

08/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Durand Cup Tournament 2026:*

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu unveiled and flagged off the Trophies of the Durand Cup Tournament 2026 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

About Durand Cup:

- ❖ Durand Cup is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament.
- ❖ It was first held in 1888 at Shimla and initially started as the Army Cup for British Indian Army troops.
- ❖ The tournament is named after its founder, Sir Henry Mortimer Durand.
- ❖ It was originally organized for departments and regiments of the Armed Forces and the princely states.
- ❖ Today, it features top Indian football clubs from across the country.
- ❖ Since Independence, Indian Armed Forces regimental teams continue to participate as guest invitees.
- ❖ The tournament is unique because the champion receives three trophies—the Durand Cup (Rolling Trophy and Original Prize), the Shimla Trophy (Rolling Trophy, instituted in 1904), and the President's Cup (Permanent Trophy).
- ❖ The President's Cup was first presented in 1956 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India.

2. *Rettamalai Srinivasan:*

Context: Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan today paid floral tributes to eminent social reformer Rettamalai Srinivasan on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the Uprashtapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

About Rettamalai Srinivasan:

- ❖ Diwan Bahadur Rettamalai Srinivasan (1860–1945) was a prominent Scheduled Caste (Paraiyar) activist, social reformer, and politician from the then Madras Presidency (present-day Tamil Nadu).
- ❖ He is regarded as one of the pioneers of the Scheduled Caste movement in India and an important icon of the Paraiyar community.
- ❖ In 1893, he founded the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha to promote the rights and welfare of the Depressed Classes.
- ❖ He was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and also worked with B. R. Ambedkar on issues concerning the Depressed Classes.
- ❖ Along with B. R. Ambedkar, he represented the Paraiyars at the First and Second Round Table Conferences held in London (1930 and 1931).
- ❖ In 1932, he briefly joined the Servants of Untouchables Society, founded by Mahatma Gandhi, along with B. R. Ambedkar and M. C. Rajah.
- ❖ In 1935–36, he differed from Ambedkar on the issue of religious conversion, arguing that the Depressed Classes were originally Dravidians and not part of the Hindu fold.

- ❖ In 1936, he founded the Madras Province Scheduled Castes' Party to advance the political representation of Scheduled Castes.
- ❖ The British Government conferred on him the title of "Diwan Bahadur" in 1936 in recognition of his services to the Depressed Classes.

3. *Performance Grading Index 2.0:*

Context: Union Ministry of Education today released the Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs (PGI-S) and Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2025-26.

About Performance Grading Index 2.0:

- ❖ Launch: Introduced in 2017, revamped as PGI 2.0 in 2021.
- ❖ Released by: Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Data Sources: UDISE+, NAS, PM-POSHAN portal, PRABAND portal, Vidyanjali portal.
- ❖ Purpose: To holistically assess school education systems of States/UTs.
- ❖ Structure: 1000 points, 73 indicators, grouped under Outcome & Governance & Management.
- ❖ Domains: 6 domains – Learning Outcomes, Access, Infrastructure & Facilities, Equity, Governance Processes, Teacher Education & Training.
- ❖ Evaluation: States/UTs graded across 10 levels (Grades).

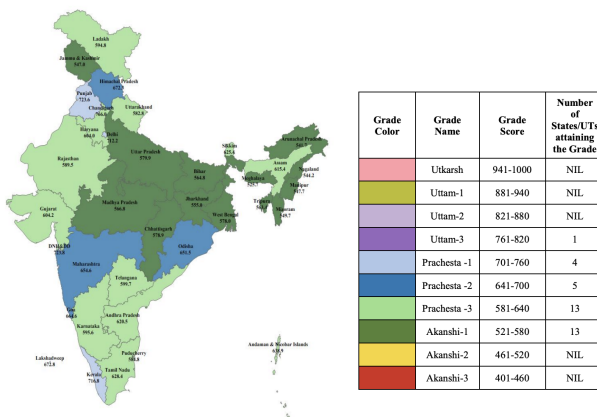


Table 4.1- Grades attained by States/UTs – 2025-26

Scores (% of total points)	Score range	Grade	Names of States/ UTs attaining the respective Grades	Total number of States/UTs
91% to 100%	941-1000	Utkarsh	None	NIL
81% to 90%	881-940	Uttam-1	None	NIL
71% to 80%	821-880	Uttam-2	None	NIL
61% to 70%	761-820	Uttam-3	Chandigarh	1
51% to 60%	701-760	Prachesta -1	DNH&DD, Punjab, Kerala & Delhi	4
41% to 50%	641-700	Prachesta -2	Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra & Odisha	5
31% to 40%	581-640	Prachesta -3	A&N Islands, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Puducherry & Uttarakhand	13
21% to 30%	521-580	Akanshi-1	Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya	13
11% to 20%	461-520	Akanshi-2	None	NIL
Up to 10%	401-460	Akanshi-3	None	NIL

4. Kamarajar Port (or) Ennore Port:

Context: Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) has emerged as a deep-water port capable of handling Capesize vessels, with the successful completion of its Capital Dredging Phase VI project. With an operational draft of 18.0 metres, the Port can now accommodate vessels carrying cargo parcels of up to 1,70,000 DWT. With this achievement, Kamarajar Port becomes the second Major Port of the country, after Visakhapatnam Port, to offer a draft of 18 metres.

About Kamarajar Port:

- ❖ Kamarajar Port, formerly known as Ennore Port, is located on the Coromandel Coast in Chennai, about 18 km north of Chennai Port.
- ❖ It is the 12th Major Port of India.
- ❖ It is India's first corporatised major port, functioning as a public limited company.
- ❖ Kamarajar Port Limited is the only corporatised major port in the country registered under the Companies Act.
- ❖ The port was envisaged as a satellite port to decongest Chennai Port and improve the environmental quality of the Chennai metropolitan area.
- ❖ It was designed as Asia's Energy Port, with a major focus on handling energy-related cargo while gradually evolving into a multi-cargo port.
- ❖ On 27 March 2020, Chennai Port Trust acquired the Government of India's 67% stake in Kamarajar Port Limited, increasing its ownership (the remaining stake was already held by Chennai Port Trust).
- ❖ The port is situated on the Eastern Coastal Plains, along the Bay of Bengal, about 2.6 km north of Ennore Creek.
- ❖ Today, Kamarajar Port handles a wide range of cargo, contributing significantly to the maritime trade and port infrastructure of southern India.

5. Index of Services Production (ISP):

Context: To guide the development of the ISP, MoSPI constituted a Technical Advisory Committee on Index of Services Production (TAC-ISP) in May 2025 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog. The report of the TAC-ISP has now been finalised after extensive deliberations and discussions. It provides a comprehensive framework for compilation of monthly ISP for the formal sector of the economy.

About Index of Services Production (ISP):

- ❖ ISP will complement IIP and provide, for the first time, a comprehensive monthly measure of short-term movements in India's formal sector (Service sector) of the economy.
- ❖ It recommends a Laspeyres volume index with 2024–25 as the base year, compilation at the 2-digit NIC 2025 level, and aggregation using Gross Value Added (GVA) weights.
- ❖ The National Industrial Classification (NIC), 2025, provides a comprehensive and contemporary classification for all economic activities undertaken in India's economy.
- ❖ The sectors covered under Sections G to Section V of NIC, 2025, form the part of Services Sector. Each of these sections is further divided into Divisions, Groups, Classes and sub – classes.

The sub – sectors are:

Sector	Sub Sector (10 sub sectors)	Methodology developed	Frequency
Transport Services Sector	Air Transport	Yes	Monthly
	Rail Transport	Yes	Monthly
	Road Transport	No	--
	Shipping Transport	No	--
Communication Services Sector	Postal	Yes	Annual
	Telecommunication	Yes	Quarterly
Social Services Sector	Health	No	--
	Education	Yes	Annual
Financial Services Sector	Banking	Yes	Quarterly
	Insurance	Yes	Quarterly

6. Norwegian Sea:

Context: UK fighter jets intercepted a Russian patrol aircraft over Norwegian Sea.

About Norwegian Sea:



- ❖ Location: A marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean, situated between Norway, Greenland, and Iceland.
- ❖ Boundaries: Bordered by the Barents Sea (northeast) and the Greenland Sea (north); separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the Greenland–Iceland–Faroe–Scotland Ridge and from the Greenland Sea by the Jan Mayen Ridge.
- ❖ Formation: Formed about 250 million years ago due to the separation of the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates.

- ❖ Warm Current: The Norwegian Current carries warm Atlantic water, keeping the sea largely ice-free throughout the year.
- ❖ Cold Current: The East Iceland Current brings cold Arctic water into the region.
- ❖ Significance: The mixing of the warm Norwegian Current and cold East Iceland Current creates nutrient-rich waters, making the Norwegian Sea one of the world's most productive fishing grounds.

7. *Mission Drishti:*

Context: The Bengaluru-based space start-up GalaxEye has lost contact with Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, as it encountered an anomaly following a geomagnetic solar storm, the company said.

About Mission Drishti:

- ❖ Drishti is India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite weighing 190 kg.
- ❖ Drishti is the world's first operational satellite integrating both Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors.
- ❖ The satellite provides all-weather, day-and-night imaging capabilities.
- ❖ Drishti can capture optical and radar images of the same location simultaneously.
- ❖ The technology used is called Opto-SAR technology.
- ❖ Optical images provide clear and intuitive visuals similar to normal photography.
- ❖ SAR imaging can penetrate clouds and function effectively during night and adverse weather.
- ❖ Combining EO and SAR overcomes limitations of standalone imaging systems.
- ❖ The satellite enables more reliable and continuous data acquisition.
- ❖ GalaxEye developed Drishti. GalaxEye was founded by alumni of Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- ❖ Drishti was launched aboard Falcon 9 from Vandenberg Space Force Base.
- ❖ The satellite was launched as part of the CAS500-2 mission with 45 payloads.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Prime Minister was today conferred the 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia' medal of honour by the President of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Prabowo Subianto. The award is the highest civilian honour of the Republic of Indonesia. It was conferred upon Prime Minister for his leadership and exceptional contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia relations.
- ☐ The 1st Meeting of the India-Costa Rica Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was held virtually on 6-7 July 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Vimal Anand, from India and General Director of Foreign Trade, Ms. Adriana Castro, from the Republic of Costa Rica.
- ☐ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today announced that Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) will establish its campus in Indonesia. The proposed Campus will be

established at Singhasari Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Malang, Indonesia and is a landmark step towards the internationalisation of India's higher education ecosystem.

- ☐ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated the Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University, Aizawl, as a Designated Repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Central Government notified the institution as a Designated Repository and NHM became India's 21st Designated Repository. Designated Repositories constitute an important component of India's biodiversity governance framework by preserving authenticated biological specimens accessed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ☐ India, under its BRICS Chairship 2026, will host the 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers Meeting in Nagpur, Maharashtra on 11th and 12th July 2026. The meeting will bring together Ministers and Senior Officials from BRICS member countries to deliberate on key priorities in the transport sector sustainability in infrastructure and mobility at the 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting.
- ☐ Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh will inaugurate 'Indie Haat – A Celebration of India's Rich Handloom and Handicraft Heritage' on 13 July 2026. Indie Haat 2026 is being held from 10–19 July 2026 at the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, New Delhi. The event is interwoven with Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest global textile event, which will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14–17 July 2026.
- ☐ In a landmark initiative to promote sustainable textiles and showcase India's innovation in natural fibres, the National Jute Board (NJB), under the Ministry of Textiles, has developed jute-viscose blended apparel that will be worn by the Indian athletes and team members participating in the Commonwealth Games 2026, to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 23 to August 2, 2026. This marks the first occasion on which jute-based apparel will be showcased at an international multi-sport event.
- ☐ e-MERLIN (enhanced Multi-Element Remotely Linked Interferometer Network). e-MERLIN is the United Kingdom's national radio telescope interferometer, designed for high-resolution radio astronomy. It consists of a network of seven radio telescopes spread over 217 km across Great Britain, all connected by optical fibre to the Jodrell Bank Observatory. Operated by the University of Manchester, e-MERLIN combines signals from multiple telescopes to function as a single, powerful radio telescope, enabling astronomers to study distant galaxies, supermassive black holes, star formation, and other faint radio sources with exceptional detail.
- ☐ A new study focused on Microgastrinae found that Earth could hold 14.2 million to 20.3 million insect species. They belong to a subfamily of parasitoid wasps that live on the larvae of butterflies and moths.
- ☐ Thailand's Fine Arts Department announced the discovery of two Indian gold rings, each about 2,000 years old, at the Don Yai Thong archaeological site in Phetchaburi province in western Thailand. One ring carries an inscription in ancient Brahmi script, and the other ring is plain.
- ☐ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Shahjahanpur district as Parshurampuri.
- ☐ Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams across the Heran River in Chhota Udepur district and the Ambika River in Tapi district.
- ☐ Girish Bharadwaj, a Padma Shri awardee known as the "Bridge Man of India", died at the age of 76. Girish Bharadwaj spent more than three decades building low-cost suspension bridges in India. He constructed more than 140 bridges, mainly in remote villages of Karnataka, Kerala,

Telangana and Odisha. His bridge designs connected rural settlements with schools, hospitals, markets and government services. He built his first bridge in 1989 across the Payaswini river at Arambur in Dakshina Kannada.

- ☐ The Ugram is an indigenous 7.62×51mm assault rifle developed in India by the Armament Research and Development Establishment, a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Dvipa Defence India Private Limited. It cleared the Indian Army's General Staff Qualitative Requirement trials and the Ministry of Home Affairs Board trials in July 2026.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

With reference to the Durand Cup, consider the following statements:

1. The Durand Cup is the oldest football tournament in the world.
2. The inaugural edition was held in Shimla in 1888.
3. It was originally organized for departments and regiments of the Armed Forces and the princely states..

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Which Indian institution will establish its international campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Malang, Indonesia?

- (a) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- (b) Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- (c) Indian Institute of Science
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru University

Girish Bharadwaj, who recently passed away, was popularly known as the:

- (a) Water Man of India
- (b) Bridge Man of India
- (c) Bamboo Man of India
- (d) Canal Man of India

The technology that enables Mission Drishti, India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite, to capture optical and radar images simultaneously is known as:

- (a) LiDAR Technology
- (b) HyperSpectral Imaging
- (c) Opto-SAR Technology
- (d) Cryogenic Imaging

With reference to Kamarajar Port Limited, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only corporatised major port in India registered under the Companies Act.
2. It is one of the 12 major ports in India and was envisaged as a satellite port to decongest Chennai Port.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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