoU with NSTFDC to support tribal students in EMRS. What is the total CSR amount sanctioned by ONGC for this initiative?

A. ₹15 crore
B. ₹20 crore
C. ₹28 crore
D. ₹50 crore

Q. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are implemented by which Ministry?

A. Ministry of Education
B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs ✓
D. Ministry of Rural Development

Obituaries News

Former world billiards champion Manoj Kothari passes away at 67

पूर्व विश्व बिलियर्ड्स चैंपियन मनोज कोठारी का 67 साल की उम्र में निधन

1. Who passed away?

Manoj Kothari, former world billiards champion

Age: 67

Place: Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Cause: Massive cardiac arrest

Recently underwent liver transplant, later developed lung infection

2. Sports achievements

Won the World Billiards Championship (1990)

Became State Champion 16 times

Known as one of India's finest cue sports players

3. Awards & honours

Dhyan Chand Award (2005)

— India's highest lifetime achievement award in sports

Lifetime Achievement Award (2025)

— by Billiards & Snooker Federation of India

4. Legacy

Significant contributor to Indian billiards

Helped popularise cue sports in India

Remembered for excellence, discipline, and mentorship

Q. Former world billiards champion Manoj Kothari, who recently passed away, won the world title in which year?

A. 1985
B. 1990 ✓
C. 1995
D. 2000

Q. The Dhyan Chand Award is given for:

A. Best emerging sportsperson
B. Excellence in coaching
C. Lifetime achievement in sports and games
D. Contribution to sports journalism

2002
10 lakh

Suresh Kalmadi, former Union Minister and Congress leader, passes away at 81

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री और कांग्रेस नेता सुरेश कलमाड़ी का 81 साल की उम्र में निधन

1. Passing Away

Suresh Kalmadi, senior Congress leader & former Union Minister

Passed away in Pune, age 81, after prolonged illness.

2. Roles in Politics & Sports

Former Union Minister of State for Railways

Former President, Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

Major figure in Indian sports administration.

3. Early Life & Education

Born May 1, 1944 — Madras (Chennai)

Schooling: St. Vincent's High School, Pune

College: Fergusson College, Pune

Military training: NDA, Khadakwasla, later aviation training at Air Force Flying Colleges.

4. Entry into Politics

Entered electoral politics in 1982

Initially linked to Congress (S) under Sharad Pawar

Later joined reunited Indian National Congress (INC) in 1986.

5. Parliamentary Career

Rajya Sabha: Multiple terms (1982–2004)

Lok Sabha: Three terms — 1996, 2004, 2009 from Pune constituency.

6. Indian Olympic Association Leadership

IOA President from 1996–2011

Re-elected several times; did not contest again in 2012 under IOC pressure.

7. Commonwealth Games Controversy

Arrested by CBI (2011) over CWG 2010 corruption allegations

Accused in contracts related to Timing, Scoring & Results (TSR) system

Denied allegations; legal process continued.

8. International Athletics Role

Served as President, Asian Athletics Association (1999–2013)

Received AAA President's Award (2015).

Q. Suresh Kalmadi, who recently passed away, was prominently associated with which sports body?

A. Board of Control for Cricket in India
B. Indian Olympic Association
C. Hockey India
D. All India Football Federation

Q. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) functions primarily as:

A. Organizer of domestic cricket tournaments
B. Governing body for international football in India
C. India’s National Olympic Committee
D. Apex body for school-level sports

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LIVE

Summit / Conference News

Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Jaipur

राजस्थान ने जयपुर में क्षेत्रीय एआई इम्पैक्ट कॉन्फ्रेंस 2026 की मेजबानी की

1. Event & Venue

Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

Held on 6th of this month in Jaipur

2. Key Dignitaries

Ashwini Vaishnaw — Minister of Electronics & IT

Jitin Prasada — Minister of State for Electronics & IT

Both attended the conference

3. Collaboration & Purpose

Organised in collaboration with:

Rajasthan DigiFest

TiE Global Summit 2026

Part of events leading to India AI Impact Summit 2026 (February)

AI Research Organisation

↓

GIFT City Gandhinagar

↓

3000 cr

4. Themes & Focus Areas

AI for public service delivery & governance

Ethical and responsible AI

AI and future of jobs & skills

Growth of Rajasthan's AI startup ecosystem

5. Related Event — Guwahati

Human Capital Working Group Meeting to be hosted in Guwahati

Chaired by Prof. T. G. Sitharam

Focus: education, skilling, workforce readiness in AI era

Q. The Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 was recently hosted in which city?

A. Chandigarh
B. Jaipur ✓
C. Bengaluru
D. Ahmedabad

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Q. Which ministry is responsible for initiatives related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the national level in India?

A. Ministry of Science and Technology
B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) ✓
C. Ministry of Communications
D. NITI Aayog

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SUSHMITA MA'AM | LIVE AT 6:45 AM

LIVE

International News

Zelenskyy appoints ex-Canadian deputy premier as economic adviser

ज़ेलेंस्की ने पूर्व कनाडाई उप प्रधानमंत्री क्रिस्टिया फ्रीलैंड को आर्थिक विकास सलाहकार के रूप में नियुक्त किया

1. Zelenskyy appoints Chrystia Freeland

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree appointing Chrystia Freeland as Adviser on Economic Development.

Zelenskyy said she brings investment experience and economic reform expertise.

2. Focus on Ukraine's Internal Resilience

Zelenskyy stressed the need to:

strengthen internal resilience,

support recovery if diplomacy succeeds,

reinforce defence if the war continues due to delays by partners.

3. About Chrystia Freeland

Former Canadian Deputy Prime Minister (2019–2024).

Active lawmaker in Canada's parliament.

Canada's special envoy for Ukraine's reconstruction.

Has Ukrainian ancestry.

4. Appointment of Sergiy Kyslytsya

Zelenskyy appointed Sergiy Kyslytsya as First Deputy Head of the Presidential Office.

He will also continue participating in negotiations.

5. Kyslytsya's Previous Roles

Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the UN (2020–2025).

Served as First Deputy Foreign Minister (later dismissed by Cabinet).

6. Announced Internal Reforms

Zelenskyy signaled "substantial internal changes" to increase resilience.

Q. Who has been appointed as Adviser on Economic Development to the President of Ukraine?

ex Gov. of Federal Reserve → IMF Chief

A. Janet Yellen

B. Kristalina Georgieva

C. Chrystia Freeland ✓

D. Ursula von der Leyen → EU Chief

Q. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) located?

A. Geneva
B. New York
C. Vienna
D. Paris

Third international AYUSH conference to be held in Dubai in February

तीसरा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आयुष सम्मेलन फरवरी में दुबई में आयोजित किया जाएगा।

1. Dubai to host 3rd International AYUSH Conference

Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre

Dates: February 15–17, 2026

Participation from 35+ countries

2. Organisers & Support

Organised by Science India Forum with World Ayurveda Foundation

Under patronage of:

Ministry of AYUSH (Govt. of India)

Consulate General of India, Dubai

Supported by:

Global Homeopathic Foundation

Emirates Ayurveda Graduates Association

Other AYUSH organisations worldwide

Ministerial-level participation expected from India.

3. Theme & Objective

Theme: "Evidence-based AYUSH interventions in mind–body health."

Aim: promote AYUSH as a recognized healthcare system globally.

4. Conference Activities

~ 75 invited talks

~ 250 oral presentations

~ 200 posters

Short film festival on AYUSH systems

5. Participation & Impact

1,200+ delegates expected.

Strengthening India–UAE cooperation in:

traditional medicine

alternative healthcare

medical tourism

6. Exhibition & Policy Discussions

Large international AYUSH exhibition — open to public, free entry.

Delegate assembly (Feb 15):

WHO representatives

regulators

policymakers

industry leaders

Focus on:

G2G cooperation

bilateral agreements (India–UAE)

research, education, green medicine

trade & investment in AYUSH

Q. Where will the 3rd International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2026 be held?

A. New Delhi
B. Abu Dhabi
C. Dubai ✓
D. Muscat

India + UAE ⇒

Q. What does AYUSH stand for?

A. Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy
B. Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Surgery, and Homeopathy
C. Alternative, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Healing
D. Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, and Holistic care

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LIVE

Business / Economy

State-run banks' headcount rises for first time in 5 years; Private banks' dips 0.9%

सरकारी बैंकों में कर्मचारियों की संख्या 5 साल में पहली बार बढ़ी; प्राइवेट बैंकों में 0.9% की गिरावट आई

1. Public Sector Banks: First Rise in Staff in 5 Years

Employee count of public sector banks (PSBs) increased for the first time since 2017 merger waves.

PSB headcount rose 0.22% to 7,57,641 (FY25) from 7,56,015 (FY24).

2. Private Banks: Headcount Declines

Private banks' employee strength fell 0.86% to 8,38,150 (FY25) from 8,45,407 (FY24).

Focus on technology, digitisation, and productivity instead of hiring.

3. Background: Bank Mergers Since 2017

SBI merged 5 associate banks + Bharatiya Mahila Bank (2017).

Major consolidation in 2020: 12 banks merged into 4 big entities.

Discussions underway about a third wave of mergers.

4. Major Mergers (2020 Wave)

PNB + OBC + United Bank → 2nd largest PSB.

Canara Bank + Syndicate Bank → large combined entity.

Union Bank + Andhra Bank + Corporation Bank → bigger network.

Indian Bank + Allahabad Bank → stronger mid-sized bank.

5. SBI and PNB Hiring Trends

SBI headcount: 2,36,226 (+3,930).

PNB headcount: 1,02,746 (+397).

SBI plans to hire 18,000 more in FY26 (mostly clerical + POs).

6. Mixed Trends Across PSBs

Central Bank of India: steady rise to 33,081.

Bank of Baroda: fall to 73,742.

Bank of India: fall to 50,564.

Canara Bank: fall to 81,260.

7. Private Sector Hiring Snapshot

ICICI Bank: sharp drop to 1,30,957 (−7.13%).

HDFC Bank: added 994 (total 2,14,521).

Axis Bank: added 121 (total 1,04,453).

8. Overall Banking Workforce

Total banking workforce: 18,08,587 (FY25) vs 17,87,566 (FY24).

Foreign banks: 28,041 employees.

Small finance banks: 1,77,797 (largest — AU Bank: 50,946).

Q. In FY25, which bank recorded the sharpest decline in employee strength among major private sector banks?

A. Axis Bank
B. ICICI Bank
C. HDFC Bank
D. Yes Bank

Q. Who is known as the “Father of Banking Regulation in India” due to his role in establishing the RBI?

A. B. R. Ambedkar
B. M. Visvesvaraya
C. Osborne Smith
D. John Maynard Keynes

India’s pharma sector bullish on export growth

भारत के फार्मा क्षेत्र में निर्यात वृद्धि को लेकर उत्साह

1. India's pharma exports — key update

India's pharmaceutical exports reached $30.47 billion in FY 2024–25.

Growth rate: 9.4% year-on-year.

Expected to surpass last year's exports.

2. Role of PHARMEXCIL

PHARMEXCIL informed Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal about performance.

Highlighted that India:

is 3rd largest pharma producer by volume

supplies medicines to 150+ countries

is a reliable source of affordable, quality-assured drugs.

3. Meetings & policy discussions

PHARMEXCIL held meetings with senior officials to align strategy on exports:

Secretary, DoP — Manoj Joshi

Sector performance & future growth discussed.

Joint Secretary, DoP — Satya Prakash L.

Focus on:
industry–academia collaboration
clinical trials
vaccines, biopharma
APIs
innovation & skills.
DGFT — Lav Aggarwal
Support sought for Chintan Shivir and iPHEX 2026.

4. Market outlook

India's domestic pharma market:
Current value: ~$60 billion
Projected: $130 billion by 2030

5. Importance of platforms like iPHEX & Chintan Shivir

Help MSMEs and exporters

Enable:

market access

dialogue on quality & competitiveness

innovation promotion.

6. Key message

India is positioned as the “pharmacy of the world”

Supported by:

export growth

expanding domestic demand

continuous government backing.

Q. According to PHARMEXCIL, India's pharmaceutical exports in FY 2024–25 stood at:

A. $24.5 billion
B. $28.1 billion
C. $30.47 billion
D. $35.6 billion

Q. Which of the following describes the primary role of PHARMEXCIL?

A. Regulating drug prices in India
B. Promoting India's pharmaceutical exports abroad
C. Approving new medicines for marketing
D. Conducting medical entrance examinations

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India.

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LIVE

Sports News

LG Sinha Inaugurates 2nd Khelo India Beach Games at Diu's Blue Flag Beach

एलजी सिन्हा ने दीव के ब्लू फ्लैग बीच पर दूसरे खेलो इंडिया बीच गेम्स का उद्घाटन किया

1. 2nd Khelo India Beach Games inaugurated

Lt. Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 2nd Khelo India Beach Games.

Venue: Blue Flag certified Ghoghla Beach, Diu.

2. Event builds sports culture & youth empowerment

Sinha highlighted:

India's growing sports ecosystem

Focus on youth participation and talent promotion

3. Location continuity

Both editions (2025 & 2026) hosted in Diu.

Before inclusion in Khelo India, Beach Games 2024 was also held ther.

4. Participation & Disciplines

Over 1,300 athletes from 31 States/UTs.

Competitions in 8 beach disciplines:

Beach Soccer
Beach Volleyball
Beach Sepak Takraw
Beach Kabaddi
Beach Pencak Silat
Open Water Swimming
Beach Mallakhamb
Beach Tug of War

5. Acknowledgement & Congratulations

Sinha congratulated Praful Patel and people of Diu for:
Hosting Beach Games 2024
Hosting inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025

Q. Where was the 2nd edition of the Khelo India Beach Games inaugurated?

A. Goa
B. Puducherry
C. Diu
D. Lakshadweep

Q. The Khelo India programme was launched to primarily promote:

A. International sports tourism
B. Elite athlete sponsorship only
C. Grassroots sports development and talent identification
D. Private sports leagues

Joe Root equals Ricky Ponting's record for third-most Test centuries during Ashes final

जो रूट ने एशेज फाइनल के दौरान तीसरे सबसे ज़्यादा टेस्ट शतक लगाने के मामले में रिकी पोंटिंग के रिकॉर्ड की बराबरी की

1. Root equals Ponting's Test century record

Joe Root scored a brilliant 160 runs off 242 balls in the Sydney Test (Ashes 2025–26).

This became his 41st Test century.

2. Mixed Ashes campaign

Overall, Root had a rough series and could not perform consistently.

Despite his effort, Australia retained the Ashes.

3. Two centuries in the series

Root earlier broke his century drought in Australia with his 40th hundred in the 2nd Test.

Added another century in the final Test.

4. Elite list — Most Test Hundreds

Root is now joint 3rd with Ricky Ponting (41 hundreds).

Ahead of him are:

Jacques Kallis — 45

Sachin Tendulkar — 51

Q. Joe Root's century in the Sydney Test helped him equal whose tally of 41 Test hundreds?

A. Steve Smith
B. Ricky Ponting
C. Brian Lara
D. Kumar Sangakkara

Q. Who holds the record for the most Test centuries in cricket history?

A. Jacques Kallis
B. Ricky Ponting
C. Sachin Tendulkar
D. Rahul Dravid

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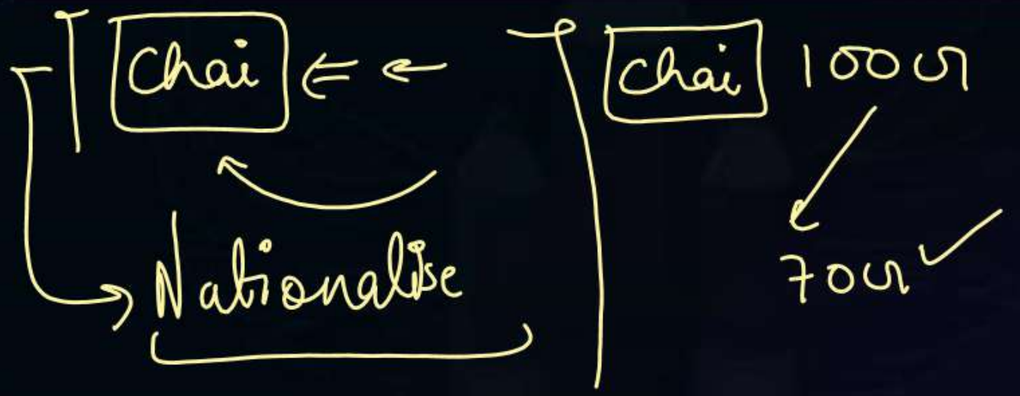
LIVE

Static Booster

Which are the airports being privatised? | Explained

कौन-कौन से हवाई अड्डे का निजीकरण किया जा रहा है? | विस्तार से व्याख्या



1. Which airports are being privatised (Round–3)?

Total: 11 airports, grouped into 5 bundles

Bundles:

– Amritsar – Kangra
– Varanasi – Kushinagar – Gaya
– Bhubaneswar – Hubli
– Raipur – Aurangabad
– Tiruchi – Tirupati

2. What is the process?

Proposal sent to PPPAC for appraisal.

After Cabinet approval → bids invited.

Tender likely by March 2026.

Airports selected from AAI list handling 0.1–1 million passengers/year.

Selection based on:

traffic growth projections

investment needs
proximity (for bundling)

3. Background of privatisation

Started in 2003 (NDA government).
Delhi & Mumbai → privatised in 2006 (GMR, GVK).
Greenfield PPP airports: Bengaluru, Hyderabad.
2019: 6 airports privatised (all to Adani).
Model shifted from revenue-share → per-passenger fee.

4. Link with National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)

NMP target (2021–25): ₹6 lakh crore.
Airport contribution target: ₹20,782 crore (~4%).
Aviation sector still lagging in monetisation delivery.
New plan announced: Asset Monetisation Plan 2025–30 → target ₹10 lakh crore.

5. Key issues under evaluation

Revenue-share vs per-passenger fee

Cross-subsidy between metro & non-metro airports
Cap on airports awarded to one entity
Use of land for non-aero revenues
Whether UDF will be airport-wise or bundle-wise

6. Concerns & risks

Rising monopoly dominance (Adani operating 8 airports).
Reduced bargaining power for airlines.
Higher costs for passengers.
Example: Thiruvananthapuram
UDF rise: ₹506 → ₹770 (domestic; then further hikes)
New disembarkation fee introduced
Under-reporting of non-aero revenue flagged by regulator (AERA)

7. Impact on passengers

Higher airfare (UDF, landing, disembarkation fees)
Complaints: expensive taxis, congestion, poor accessibility

New approach: penalties (up to 5% tariff cut) if service benchmarks not met
Benchmarks include:
wait time, check-in time, help desks, terminal transfer time, etc.

8. What lies ahead?

Only ~6% Indians travel by air → large growth potential.
Plan: 50 new airports in next five years.
Capacity target by FY2026: ~550 mppa, rising to ~850 mppa soon after.
Needs:
more airports
strong private investment
financially stable airlines

Q. In the third round of airport privatisation, how many airports are being offered in bundled groups?

A. 6
B. 8
C. 11
D. 14

Q. Which regulatory body approves airport tariff revisions and user development fees (UDF) in India?

A. AAI
B. DGCA
C. AERA
D. NITI Aayog

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BASIC TO ADVANCED

2 mins Summary

- **Topic** One
- **Topic** Two
- **Topic** Three
- **Topic** Four
- **Topic** Five

THANK - YOU