

# UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2026 : WEEK-5

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**CL Educate Limited, A – 45, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi – 110044**

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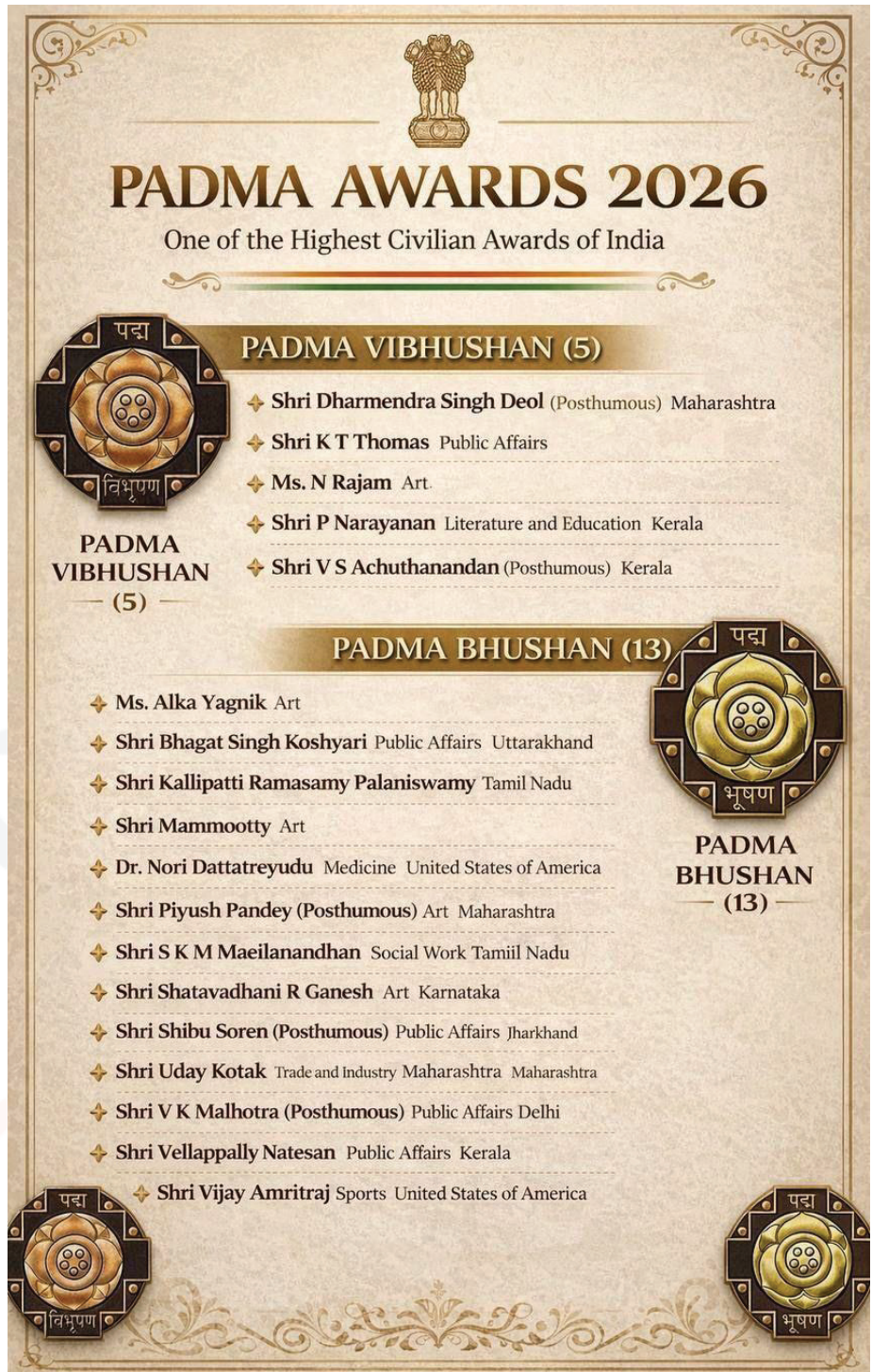


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# 1. Padma Awards 2026

- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year.
- For the year 2026, the President has approved conferment of 131 Padma Awards.
- The list comprises five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes six persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 16 posthumous awardees.
- Awardees this year come from 84 districts across 30 states and union territories, including 10 districts represented for the first time since 1947.
- This signifies wider recognition beyond traditional urban or well - known centers, highlighting contributions from previously under-represented regions.



Padma Vibhushan (5)		
Name	Field	State / Country
Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri K T Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
Ms. N Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Shri P Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
Shri V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala
Padma Bhushan (13)		
Name	Field	State / Country
Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri Mammootty	Art	Kerala
Dr. Nori Dattatreya	Medicine	United States of America
Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri S K M Maeilanandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri V K Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	United States of America
Padma Shri (113)		
Name	Field	State / Country
Shri A E Muthunayagam	Science and Engineering	Kerala
Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Anke Gowda M.	Social Work	Karnataka
Ms. Armida Fernandez	Medicine	Maharashtra
Shri Arvind Vaidya	Art	Gujarat
Shri Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Asok Kumar Halder	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Baldev Singh	Sports	Punjab
Shri Bhagwandas Raikwar	Sports	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Bharat Singh Bharti	Art	Bihar
Shri Bhikya Ladakya Dhinda	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Bishwa Bandhu (Posthumous)	Art	Bihar
Shri Brij Lal Bhat	Social Work	Jammu and Kashmir



Shri Buddha Rashmi Mani	Others - Archaeology	Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Budhri Tati	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
Shri Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Science and Engineering	Telangana
Shri Charan Hembram	Literature and Education	Odisha
Shri Chiranjilal Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Deepika Reddy	Art	Telangana
Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya	Art	Gujarat
Shri Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Gafruddin Mewati Jogi	Art	Rajasthan
Shri Gambir Singh Yonzone	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous)	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Ms. Gayatri Balasubramanian and Ms. Ranjani Balasubramanian (Duo)*	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Gopal Ji Trivedi	Science and Engineering	Bihar
Shri Guduru Venkat Rao	Medicine	Telangana
Shri H V Hande	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri Hally War	Social Work	Meghalaya
Shri Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal
Shri Haricharan Saikia	Art	Assam
Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab
Shri Inderjit Singh Sidhu	Social Work	Chandigarh
Shri Janardan Bapurao Bothe	Social Work	Maharashtra
Shri Jogesh Deuri	Others - Agriculture	Assam
Shri Juzer Vasi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
Shri Jyotish Debnath	Art	West Bengal
Shri K Pajanivel	Sports	Puducherry
Shri K Ramasamy	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
Shri K Vijay Kumar	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu
Shri Kabindra Purkayastha (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
Shri Kailash Chandra Pant	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Art	Kerala
Shri Kewal Krishan Thakral	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Khem Raj Sundriyal	Art	Haryana
Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma G	Social Work	Kerala
Shri Krishnamurthy Balasubramanian	Science and Engineering	Telangana
Shri Kumar Bose	Art	West Bengal
Shri Kumarasamy Thangaraj	Science and Engineering	Telangana

Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany
Ms. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova	Literature and Education	Russia
Shri Madhavan Ranganathan	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Maganti Murali Mohan	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Literature and Education	Odisha
Shri Mahendra Nath Roy	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar	Literature and Education	Delhi
Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai	Art	Gujarat
Shri Mohan Nagar	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Narayan Vyas	Others - Archaeology	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Naresh Chandra Dev Varma	Literature and Education	Tripura
Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala	Social Work	Gujarat
Shri Nuruddin Ahmed	Art	Assam
Shri Othuvar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Art	Tamil Nadu
Dr. Padma Gurmet	Medicine	Ladakh
Shri Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy	Medicine	Telangana
Ms. Pokhila Lektheipi	Art	Assam
Dr. Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore	Literature and Education	Karnataka
Shri Prateek Sharma	Medicine	United States of America
Shri Praveen Kumar	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Prem Lal Gautam	Science and Engineering	Himachal Pradesh
Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal
Dr. Punniarthy Natesan	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri R Krishnan (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri R V S Mani	Civil Service	Delhi
Shri Rabilal Tudu	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Raghupat Singh (Posthumous)	Others - Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Raghuveer Tukaram Khedkar	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Rajendra Prasad	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rama Reddy Mamidi (Posthumous)	Others - Animal Husbandry	Telangana
Shri Ramamurthy Sreedher	Others - Radio Broadcasting	Delhi
Shri Ramchandra Godbole and Ms. Suneeta Godbole (Duo)*	Medicine	Chhattisgarh
Shri Ratilal Borisagar	Literature and Education	Gujarat
Shri Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
Ms. S G Susheelamma	Social Work	Karnataka

Shri Sangyusang S Pongener	Art	Nagaland
Sant Niranjana Dass	Others - Spiritualism	Punjab
Shri Sarat Kumar Patra	Art	Odisha
Shri Saroj Mandal	Medicine	West Bengal
Shri Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana
Prof. Shafi Shauq	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Literature and Education	Karnataka
Shri Shrirang Devaba Lad	Others - Agriculture	Maharashtra
Ms. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
Shri Shyam Sundar	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Simanchal Patro	Art	Odisha
Ms. Sivasankari	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Medicine	Karnataka
Swami Brahmdev Ji Maharaj	Social Work	Rajasthan
Shri T T Jagannathan (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
Shri Taga Ram Bheel	Art	Rajasthan
Shri Tarun Bhattacharya	Art	West Bengal
Shri Techi Gubin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
Shri Thiruvapur Bakthavathsalam	Art	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Tripti Mukherjee	Art	West Bengal
Shri Veezhinathan Kamakoti	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
Shri Vempaty Kutumba Sastry	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Sports	Georgia
Shri Yumnam Jatra Singh (Posthumous)	Art	Manipur

## QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards:

1. Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under the Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India.
2. Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
3. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

Which of the above given statements are not correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding Padma Awards:

1. The Padma Award is usually not conferred posthumously, except in highly deserving cases.
2. A higher category of Padma Award can only be conferred on a person after five years have passed since receiving the previous award, except in exceptional cases.
3. The total number of Padma Awards given each year (excluding posthumous and NRI/foreigner awards) is limited to 120.
4. The Padma Award can be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 only | C. 1, 2 and 4 only |
| B. 2, 3 and 4 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 only |

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Padma Awards:

1. Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service in fields like art, public affairs, and literature.
2. The Padma Awards are announced on the occasion of Independence Day every year.
3. In the 2026 Padma Awards, the President of India approved the conferment of 131 Padma Awards, including 5 Padma Vibhushan awards.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3   |

4. Consider the following statements regarding the **2026 Padma Vibhushan awardees**:

1. Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol and Shri V S Achuthanandhan were awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously in the field of Art and Public Affairs, respectively.
2. Ms. N Rajam received the Padma Vibhushan for her contribution to Art from Uttar Pradesh.
3. Shri K T Thomas was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the field of Public Affairs from Kerala.
4. Shri P Narayanan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the field of Literature and Education from Maharashtra.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 only | C. 1, 2 and 4 only |
| B. 2, 3 and 4 only | D. 1, 3 and 4 only |

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Ratna award:

1. The first Bharat Ratna awards were conferred in 1954 to C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and Sir C.V. Raman.
2. There is a limit of three recipients per year for the Bharat Ratna, which was followed until 2024.



3. In 2024, the Bharat Ratna was awarded to five individuals, including Karpoori Thakur, L. K. Advani, P. V. Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and M. S. Swaminathan.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only  
B. 2 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. 1 only

## 2. President of India inaugurates Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan



### Inauguration

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### Purpose of Granth Kutir

- Granth Kutir is dedicated to showcasing and preserving India's rich cultural, philosophical, literary, and intellectual heritage, especially through classical languages.

### Collection Highlights

- About 2,300 books and around 50 manuscripts
- Manuscripts are handwritten on traditional materials like palm leaf, paper, bark, and cloth

### 11 Classical Languages Represented

- Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali

## New Classical Language Status (Oct 03, 2024)

- The Government of India conferred classical language status on Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, increasing the total number from six to eleven.

## Subjects Covered

- Epics, philosophy, linguistics, history, governance, science, devotional literature, and the Constitution of India in classical languages.

## Institutional Support

- Developed through collaboration with central & state governments, universities, research institutions, cultural organizations, and individual donors
- Supported by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture
- IGNCA provides expertise in conservation, documentation, and display of manuscripts

## Alignment with National Initiatives

- Supports the vision of Gyan Bharatam Mission
- Aims to preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's manuscript heritage
- Reflects the national resolve to eradicate colonial mindset and promote unity in diversity

## Relocation of Colonial-Era Collections

- Earlier housed colonial-era books (e.g., works on Lord Curzon, Punch magazines) have been shifted to another space, digitised, and will be available online for researchers.

## Public & Researcher Access

- Visitors can view the collection during Rashtrapati Bhavan Circuit 1 tours
- Online portal provides access to books and manuscripts
- Researchers can apply online for physical access

## Notable Ancient Works Highlighted

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • <b>Sanskrit:</b> Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads  | • <b>Assamese, Bengali, Odia:</b> Charyapadas |
| • <b>Tamil:</b> Tirukkural                     | • <b>Telugu:</b> Mahabharata                  |
| • <b>Marathi:</b> Gathasaptasati               | • <b>Kannada:</b> Kavirajamarga               |
| • <b>Pali:</b> Vinaya Pitaka                   | • <b>Malayalam:</b> Ramacharitam              |
| • <b>Prakrit:</b> Jain Agamas and inscriptions |   |

## President's Key Observations

- Classical languages form the foundation of Indian culture
- Knowledge in science, mathematics, astronomy, Ayurveda, grammar, and yoga evolved through these languages
- Works by Panini, Aryabhata, Charaka, and Sushruta continue to inspire the world
- Classical languages have significantly influenced modern Indian languages

## Call to Action

- Promote classical language studies in universities
- Encourage youth to learn at least one classical language
- Increase availability of classical texts in libraries

## Vision for the Future

- The President expressed confidence that Granth Kutir will continue to grow and inspire especially the youth to understand and appreciate India's classical languages and heritage.

## Criteria for classical languages in India

- In India, a language is declared a Classical Language based on criteria laid down by the Government of India (first articulated in 2004).

### High antiquity

- The language must have a recorded history of at least 1,500–2,000 years.

### Ancient body of literature

- There should be a large and rich corpus of ancient texts, considered a valuable heritage by generations.

### Original literary tradition

- The literature must be original, not largely borrowed from another language community.

### Distinct classical tradition

- The language should have a well-defined and independent grammatical and literary tradition.

### Discontinuity with modern form

- There may be a gap between the classical form and its modern version, meaning the classical language is not exactly the same as what is spoken today.
- These criteria are why languages like Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, and recently Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Marathi have received classical status.

## QUESTIONS

6. Consider the following statements regarding **Granth Kutir** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**:

1. Granth Kutir is dedicated to showcasing India's cultural, philosophical, literary, and intellectual heritage, with a special focus on classical languages.
2. The collection includes 2,300 books and 50 manuscripts, with manuscripts written on traditional materials such as palm leaf, paper, and cloth.
3. Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali were conferred the status of Classical Languages on October 3, 2024, increasing the total number to eleven.
4. Granth Kutir is developed solely through the collaboration of private donors and NGOs.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only  
B. 2, 3 and 4 only  
C. 1, 3 and 4 only  
D. 1, 2 and 4 only

7. Which of the following **criteria** is **not** required for a language to be recognized as a **Classical Language** in India?

1. The language must have a **recorded history** of at least **1,500–2,000 years**.
2. The language should have an **extensive corpus of ancient texts**, considered valuable heritage.

3. The language must be largely derived from a **foreign language community** to qualify for classical status.
4. The language should have a **distinct and independent grammatical and literary tradition**.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 only | C. 1, 3 and 4 only |
| B. 1, 2 and 4 only | D. 2, 3 and 4 only |

8. Consider the following statements regarding **Classical Languages** in India:

1. Tamil was declared the first classical language of India by the Government of India in 2004.
2. All Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
3. The Ministry of Culture provides the guidelines regarding Classical Languages in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3   |

9. Which of the following was/were given **Classical Language** status?

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Odia    | 3. Bhojpuri |
| 2. Konkani | 4. Assamese |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| A. One only | C. Three only       |
| B. Two only | D. All of the above |

## 3. India and the European Union (EU) Trade Agreement

- India and the European Union (EU) announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), an important milestone in one of India's most strategic economic partnerships.
- Designed as modern, rules-based trade partnership, the FTA responds to contemporary global challenges while enabling deeper market integration between the world's 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economies.
- With a combined market estimated at over INR 2091.6 Lakh Crore (USD 24 trillion), bringing unparalleled opportunities for the 2 billion people of India and the EU, the FTA unlocks significant potential for trade and innovation.
- The FTA delivers unprecedented market access for more than 99% of India's export by trade value, while preserving policy space for sensitive sectors and reinforcing India's developmental priorities.
- Bilateral merchandise trade between India and the EU has demonstrated sustained growth, valued approximately at INR 11.5 Lakh Crore (USD 136.54 billion) in 2024-25, with India exporting roughly INR 6.4 Lakh Crore (USD 75.85 billion) to the EU.





- India-EU trade in services reached INR 7.2 Lakh Crore (USD 83.10 billion) in 2024.
- Despite healthy and growing trade, there is a significant untapped potential considering the size of each other's market and trade.
- The FTA provides an unparalleled pathway and holds immense promise for both, India and the EU, to emerge as each other's major economic partners.
- This FTA of strategic significance evolves India-EU relations from a traditional into a modern, multifaceted partnership, providing a stable and predictable environment for exporters, enabling Indian businesses including MSMEs to plan long-term investments, integrate into European value chains, and ensure consistent favourable market access amid global economic uncertainties.

## **Empowering Businesses and Securing Future through seamless Market Access**

### **India Secures Strategic Access to European Markets**

- India has gained preferential access to the European markets across 97% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value, in particular:
  - 70.4% tariff lines covering 90.7% of India's exports will have immediate duty elimination for important labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and footwear, tea, coffee, spices, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery and certain marine products, amongst others;
  - 20.3% tariff lines covering 2.9% of India's exports will have zero duty access over 3 and 5 years for certain marine products, processed food items, arms and ammunition, amongst others;
  - 6.1% tariff lines covering 6% of India's exports will have preferential access by way of tariff reduction for certain poultry products, preserved vegetables, bakery products amongst others or through TRQs for cars, steel, certain shrimps/ prawns products, amongst others.



- Key labour-intensive sectors (such as textiles, apparel, marine, leather, footwear, chemicals, plastics/rubber, sports goods, toys, gems, and jewellery), comprising more than INR 2.87 Lakh Crore (USD 33 billion) of exports that are currently subjected to import duty between 4% to 26% in the EU and are crucial for employment generation, will enter zero duty from entry into force of the FTA and thus gain enhanced competitiveness in the EU market.
- These sectors are poised to benefit from tariff liberalisation and enhanced competitiveness, enabling deeper integration into global and European value chains and simultaneously creating job opportunities.

### **India's offer to the European Union**

- Overall, India is offering 92.1% of its tariff lines which covers 97.5% of the EU exports, in particular:
  - 49.6% of tariff lines will have immediate duty elimination;
  - 39.5% of tariffs lines are subject to phased elimination over 5, 7, and 10 years'
  - 3% of products are under phased tariff reductions and few products are subject to TRQs for Apples, Pears, Peaches, and Kiwi Fruit.
- Imports of EU's high technology goods are expected to diversify India's import sources, thereby reducing input costs for businesses, benefit consumers and will create opportunities for Indian businesses to integrate into global supply chains.

### **Driving Agricultural Growth and Farmer Livelihoods, with adequate Safeguards**

- The FTA is expected to have a significant positive impact on the Indian agricultural and processed food sector.
- Preferential Market Access for agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, grapes, gherkins and cucumbers, dried onion, fresh vegetables and fruits as well as for processed food products will make them more competitive in the EU.
- This market access will strengthen farmers' realised incomes, reinforce rural livelihoods, and elevate the global competitiveness of Indian agricultural products.
- India has prudently safeguarded sensitive sectors, including dairy, cereals, poultry, soymeal, certain fruits and vegetables, etc. balancing export growth with domestic priorities.
- The FTA positions Indian agriculture to capture higher value in European markets, drive sectoral prosperity, and reinforces long-term resilience through sustained livelihood and reliable income opportunities.

### **Product Specific Rules aligned with existing Supply Chains**

- The FTA ensures that the goods exported under it undergo adequate processing or manufacturing for them to get the originating status and preferential access.
- The product specific rules (PSRs) are balanced and aligned with existing supply chains. These PSRs ensure that substantial processing in the Parties is undertaken while providing for adequate flexibility to source inputs from global value chains.
- Further, the FTA will facilitate ease of doing business by reducing the time and associated cost of compliance for Indian exporters by allowing self-certification through a Statement on Origin.
- The PSRs chart an innovative course by considering needs of MSMEs by locking in quotas for shrimps & prawns, and downstream aluminum products which would enable MSMEs to source non-originating inputs.
- They also incentivise 'Make in India' by building in transition period for certain PSRs in the machinery and aerospace sector.

## Services-the key growth driver of trade in future

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- Services being dominant and faster growing part of both economies will trade more in future.
- Certainty of market access, non-discriminatory treatment, focus on digitally delivered services, ease of mobility are expected to provide boost to services exports.
- Under the FTA, broader and deeper commitments have been secured from the EU across 144 services subsectors, including IT/ITeS, professional services, education, and other business services.
- This covers a vast range of services sectors spectrum in which Indian service providers will get a stable and conducive regime in the EU market to supply their services.
- India's competitive, high-tech services are expected to drive India's exports while benefitting EU businesses and consumers.
- India's offer on 102 subsectors covers EU priorities such as professional, business, telecommunications, maritime, financial, and environmental services.
- This will offer EU businesses a predictable regime to bring investment and innovative services to India thereby enhancing their exports and providing best in class services to Indian businesses.
- This mutually beneficial framework is set to accelerate trade in services, unlock new opportunities for Indian professionals and businesses, and strengthen India's presence in high-value global markets, fostering innovation, skills mobility, and knowledge-based economic growth.

## Powering India's Talent across Europe

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- The FTA establishes an assured regime for temporary entry and stay for professionals, including Business Visitors, Intra-Corporate Transferees, Contractual Service Suppliers, and Independent Professionals.
- Through a comprehensive mobility framework, India strengthens its position as a global hub for talent.
- The framework eases movement of employees (and their spouses and dependents) of Indian Corporates established in the EU in all services sectors.
- For business entities aiming to provide services under a contract to EU clients, India can access 37 sub-sectors including IT, business, and professional services.
- Independent professionals intending to provide services to EU clients get certainty in 17 sub-sectors for Independent Professionals, covering IT, R&D, and higher education, creating expanded opportunities for Indian professionals and knowledge-driven trade.
- India and EU have agreed on constructive framework to enable Social Security Agreements in 5 years with all the EU Member States and a continuing conducive framework for entry of India students to study and avail post study work visa.

## Expanding Horizons for Indian Traditional Medicine

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- The FTA is expected to provide a boost to Indian traditional medicine services and practitioners.
- In the EU Member States where regulations do not exist, AYUSH practitioners will be able to provide their services using the professional qualifications they gain in India.
- The FTA also provides future certainty and locks in the openness of the EU for establishment of AYUSH wellness centres and clinics in the EU Member States. The FTA also envisages greater exchange with the EU to facilitate trade in Indian Traditional Medicine services.

## Innovate, Protect, Prosper: Elevating Intellectual Property

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- The FTA reinforces intellectual property protections provided under TRIPS relating to copyright, trademarks, designs, trade secrets, plant varieties, enforcement of IPRs, affirms Doha Declaration and recognises the importance of digital libraries, specifically the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project initiated by India.

- The IPR chapter provides for exchanging views and information on their respective laws and practices relating to the transfer of technology, including measures to facilitate information flows, business partnerships, etc.

### **Strengthening SPS and TBT Links for Safe, Standardised, Seamless trade**

- The FTA introduces enhanced cooperation on SPS and TBT matters. It will facilitate recognition of conformity assessment results, enabling equivalence on SPS measures on technical justification and localised responses to pest/ disease outbreaks.
- Through digitisation, information sharing, and adherence to international standards, the FTA reduces trade barriers, facilitates smoother market access, and strengthens regulatory predictability for exporters.

### **Sectoral gains under the India–EU FTA**

#### **Harvesting Growth beyond Farms: Preferential Access Fuels Agri Growth**

- India secures preferential market access for its agricultural exports, boosting competitiveness for processed foods, tea, coffee, spices, table grapes, gherkins and cucumbers, sheep and lamb meat, sweet corn, dried onion, and some other fruits and vegetable products.
- This will strengthen rural incomes, women's participation, and India's position as a premium, trusted supplier in Europe.
- Strategic safeguards for sensitive sectors like dairy, cereals, poultry, soymeal, certain fruits and vegetables, etc. ensure export growth while protecting domestic priorities.

#### **Accelerating Exports through Engineering Excellence**

- With preferential market access for engineering goods presently facing tariffs as high as 22%, the FTA is expected to enhance India's exports to the EU, which stood at approximately INR 1.44 Lakh Crore (USD 16.6 billion), and improve share in EU's nearly INR 174.3 Lakh Crore (USD 2 trillion) engineering goods imports. The FTA is poised to empower MSME-led industrial hubs, catalysing industrial modernisation and global competitiveness.
- **Jobs and Growth:** Labour-Intensive Industries Gain Competitiveness
  - Sectors like textiles, leather, footwear, marine, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery gain enhanced competitiveness through tariff elimination, supporting employment generation and EU market integration.

#### **Stepping up India's Leather & Footwear exports in Europe**

- India's world-acclaimed craftsmanship and MSME innovation in leather and footwear sector, supporting significant employment, is poised to unprecedented leap onto Europe's stage.
- Elimination of tariffs at entry into force of the FTA from up to 17% to zero across all tariff lines will help level the playing field for India's exports to EU, valued at approximately INR 20.9 Thousand Crore (USD 2.4 billion) and improve share in EU's nearly INR 8.71 Lakh Crore (USD 100 billion) leather and footwear imports.
- Regulatory alignment, simplified compliance, and support for design-led, sustainable products will enable a shift from low-margin production to value-added global leadership.

#### **Marine Exports to get a Major Boost**

- Preferential access covering 100% of trade value, by reducing tariffs of up to 26% will unlock the EU marine market for imports (INR 4.67 Lakh Crore (USD 53.6 billion)).
- This enhanced market access is expected to significantly improve the competitiveness of India's marine exports, while complementing and strengthening India's export capacity in the marine sector, currently valued at INR 8,715 Crore (USD 1 billion) to the EU.

- The FTA will turbo-charge exports of shrimp, frozen fish, and value-added seafood exports, empowering coastal communities in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, and beyond and India's blue economy.

### **India's Medical Instruments, Appliances, and vital Supplies**

- India's medical Instruments, Appliances, and vital Supplies built on cutting-edge manufacturing, innovation, and skilled talent is set for a quantum leap in the EU.
- Tariffs of up to 6.7% eliminated across 99.1% of trade lines, enabling cost-competitive entry in European markets for lenses, spectacles, medical devices, measuring and testing instruments.

### **Promoting India's Jewellery Export and creating enormous Job opportunities**

- The gems and jewellery sector, a blend of artistry, MSME entrepreneurship, and heritage craftsmanship, becomes more competitive in the EU market.
- From tariffs of up to 4% previously to gaining preferential access across 100% of trade value, India's INR 23.5 thousand Crore (USD 2.7 Billion) jewellery exports become competitive through the FTA in INR 6.89 Lakh Crore (USD 79.2 billion) import market.

### **Textiles & Apparel high achievers**

- Gaining zero duty access in textiles and clothing, covering all tariff lines and reducing tariffs by up to 12%, would open up the EU's INR 22.9 Lakh Crore (USD 263.5 billion) import market.
- Building on India's current INR 3.19 Lakh Crore (USD 36.7 billion) in global textile and apparel exports, including INR 62.7 Thousand Crore (USD 7.2 billion) to the EU, such access would significantly expand opportunities, particularly in yarn, cotton yarn, cotton yarn, man-made fibre apparel, Ready-Made Garments, men's and women's clothing and home textiles.
- This would enable MSMEs to scale, generate employment, and reinforce India's positioning as a reliable, sustainable, and high-value sourcing partner.

### **Plastics & Rubber exports to benefit extensively**

- India's plastic and rubber industries will gain preferential access to the EU, a market with global imports valued at INR 27.67 Lakh Crore (USD 317.5 billion).
- With India's current exports to the EU at INR 20.9 thousand Crore (USD 2.4 billion) and total global exports of INR 1.13 Lakh Crore (USD 13 billion), this access underscores substantial scope for growth.
- Enhanced access under FTA combined with India's skilled manufacturing workforce and MSME-driven innovation, positions the country to increase employment, boost exports, and strengthen its global trade profile.

### **Chemicals: Expanding Exports, Generating Employment**

- FTA ensures zero duty on 97.5% of India's chemical export basket by value, eliminating duties of up to 12.8% and boosting competitiveness across inorganic, organic, and agrochemicals.
- The FTA is expected to expand exports, strengthen MSME-led clusters and promote high-value, sustainable, and technologically advanced products, positioning India as a trusted supplier to EU's nearly INR 43.57 Lakh Crore (USD 500 billion) chemical market for imports.

### **Unlocking opportunities in Mines and Minerals**

- Zero duty across 100% of tariff lines breaks cost barriers, ensuring India exports quality, reliable, and value-added minerals to the EU.
- The FTA unlocks opportunities to scale India's presence in Europe's high-value markets, while long-term, predictable access fuels partnerships with European manufacturers in steel, electronics, automotive, and renewable energy.

## Significant Market Access for Home Décor, Wooden Crafts and Furniture

- Lower duties of up to 10.5% provides enhanced access, boosting the competitiveness of Indian wooden, bamboo, and handcrafted furniture.
- The FTA supports growth in high-value, design-oriented segments and strengthens India's role in global furniture supply chains.

## Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is a pact between two or more countries to reduce or eliminate barriers to trade between them.
- These barriers typically include tariffs (taxes on imports), import quotas, and sometimes restrictions on investment.
- The main goal of an FTA is to make it easier and cheaper for countries to buy and sell goods and services with each other.

## Tariff Reduction or Elimination:

- Countries agree to lower or remove taxes on goods imported from each other.

## Market Access:

- FTAs often make it easier for businesses to sell products in partner countries by reducing regulatory hurdles.

## Rules of Origin:

- To qualify for FTA benefits, products usually must meet specific requirements showing they were produced or substantially transformed in a member country.

## Investment and Services:

- Some FTAs also include provisions for protecting investments and allowing companies to provide services (like banking, telecom, or transport) across borders more easily.

## Economic Integration:

- While FTAs don't create a common currency or a full economic union, they are often a step toward deeper economic cooperation.

## Examples of FTAs:

- NAFTA (now replaced by USMCA) between the USA, Canada, and Mexico
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)

## QUESTIONS

10. Consider the following statements regarding **India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**:

1. The FTA provides **preferential access** for over **99% of India's exports** to the EU.
2. **Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)** are introduced for **automobiles, steel, and select agricultural products** to balance market access with domestic protection.
3. **India** has granted **immediate zero-duty access** for all sectors, including sensitive agricultural goods such as **dairy and poultry**.
4. **India** and the **EU** have agreed on a framework for **mobility of professionals**, including provisions for **AYUSH practitioners**.



Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**11. Consider the following statements regarding the founding of the European Union:**

1. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), established in 1951, was the precursor to the European Union.
2. The founding members of the ECSC, known as the “Inner Six”, were Belgium, France, Germany (West Germany), Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.
3. The Treaty of Paris, which created the ECSC, was signed to establish a common market for coal and steel to promote peace and economic cooperation after World War II.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

**12. Consider the following statements regarding key areas of divergence in India-EU relations:**

1. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a major point of contention, with India viewing it as a discriminatory green tax.
2. India argues that CBAM violates the principle of “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities” (CBDR), effectively neutralizing the tariff benefits gained through the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
3. The EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) aligns well with India’s Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, ensuring data adequacy.
4. The MFN clause in the India-EU FTA does not address the practical effectiveness of shielding Indian exports from the impact of CBAM.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**13. Consider the following statements regarding the Eurozone:**

1. The **Eurozone** is a **currency union** of **21 member states** within the **European Union** that have adopted the **euro (€)** as their official currency.
2. **The Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Sweden** are **not part of the Eurozone** and continue to use their **own national currencies**.
3. The **Eurozone** members have fully implemented **Economic and Monetary Union** policies to align their economies and monetary systems.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

**14. Consider the following statements regarding India-EU Trade Relations:**

1. India and the EU are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economies in the world, accounting for 25% of global GDP and one-third of global trade.
2. The EU became India's 22<sup>nd</sup> FTA (Free Trade Agreement) partner.
3. Since 2014, India has signed trade deals with Mauritius, UAE, UK, EFTA, Oman, and Australia, and announced a trade deal with New Zealand.
4. In 2025, India signed trade deals with Oman **and** UK and announced the conclusion of the trade deal with New Zealand.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1, 3 and 4 only  
C. 1, 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

## 4. National Girl Child Day

- National Girl Child Day, observed annually on January 24 since 2008, promotes awareness of girls' rights, empowerment, and equal opportunities in India.
- 97.5 per cent of schools nationwide are equipped with girls' toilet facilities
- For the period 2024-2025, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls at the secondary level has reached 80.2%, as per UDISE report.
- In the Union Budget 2025-26, Mission Shakti, received an allocation of Rs. 3,150 crores.
- As of January 2026, a total of 2,153 child marriages have been prevented, and 60,262 Child Marriage Prohibition Officers have been appointed across the country.
- National Girl Child Day (24 January) is observed to reaffirm India's commitment to protecting, educating, and empowering every girl child, recognising her as a key driver of inclusive and women-led development aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047.



### Purpose and Significance

- Celebrated annually since 2008, initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)
- Aims to highlight rights, equality, education, health, nutrition, and safety of the girl child
- Addresses deep-rooted challenges such as gender discrimination, female foeticide, child marriage, and unequal access to education and healthcare
- Promotes societal change to value girls as equal, empowered citizens

### Key Areas of Focus

- Education & Skill Development (including STEM and digital inclusion)
- Health, nutrition & mental well-being

- Safety, security & legal protection
- Leadership, participation & economic independence

## Progress and Impact

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- Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) improved from 918 (2014–15) to 930 (2023–24)
- Secondary-level GER for girls rose from 75.51% (2014–15) to 80.2% (2024–25)
- Female higher education enrolment increased by 38% (2014–15 to 2022–23)
- Women now constitute 43% of STEM enrolments, among the highest globally
- Female Ph.D. enrolment grew by 135.6% between 2014–15 and 2022–23

## Flagship Government Initiatives

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### Mission Shakti (2022–26)

#### Umbrella scheme for safety, security, and empowerment

- **Sambal:** Safety & protection (OSC, Helpline, BBBP, Nari Adalats)
- **Samarthya:** Empowerment & support (PMMVY, Palna, Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas)
- Rs. 3,150 crore allocation in Union Budget 2025–26

### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- Prevents gender-biased sex selection
- Promotes survival, protection, and education of girls
- Nationwide behavioural change and SRB improvement

### Education-Focused Schemes

- **Samagra Shiksha:** Inclusive education from pre-school to Class XII
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV):** Residential schools for marginalised girls
- **UDAAN:** Supports girls preparing for engineering entrance exams
- **Vigyan Jyoti:** Encourages girls in STEM (80,000+ beneficiaries)

### Skill & Future Readiness

- **NAVYA (2025):** Vocational training in non-traditional and futuristic sectors for adolescent girls
- Focus on AI, cybersecurity, digital marketing, green jobs

### Scholarships & Higher Education Support

- **AICTE PRAGATI Scholarship:** 35,998 beneficiaries (2024–25)
- **UGC NET–JRF:** Women form 53% of STEM fellows (2024–25)
- **National PG Scholarship:** Rs. 1.5 lakh per year, 30% seats reserved for women

### Safety, Health & Legal Protection

- **POCSO Act & Juvenile Justice Act:** Child-friendly legal safeguards
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act & Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat (2024):** Aim to eliminate child marriage by 2030
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG):** Nutrition, health, education & skilling
- **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme & POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Health, nutrition & dignity
- **Mission Vatsalya:** Comprehensive child protection and rehabilitation

## Financial Inclusion

### Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

- Over 4.2 crore accounts opened by Nov 2024
- Encourages savings for girls' education and future security

## QUESTIONS

15. Consider the following statements regarding the **initiatives for the girl child in India**:

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched in 2015 to prevent gender-biased sex selection, ensure the survival and protection of girls, and promote their education.
2. Mission Shakti was launched in 2022 with the sub-schemes Sambal and Samarthya, focusing on safety/security and empowerment.
3. Samagra Shiksha integrates gender-sensitive teaching and provides stipends to girls, and aims to bridge gender/social gaps in school education.
4. Vigyan Jyoti is a scheme to encourage girls in Classes IX-XII to pursue STEM, especially in rural areas, through counseling, workshops, and lab visits.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only    | C. 1, 2 and 4 only |
| B. 1, 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2, 3 and 4   |

16. Consider the following statements about **National Girl Child Day**:

1. National Girl Child Day is celebrated annually on January 24 to promote the empowerment and rights of girls in India.
2. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls at the secondary level in 2024–2025 was 80.2%.
3. Mission Shakti received an allocation of ₹3,150 crores in the Union Budget 2025–26 for the welfare of the girl child.
4. National Girl Child Day aims to address gender discrimination and unequal access to education and healthcare for girls.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 only | C. 2, 3 and 4 only |
| B. 1, 3 and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3 and 4   |

## 5. One District One Product (ODOP)

- One District One Product (ODOP) has emerged as one of India's most impactful development initiatives, transforming districts into vibrant economic hubs by reviving traditional skills, empowering artisans, and connecting local products to national and global markets.
- What began as an experiment in Uttar Pradesh has now scaled nationwide, touching over 770 districts and millions of livelihoods.





## Nationwide Scale & Reach

- Adopted across 770+ districts as of December 2025
- Impacts artisans, farmers, weavers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs across India
- Over 1,200 ODOP products listed on DPIIT's digital portal

## Origin Story: Moradabad to the Nation

- Launched in 2018 in Uttar Pradesh, starting with Moradabad's iconic brassware
- Provided branding, institutional support, market access, and global visibility
- Transformed once-overlooked craft clusters into global export contenders

## Economic & Social Impact

- Strengthened district-level value chains and local incomes
- Created large-scale employment and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Preserved heritage crafts while promoting sustainable production

## Boost to Exports & Global Recognition

- Enhanced visibility through international trade fairs and exhibitions
- 80+ Indian Missions abroad promoting ODOP via showcases and diplomatic gifting
- ODOP products featured in G20 meetings

## International retail presence in Singapore (2 stores) and Kuwait (1 store)

## Digital & Market Access Expansion

- Dedicated ODOP Bazaar on Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- State-level e-commerce platforms increasing reach and sales
- ODOP Wall showcased at SARAS Aajeevika Stores supporting women SHGs

## Uttar Pradesh: The Blueprint State

- **Exports Growth:**
  - UP exports rose by 76%, from Rs. 88,967 crore (2017–18) to Rs. 1.71 lakh crore (2023–24)
- **Financial & Skill Support**
  - Rs. 6,000 crore sanctioned under ODOP Margin Money Scheme
  - 1.25 crore artisans trained and equipped with modern toolkits



## Showcase Platforms

### UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025:

- 466 ODOP stalls
- Business deals worth Rs. 20.77 crore

### Mahakumbh 2025, Prayagraj:

- 6,000 sq. m ODOP zone
- 75 GI-tagged products, including 34 from Kashi region

### PM Ekta (Unity) Malls:

- **National Craft Gateways**
  - Dedicated hubs for ODOP, GI, and handicraft products
  - Rs. 5,000 crore interest-free support, minimum Rs. 100 crore per state
  - 29 Unity Malls approved across 27 states
  - Iconic architecture, experience zones, food courts, theatres
  - Public-Private Partnership model with professional management
  - Positioned as cultural landmarks and global retail destinations

### Strategic Vision & Governance

- Led by DPIIT with active participation from States and District Administrations
- Supports national missions like Make in India, Vocal for Local, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and Districts as Export Hub
- Flexible product selection aligned with local ecosystems and strengths

## QUESTIONS

17. Consider the following statements regarding the **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative:

1. The ODOP initiative aims to promote at least one product from each district of India to enable holistic regional growth.
2. As of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 1243 products from 775 districts have been identified under the initiative, covering sectors like textiles, agriculture, food processing, and handicrafts.
3. The ODOP products are primarily promoted through participation in international exhibitions, virtual buyer-seller meets, and government e-marketplace (GeM).
4. The initiative also focuses on reducing the product export potential by identifying products under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1, 2, and 3 only | C. 1, 2, and 4 only |
| B. 2, 3, and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3, and 4   |

18. Which of the following are true regarding the **District as Export Hub (DEH)** initiative?

1. The DEH initiative is part of the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** and focuses on identifying export potential in districts across India.
2. The DEH initiative includes the formation of State Export Promotion Committees (SEPC) and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPC) at the state and district levels.

3. Under the DEH initiative, the identification of export products is done solely by the central government without involving states or UTs.
4. The DEH initiative aims to promote the export of products identified under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

Select the correct answer:

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1, 2, and 4 only |
| B. 3 and 4 only | D. 2, 3, and 4 only |

## 6. Mozambican rights activist Graca Machel conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- **Award Announcement:** Mozambican rights activist and humanitarian Graca Machel has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2025, announced by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- **Jury Leadership:** The decision was made by an international jury chaired by former NSA Shivshankar Menon.
- **Recognition:** The award honors her as a distinguished African stateswoman and humanitarian, recognized for her lifelong dedication to human rights, social justice, and vulnerable communities.
- **Early Life:** Born Graça Simbine on October 17, 1945, in rural Mozambique, she studied at Methodist mission schools and later received a scholarship to study German at the University of Lisbon, where her political activism began.
- **Freedom Fighter:** Returned to Mozambique in 1973 to join FRELIMO as a teacher and freedom fighter during the independence struggle.
- **UN Contribution:** Led a seminal UN study on the impact of armed conflict on children in the 1990s, shaping global humanitarian and child protection policies.
- **Honors:** Recipient of the UN's Nansen Refugee Award and made an honorary Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (1997) for her humanitarian work.
- **Award Citation:** Recognized for her pathbreaking work in education, health, nutrition, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid, inspiring hope for a more just and equitable world.



### Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development (also called the Indira Gandhi Prize or Indira Gandhi Peace Prize) is a prestigious international award established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in memory of the former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

## Purpose & Significance

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- The prize is awarded annually to individuals or organizations—without distinction of nationality, race or religion—in recognition of their creative and sustained efforts to promote:
  - International peace and disarmament
  - Economic and social development,
  - A more equitable international economic order,
  - Human freedom and humanitarian progress, and
  - Use of science and knowledge for the benefit of humanity.
- The award reflects Indira Gandhi's vision of global harmony, freedom from want and fear, and cooperation among nations.

## Components of the Prize

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### Recipients receive:

- A monetary award (around Rs. 1 crore / Rs. 10 million; amounts have varied over time) and
- A trophy with a citation.

### Selection Process

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- An international jury of eminent persons appointed by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust selects the winner each year from nominations submitted by previous winners, jurors, parliamentarians, and reputable national or international organizations.

### Notable Recipients (Selected)

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- Over the years, the prize has honored a wide range of leaders, organizations, and change-makers:
  - **Parliamentarians for Global Action (1986)** — first recipient for nuclear disarmament advocacy.
  - **Mikhail Gorbachev (1987)** — for nuclear disarmament vision.
  - **Gro Harlem Brundtland (1988)** — for linking environment and development.
  - **UNICEF (1989)** — for child health and welfare.
  - **Jimmy Carter (1997)** — former US President and peace advocate.
  - **Prof. Muhammad Yunus (1998)** — for poverty alleviation and microfinance.
  - **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (2014)** — for space technology advancing development.
  - **Centre for Science and Environment (2018)** — for environmental and sustainable development work.
  - **Pratham (Education NGO) (2021)** — for improving quality education.
  - **Daniel Barenboim & Ali Abu Awwad (2023)** — for peacebuilding through music and dialogue.
  - **Michelle Bachelet (2024)** — for leadership in human rights and development.
  - **Graça Machel (2025)** — for lifelong work in education, empowerment, and humanitarian action.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is a prestigious global award honoring those whose work significantly advances peace, equitable development, and human welfare, carrying forward the ideals that Indira Gandhi championed.

## QUESTIONS

19. Consider the following statements regarding the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development**:

1. The Indira Gandhi Prize was established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in memory of the former Prime Minister of India.
2. The prize is awarded annually to individuals or organizations for their sustained efforts in promoting international peace, disarmament, and economic and social development.
3. The prize recipient receives a monetary award of one crore and a trophy with a citation.
4. The Indira Gandhi Prize has been awarded only to individuals and not to organizations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 only | C. 3 and 4 only  |
| B. 1, 2 and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 |

20. Which of the following statements are correct regarding **Graça Machel** and her recognition with the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development**?

1. Graça Machel is a Mozambican rights activist who received the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace in 2025 for her work in education, empowerment, and humanitarian action.
2. She was honored for her efforts in the global humanitarian field and her leadership in child protection through the UN.
3. Graça Machel is known for being the first African woman to receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development.
4. She is the only woman in modern history to have served as First Lady of two countries: South Africa and Mozambique.

Select the correct answer:

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| A. 1, 2, and 3 only | C. 2 and 4 only   |
| B. 1, 3, and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3, and 4 |

## 7. World Economic Forum 2026

### Geopolitics

- Europe resisted Trump's claim on Greenland, signaling limits on U.S. interference in European sovereignty.
- European trust in the U.S. was shaken; leaders seek faster, independent decision-making.
- Ukraine remained unresolved; Zelenskyy engaged in talks amid continued tensions with Russia.
- Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev held talks with U.S. officials, marking Russia's first Davos visit since 2022.
- Concerns over Trump's unpredictability dominated discussions on Iran and global stability.



## Macro & Markets

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- Trump's Greenland gambit and tariff threats raised concerns about U.S. protectionism.
- CEOs emphasized the need for stability, predictability, and rule of law in global trade.
- Calls grew for countries to diversify trade away from the U.S.
- Financial executives debated credit card interest rate caps, crypto innovation, and blockchain adoption.
- Investor worries included Federal Reserve independence, AI asset bubbles, and broader macroeconomic uncertainty.

## Artificial Intelligence

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- AI sector dominated Davos, with Elon Musk, Jensen Huang, and startups like Anthropic in attendance.
- Optimism about AI's growth offset late-2025 skepticism; executives predicted job transformation rather than destruction.
- Unions raised concerns about job loss, inequality, and pushed for regulation and workforce retraining.

## Energy

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- Big Oil celebrated Trump's pro-fossil fuel policies and U.S. drilling push.
- U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright called for doubling global oil production, criticized green energy investments.
- Elon Musk advocated massive solar energy potential in the U.S., hindered by high tariffs.

## Defence & Security

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- Relief followed Trump's non-military stance on Greenland.
- Anticipation of higher European and U.S. defence spending, including infrastructure and hiring.
- Trump mentioned a "secret sonic weapon" allegedly used against Venezuela's Maduro; Kremlin is investigating.



### 1. Economic Leadership & Growth Narrative

- India showcased its rapid economic progress and strong fundamentals under current reforms, positioning itself as one of the fastest-growing major economies.
- Government leaders, including Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, stressed that India's trajectory toward being the third-largest economy is a matter of when, not if — and reminded investors of ongoing structural reforms that strengthen growth prospects.

### 2. Technology, AI & Semiconductor Push

- India made innovation, AI adoption and semiconductor development major talking points. Delegates highlighted India's push toward domestic chip manufacturing and a comprehensive AI ecosystem — not just in software but scaling to real-world adoption across sectors.
- Sessions and engagements underlined strengthening AI adoption and governance as essential to translating growth into jobs and productivity across diverse sectors.

### 3. Investment Diplomacy & Deals

- Indian states and businesses used the platform to attract strategic capital, with numerous memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and investment pitches across sectors like clean energy, AI, manufacturing, logistics and data-center infrastructure.
- Deals ranged from renewable energy collaborations — including a plan for a UAE backed food cluster in Andhra Pradesh — to initiatives tying India into global green energy and technology supply chains.

### 4. Global Strategic Positioning

- India emphasised Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant development) while also pitching itself as a partner in global value chains — balancing domestic capacity building with international cooperation.
- Officials addressed global economic risks (like debt challenges in developed markets), trade tensions, and the need for diversified supply chains, underscoring India's role in stability and resilience of the world economy.

### 5. Climate, Clean Energy & Transition

- India used Davos to reinforce its credentials on renewable energy transition, presenting progress in wind, solar and green hydrogen as investment opportunities and global public-good contributions.

## Major Global Takeaways from WEF 2026

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- Davos 2026 themes included shifting trade dynamics, recalibration of global cooperation, and more questions than definitive solutions on economic governance — with innovation and resilience high on agendas.
- Trade and supply chain diversification took centre stage amid geopolitical tensions and tariff pressures.

## World Economic Forum (WEF)

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- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization that brings together leaders from business, government, academia, and civil society to discuss global economic issues and shape agendas for improving the state of the world.
  - **Founded:** 1971
  - **Founder:** Klaus Schwab, a German economist and professor
  - **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland (near Geneva)
  - **Type:** Non-governmental organization (NGO), nonprofit foundation

## Mission:

- The WEF's mission is to improve the state of the world by fostering cooperation between public and private sectors, encouraging sustainable economic growth, and addressing global challenges such as climate change, inequality, technology governance, and geopolitical tensions.

## Annual Meetings in Davos:

- The most famous WEF event is the yearly meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where leaders from business, government, international organizations, and civil society gather.
- Topics include economic trends, sustainability, technological innovation, and global security.

## Regional and Thematic Meetings:

- WEF hosts regional meetings in places like Africa, Latin America, and Asia, as well as specialized summits on topics like digital transformation and climate change.

## Reports and Research:

- **Global Competitiveness Report** – ranks countries on economic competitiveness.
- **Global Risks Report** – analyzes risks like pandemics, climate change, and cyber threats.
- **Future of Jobs Report** – examines employment trends and skills needed for the future.

## Initiatives:

- Public-private partnerships on topics such as sustainability, climate action, global health, and technology governance.

## QUESTIONS

21. Consider the following statements regarding the **World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026**:

1. India showcased its economic leadership at the 2026 WEF, emphasizing its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies with strong reforms.
2. The Indian delegation focused primarily on enhancing its domestic chip manufacturing and adopting AI technologies to strengthen growth and productivity.
3. The WEF 2026 highlighted India's significant role in global strategic positioning, emphasizing self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) while maintaining international cooperation in global value chains.
4. India's commitment to renewable energy was reinforced, showcasing progress in solar, wind, and green hydrogen sectors as global public goods.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1, 2, and 3 only | C. 1, 3, and 4 only |
| B. 2, 3, and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3, and 4   |

22. Which of the following is/are the key areas of focus at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026?

1. Trade and supply chain diversification in light of geopolitical tensions and tariff pressures.
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, with emphasis on job transformation rather than job destruction.
3. Global cooperation in addressing global challenges like climate change, inequality, and geopolitical tensions.
4. Financial stability and macro-economic uncertainty were major themes discussed in the context of global trade.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

A. 1 and 2 only

C. 1, 2, 3, and 4

B. 2, 3, and 4 only

D. 1 and 3 only

## 8. Polar vortex

- A severe winter storm on January 26 affected the Ohio Valley, mid-South, and New England.
- Caused heavy snow, sleet, and freezing rain, resulting in at least seven deaths.
- Snowfall exceeded one foot in some areas, disrupting travel and straining energy supplies.

### Impact on Population:

- Around 157 million Americans faced dangerously cold temperatures.
- Cold ranged from sub-zero near the Canadian border to below-freezing as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.



### Role of the Polar Vortex:

- The polar vortex is a large, rotating area of low-pressure, cold air around the poles.

### Two types:

- **Tropospheric Polar Vortex:** From surface up to 10–15 km, influences everyday weather.
- **Stratospheric Polar Vortex:** From 15–50 km, strongest in autumn, disappears in summer.

### How the Polar Vortex Causes Extreme Cold:

- When the polar vortex weakens, cold Arctic air can break off and move south, reaching areas as far as Florida.

- A strong vortex keeps the jet stream in a circular path, confining cold air to the poles.
- When the vortex weakens, the jet stream becomes wavy, allowing cold air to push south.

### Climate Change and the Polar Vortex:

- Scientists are studying if rising global temperatures make the polar vortex weaken or buckle more frequently.
- A weakening vortex may lead to more erratic winter weather in North America, Europe, and Asia.

### QUESTIONS

23. Consider the following statements regarding the **polar vortex**:

1. The polar vortex is a rotating area of low-pressure, cold air around the poles, influencing both tropospheric and stratospheric weather patterns.
2. A weakening polar vortex causes cold Arctic air to move south, affecting regions like the Gulf of Mexico and even parts of Florida.
3. A strong polar vortex results in the cold air being confined to the poles, keeping it away from mid-latitudes.
4. Climate change is believed to have no effect on the polar vortex, and it continues to behave as it did in previous decades.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1, 2, and 3 only | C. 2, 3, and 4 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only     | D. 1, 2, 3, and 4   |

24. Which of the following correctly explains the impact of a weakened **polar vortex**?

1. It causes cold Arctic air to break off and travel southward, leading to extreme winter conditions in regions like the Ohio Valley and New England.
2. A weakened polar vortex can result in sub-zero temperatures even as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.
3. It leads to milder winters globally by allowing the jet stream to remain in a circular path.
4. A weakened vortex is thought to potentially result in more erratic winter weather across regions like North America, Europe, and Asia.

Select the correct answer:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1, 2, and 4 only | C. 2, 3, and 4 only |
| B. 1, 3, and 4 only | D. 1, 2, and 3 only |

## 9. US left some climate-related bodies

- The United States, under President Donald Trump, has recently exited over 60 major international organisations and agreements, particularly those related to climate action and environmental policy.
- However, the country has retained membership in several key institutions, highlighting a selective approach aimed at safeguarding national interests while maintaining influence in strategic global forums.



## Large-scale Withdrawal from Climate and Environment Bodies

- The US exited high-profile organisations including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- These moves align with President Trump's long-standing skepticism of climate science and climate change action.
- Trump has publicly referred to climate change as a "hoax" and withdrew the US from the 2015 Paris Agreement shortly after assuming office for his second term.

### Partial Retention of Membership in Key Institutions

- Despite the mass withdrawal, the US continues to participate in select bodies, including:
  - UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - International Energy Agency (IEA)
  - World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- This suggests that continued participation is strategic, driven by US interests rather than a commitment to climate action per se.

### Strategic Motives for Continued Participation

- The Trump administration appears to focus on institutions where the US can influence outcomes rather than those where it lacks structural advantage.
- By remaining involved, the US can shape international agreements to protect its economic and industrial interests, especially in energy, plastics, and maritime sectors.

### Tailoring Global Agreements to American Priorities

#### Global Plastics Treaty:

- Negotiated under UNEP, this treaty aims to curb plastic pollution globally.
- US objections to production caps on plastics reflect concerns about protecting its domestic plastics and fossil fuel industries.
- Several other major economies, including China, Saudi Arabia, and India, share similar positions.

#### Shipping Emissions Framework:

- Discussions under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) aim to establish a net-zero emissions target for 2050 and may include a carbon tax on ships.
- The US has resisted proposals that could negatively impact its shipping and trade interests.



## Influence as a Key Factor in Retention

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- The US has maintained influence over bodies where it has structural or operational leverage:

### IEA vs. IRENA:

- IRENA promotes renewable energy deployment and has over 170 members, diluting US influence. The US withdrew as its priorities conflict with Trump's focus on oil and gas.
- IEA, formed in 1974, has a smaller decision-making group of ~30 countries, including the US, allowing for stronger influence.

### WMO vs. IPCC:

- WMO focuses on weather forecasting, ocean and atmospheric monitoring, and disaster early warning.
- US agencies like NOAA and NASA contribute heavily to WMO's observational data, giving the US significant influence.
- IPCC, in contrast, has a broader, more dispersed decision-making process, which reduces US control, prompting withdrawal.

## Policy Implications

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- The US strategy illustrates that it is not abandoning multilateralism entirely.
- Instead, it targets exits from institutions that do not serve American priorities while maintaining a presence in bodies where it can shape policies.
- This selective approach reflects a broader trend of “transactional multilateralism”, where engagement is measured against national economic and strategic gains rather than global cooperation objectives.

## International Reactions and Challenges

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- The US is not alone in resisting certain environmental caps; other major economies share similar concerns, complicating treaty negotiations.
- These actions could slow global progress on climate action, particularly in sectors like plastic pollution and shipping emissions.
- The US strategy may also shift the balance of influence in climate negotiations, potentially undermining efforts led by renewable-focused institutions.
- The Trump administration's recent withdrawals reflect a calculated disengagement from multilateral climate initiatives where US control is limited.
- At the same time, continued membership in influential bodies allows the US to steer international discussions on plastics, energy, and shipping emissions in ways that align with domestic priorities.
- Ultimately, the approach underscores a pragmatic, interest-driven foreign policy on climate and environmental issues, rather than an outright rejection of global cooperation.

## QUESTIONS

**25. Consider the following statements about the US's withdrawal from climate-related bodies:**

1. The United States exited several key climate-related bodies, including the UNFCCC and IPCC, under the leadership of President Donald Trump.
2. Despite withdrawing from these bodies, the US continued its participation in institutions such as UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
3. The US's withdrawals reflect its belief in the scientific validity of climate change and a strong commitment to global climate action.

4. The US's selective approach reflects a strategy where it engages in organizations that align with its national interests and influence over outcomes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 4 only  
C. 1, 2, and 4 only  
D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

26. Which of the following best describes the \*\*US's stance on the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** and **plastic pollution** negotiations?

1. The US supports CBAM as a universal and essential tool for tackling climate change.
2. The US raised objections to the CBAM on the grounds of protecting its domestic industries, especially plastics.
3. The US has supported global efforts to curb plastic pollution and has actively participated in international frameworks for addressing plastic waste.
4. The US has raised concerns about the CBAM potentially leading to trade disruptions and is working to influence its implementation.

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 and 3 only  
B. 2 and 4 only  
C. 1, 3, and 4 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

27. Which of the following best reflects the US's approach to climate negotiations and environmental action?

1. The US has fully disengaged from multilateral climate action by exiting several bodies like UNFCCC and IPCC.
2. The US has maintained selective participation in institutions such as IEA, WMO, and UNEP to safeguard its interests and influence outcomes.
3. The US strategy has focused on creating transactional multilateralism, engaging in discussions where it can influence outcomes favorable to its economic and strategic interests.
4. The US's approach towards climate-related policies is primarily driven by a genuine commitment to global environmental protection and action.

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1, 2, and 3 only  
D. 2, 3, and 4 only

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

### 1. D 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Article 18(1) of the Indian Constitution states: “No title, not being a military or academic distinction, shall be conferred by the State.” However, the Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are not conferred as titles under Article 18(1). Instead, they are civilian honors recognizing exceptional service to the nation in various fields such as arts, literature, sports, and public service. Additionally, the Supreme Court of India clarified that these awards do not violate Article 18 because they are not titles; the recipients cannot use these awards as prefixes or suffixes to their names. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Padma Awards were indeed instituted in 1954, however; these awards have been suspended three times: Between 1977-1980 (during Morarji Desai’s government, which questioned the relevance of such awards). Once again briefly during 1978 (as part of a policy review under the Janata government). Between 1993-1997 (due to legal and procedural challenges). Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The practice of awarding more than three recipients was first broken in 1999, when the award was given to four people. In 2024, this record was surpassed when five individuals were conferred the award, setting a new maximum for the highest civilian honor in India. The premise that the Bharat Ratna is limited to three recipients per year is a common misconception; there is no official limit, and it has been awarded to five people in 2024, which was the maximum number ever given in a single year. The five recipients in 2024 were:
  1. Karpoori Thakur, a former Chief Minister of Bihar.
  2. L. K. Advani, a former Deputy Prime Minister.
  3. P. V. Narasimha Rao, a former Prime Minister.
  4. Chaudhary Charan Singh, a former Prime Minister.
  5. M. S. Swaminathan, a renowned agricultural scientist.Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

### 2. A 1, 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Padma Awards are **not generally conferred posthumously** unless in highly deserving cases.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** A higher category of **Padma Award** can only be conferred after **five years**, with exceptions in extraordinary cases.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Padma Awards** (excluding posthumous and foreigner/NRI awards) are capped at **120 awards** per year.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Padma Awards cannot be used as a **suffix or prefix** to the recipient’s name, as it does not amount to a title.

### 3. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Padma Vibhushan is awarded for **exceptional and distinguished service** in various fields like **art, public affairs, and literature**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Padma Awards are announced on **Republic Day**, not Independence Day.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **2026 Padma Awards** include **131 awards**, with **5 Padma Vibhushan** recipients, including **posthumous awards**.



4. A 1, 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Dharmendra Singh Deol and V S Achuthanandhan were awarded **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously for their contributions to **Art** and **Public Affairs**, respectively.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Ms. N Rajam received the **Padma Vibhushan** for **Art** from **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Shri K T Thomas received the **Padma Vibhushan** for **Public Affairs** from **Kerala**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Shri P Narayanan was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in **Literature and Education** from **Kerala**, not **Maharashtra**.

5. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **first Bharat Ratna** awards were conferred in **1954** to **C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and Sir C.V. Raman**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** There is no official **limit of three recipients per year**. In **2024**, five recipients were awarded the Bharat Ratna.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** In **2024**, five recipients, including **Karpoori Thakur, L. K. Advani, P. V. Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and M. S. Swaminathan**, received the Bharat Ratna. The first Bharat Ratna awards were conferred in 1954 to three eminent individuals: statesman C. Rajagopalachari, philosopher and second President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and Nobel laureate physicist Sir C.V. Raman. The premise that the Bharat Ratna is limited to three recipients per year is a common misconception; there is no official limit, and it has been awarded to five people in 2024, which was the maximum number ever given in a single year. The five recipients in 2024 were: 1. Karpoori Thakur, a former Chief Minister of Bihar. 2. L. K. Advani, a former Deputy Prime Minister. 3. P. V. Narasimha Rao, a former Prime Minister. 4. Chaudhary Charan Singh, a former Prime Minister. 5. M. S. Swaminathan, a renowned agricultural scientist. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

6. A 1, 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Granth Kutir is a dedicated space for showcasing India's **rich cultural and literary heritage**, especially through **classical languages**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The collection contains **2,300 books** and around **50 manuscripts**, which are written on traditional materials like **palm leaf, paper, and cloth**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** In **October 2024**, **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali** were granted **Classical Language** status, increasing the total to **eleven**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The development of **Granth Kutir** involves collaboration between **central & state governments, universities, and research institutions**, not just **private donors and NGOs**.

7. C 1, 3 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** A classical language must have a **history of 1,500-2,000 years**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The language must have an **extensive corpus** of ancient texts.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** A **classical language** should have **original literature**, not largely derived from a foreign language community.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The language must have a **distinct grammatical and literary tradition**.

**8. B** 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Tamil was indeed declared as the **first classical language** of India by the **Government of India in 2004**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** All **Classical languages** are **not listed in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution. The **Eighth Schedule** lists languages recognized as official languages, but not classical languages.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Ministry of Culture** provides the **guidelines** for recognizing and managing **Classical Languages** in India.

**9. B** Two only

- **Odia** and **Assamese** were **declared as classical languages** by the Government of India in **2004 and 2024**.
- **Konkani** and **Bhojpuri** have not been officially recognized as **Classical Languages**.
- **Tamil** was the first classical language, followed by **Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia... etc.**

**10. A** 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The FTA provides preferential access for **over 99% of India's exports** to the EU.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** **TRQs** are indeed introduced for sectors like **automobiles, steel, and agriculture**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** India has **not granted immediate zero-duty access** to **dairy and poultry** sectors; these sectors are excluded from liberalized access for **food security** reasons.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The **mobility framework** includes **AYUSH practitioners** being allowed to practice based on qualifications earned in India.

**11. C** 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**, established in **1951**, laid the groundwork for the **European Union**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **founding members of the ECSC**, referred to as the **"Inner Six"**, included **Belgium, France, Germany (West Germany), Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Treaty of Paris** was signed to establish a common market for **coal and steel**, aimed at fostering peace and economic cooperation in post-WWII Europe.

**12. A** 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **CBAM** is indeed a **key divergence** between India and the EU, with India viewing it as a **"green tax"** that impacts its developing industrial base.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** India argues that **CBAM** ignores the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, adding a cost layer to Indian exports, which nullifies tariff benefits gained through the FTA.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The **GDPR** and India's **DPDP Act, 2023**, are **not aligned**, with a **fundamental adequacy gap** existing between them.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The **MFN clause** in the India-EU FTA addresses **CBAM-related flexibilities**, but its **practical effectiveness** remains uncertain in protecting Indian exports.

**13. C 1, 2 and 3**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **Eurozone** is a **currency union** of **21 EU member states** that have adopted the **euro (€)** as their sole currency.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Six **EU member states** (the **Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Sweden**) have not adopted the **euro** and continue to use their **national currencies**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Eurozone** members have fully implemented **Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)** policies, which include monetary coordination and a shared currency.

**14. D 1, 2, 3 and 4**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India and the **EU** indeed comprise **25% of global GDP** and account for **one-third of global trade**, making them major global economic players.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **EU** became India's **22<sup>nd</sup> FTA partner** as part of strengthening trade relations.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Since **2014**, India has signed several **trade deals** with countries and groups such as **Mauritius, UAE, UK, EFTA, Oman, and Australia**, and announced the deal with **New Zealand**.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** In **2025**, India successfully signed **trade deals with Oman and the UK**, and announced the **conclusion of the trade deal with New Zealand**.

**15. D 1, 2, 3 and 4**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** was launched in **2015** to focus on **preventing gender-biased sex selection**, promoting **education**, and ensuring the **protection** of girls.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** **Mission Shakti** launched in **2022**, includes sub-schemes like **Sambal** for safety and **Samarthya** for empowerment, aimed at providing life-cycle support.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** **Samagra Shiksha** integrates **gender-sensitive teaching**, providing **stipends** and aims to bridge **gender/social gaps** in school education.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** **Vigyan Jyoti** encourages **STEM education** for girls in **Classes IX-XII**, especially in **rural areas**, through various support mechanisms.

**16. D 1, 2, 3 and 4**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** **National Girl Child Day** is celebrated every **January 24** to promote girls' rights and empowerment.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** of girls at the **secondary level** has indeed reached **80.2%** as per the **UDISE report** for 2024–2025.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** **Mission Shakti** has received an allocation of **₹3,150 crores** in the **Union Budget 2025–26** for the empowerment of women and girls.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The day focuses on addressing issues like **gender discrimination** and providing **equal opportunities** in **education** and **healthcare**.

**17. A 1, 2, and 3 only**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **ODOP initiative** focuses on identifying and promoting at least one product from each district of India for regional economic growth.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** A total of **1243 products** have been identified from **775 districts** across India, covering various sectors such as **textiles, agriculture, food processing, and handicrafts**.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** The ODOP products are promoted through domestic **exhibitions, capacity-building** initiatives, and **GeM-ODOP Bazaar**, alongside efforts for international promotion through **buyer-seller meets** and participation in international exhibitions.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The **DEH initiative** identifies **export potential** for products, but it does not focus on **reducing** export potential. It works to **increase** the export potential by identifying products with the capacity for international trade.

**18. C** 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **DEH initiative** under the **DGFT** focuses on identifying the **export potential** of products from various districts of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **State Export Promotion Committees (SEPC)** and **District Export Promotion Committees (DEPC)** have been set up at **state** and **district** levels to support the initiative.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The **identification of export products** is done in **consultation** with the **States/UTs**, not solely by the central government.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The **DEH initiative** aims to support the **export** of products identified under the **ODOP** initiative.

**19. A** 1, 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **Indira Gandhi Prize** was indeed established in **1986** by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust** in memory of Indira Gandhi.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The prize is awarded annually for efforts in promoting **international peace, disarmament, economic and social development, and humanitarian progress.**
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The recipient receives a **monetary award** of one crore and a **trophy** with a citation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The prize has been awarded to both **individuals** and **organizations** like **UNICEF, Pratham, and ISRO.**

**20. D** 1, 2, 3, and 4

- **Statement 1 is correct.** **Graça Machel** received the **Indira Gandhi Prize** for Peace in **2025** for her lifelong humanitarian work. She is recognized for her work on **the impact of armed conflict on children**, an issue she has advocated for globally.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** She was honored for her **leadership in child protection and humanitarian work**, including her role in the UN's impactful studies on children in armed conflicts.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** **Graça Machel** is the **first African woman** to be awarded the **Indira Gandhi Prize.**
- **Statement 4 is correct.** She is the only woman in modern history to have served as First Lady of two countries: South Africa and Mozambique. She is the widow of former President of Mozambique Samora Machel (1975–1986) and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela (1998–2013).

**21. D** 1, 2, 3, and 4

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **India's** economic growth and structural reforms were highlighted, with the country positioned as one of the fastest-growing economies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India made a major push for domestic chip manufacturing and AI adoption, aiming to enhance both innovation and productivity.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** India emphasized its role in the global economy, focusing on **self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat)** while promoting **international cooperation**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** India presented its commitment to **renewable energy** transition, particularly in **solar, wind, and green hydrogen**, showcasing them as important global contributions.

**22. C** 1, 2, 3, and 4

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **WEF 2026** focused on **trade and supply chain diversification** amidst **geopolitical tensions** and **tariff pressures**, as one of the core themes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **AI sector** was a dominant focus at **WEF 2026**, with discussions about **job transformation** and its positive role in **economic growth**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** There was a significant focus on **global cooperation**, addressing global challenges such as **climate change** and **inequality**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** **Financial stability** and **macroeconomic uncertainty** were discussed in the broader context of **global trade**, considering the current global financial landscape.

**23. A** 1, 2, and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **polar vortex** exists in both **the troposphere and stratosphere**, impacting weather conditions on the Earth's surface and at higher altitudes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When the **polar vortex weakens**, it allows cold Arctic air to move southward, reaching even warmer regions like Florida.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A **strong polar vortex** keeps the cold air contained at the poles, preventing it from extending into mid-latitude regions.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** **Climate change** is being studied for its potential role in weakening or destabilizing the **polar vortex**, possibly leading to more extreme weather patterns.

**24. A** 1, 2, and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A **weakened polar vortex** allows **Arctic air** to break off and move south, leading to **extreme winter weather** in places like **Ohio Valley** and **New England**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The cold air can travel far south, even reaching areas like the **Gulf of Mexico** during a weakened polar vortex.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A **weakened vortex** leads to more erratic winter weather, not milder winters.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The weakening of the polar vortex is linked to **increased winter variability** in **North America, Europe, and Asia**, as it can shift weather patterns.

**25. C** 1, 2, and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **US** exited significant climate-related bodies such as **UNFCCC** and **IPCC** under President **Trump**, as part of his skepticism towards climate science.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Despite the withdrawals, the **US** retained membership in other key organizations like **UNEP** and **WMO**, which align with its strategic interests.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **US's** withdrawal did not indicate a commitment to climate action but was driven by national interests and priorities.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **US** focused on selective participation, engaging with organizations where it could exert influence, such as **IEA** and **WMO**.

**26. B** 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The US has expressed **skepticism** regarding the **CBAM**, viewing it as a trade barrier under the guise of climate action.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The US raised concerns over **CBAM** because it could hurt its **plastics** and **fossil fuel industries**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the US acknowledges the issue of **plastic pollution**, it has resisted significant production cuts due to concerns over its domestic economic interests.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The US has been working to influence the **CBAM** process to ensure it aligns with its priorities, particularly regarding **trade and plastics**.

**27. B** 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the US did exit some climate-related bodies, it has not entirely disengaged from climate action, opting for **selective participation**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The US continues participation in institutions like **IEA**, **WMO**, and **UNEP**, where it can influence outcomes aligned with its strategic goals.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The US has adopted a **transactional multilateralism** approach, engaging only where its **economic and strategic interests** are at stake, rather than a commitment to broader global cooperation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The US's engagement in climate action is more influenced by **economic and strategic priorities** than by genuine environmental commitment.

