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# Current Affairs

Monthly

**SSC Plus**

**PM Surya Sarovar Yojana**

**August 2026**



NATIONAL

EXPANSION OF KHELO INDIA SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the expanded ‘**Khelo India Scheme**’ and the enhanced ‘Assistance to National Sports Federations’ (ANSF) with a combined financial outlay of **₹36,441 crore** from **FY27 to FY31**.

For the first time, a **comprehensive athlete development pathway** has been established to support sportspersons. The government has introduced two new initiatives: ‘Khelo India Feeder Schools’ (KIFS) and ‘Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas’ (KIUV), to **integrate sports with mainstream education** and **nurture talented children**.

UNION CABINET APPROVES SAMUDRA MANTHAN

The Union Cabinet has approved ‘**Samudra Manthan**’, the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme**, a **Central Sector Scheme** under the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.

The scheme has an approved outlay of **₹84,084 crore** and will be implemented **until the FY31**. It is expected to catalyse reserve accretion of **over 600 Million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE)**.

PM SURYA SAROVAR YOJANA

The Union Cabinet has approved the **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with a financial outlay of **₹5,070 crore** to develop **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects integrated with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)**. The scheme aims to develop **5,000 MW of FSPV capacity** with co-located ESS having a **minimum 2-hour storage capacity** of **10,000 MWh**.

Projects under the scheme will be sanctioned between **FY27 and FY31**, with financial support provided until **FY33**. This initiative aligns with the assessment by the **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)** which identified a **floating solar potential of 102.18 GWp** across reservoirs and inland water bodies in India.

PM-KISAN SCHEME EXTENDED

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme for the period from **FY27 to FY31**. The government has sanctioned a financial outlay of **₹3.15 lakh crore** for this period.

Under the scheme, eligible farmer families receive **income support** through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** system. The extension aims to **enhance the investment capacity of farmers**, improve **agricultural productivity**, mitigate agricultural risks, and **strengthen the rural economy**.

GLAW LAKE AS RAMSAR SITE

**Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** has announced **Glaw Lake** as the **first Ramsar Site in Arunachal Pradesh**. The lake is situated in the **Lohit district** of Arunachal Pradesh, within the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary** in the **Eastern Himalayas**.

With this addition, the **total number of Ramsar sites in India has reached 101**, maintaining its position as the country with the **highest number of Ramsar wetlands in Asia**.

PITHORA PAINTING GETS GI TAG

The **Geographical Indications Registry (GIR)**, under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, has granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to the **centuries-old Pithora Painting** tradition of **Gujarat**.

These paintings are traditionally created by **Lakharas** on the inner walls and verandahs of **tribal homes**.

GOBARDHAN SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved ‘**GOBARDhan**’, the **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme**, with a total financial outlay of **₹23,731 crore**. The scheme will be implemented from **FY27 to FY36** to establish **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** as a key component of **India’s energy mix**.

The scheme introduces a **CBG Offtake Assurance framework** with **mandatory obligations** for **City Gas Distribution entities** at **3% in FY27, 4% in FY28, and 5% from FY29 onwards** in the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) segments. An **administered CBG price** of **₹2,110 per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU)** has been introduced for a **10-year period**.

WILDLIFE SAFARI IN LADAKH

The **Government of India (GoI)** is launching its **first-ever high-altitude wildlife safari** in the Union Territory of **Ladakh**. This initiative aims to **promote sustainable eco-tourism, curb illegal off-roading, and safeguard the rare wildlife** of the region, including the **snow leopard**.

The safari will cover multiple wildlife-rich sanctuary landscapes, specifically including the **Hemis National Park** (the **largest national park in South Asia**), the **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**, and the **Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary**.

ASIATIC LION POPULATION

According to the data released by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, the **Asiatic lion population** in India has grown by **over 70%** in the **last decade**. The population of the **Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica)** has increased from **523 in 2015** to **891 in 2025**.

It is to be noted that **India is the exclusive habitat** for the wild Asiatic lion, which is **localized within the Gir National Park** and its surrounding landscape across **11 districts of Gujarat**. **Project Lion**, launched in **2020** to ensure the **long-term conservation of the species**, has led to an **expansion of the lion range** from **30,000 sq km** in 2020 to **nearly 35,000 sq km**.

GLOBAL SOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

**India** is set to host the **inaugural Global South Film Festival** in **2027** to **promote international cooperation in the entertainment sector**. **Brazil, Russia, and Vietnam** will serve as the key partner countries for the festival.

The announcement was made on the sidelines of the **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) Bazaar** in **Mumbai**.

VOC PORT ACHIEVES NEW MILESTONE

The **VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, has become the **first major port in India** to achieve **‘Scope-2 emission-free’ status**. The status was conferred by global certification body **Bureau Veritas**.

The port has also secured the **ISO 50001:2018 certification** for its **Energy Management System**, awarded by the **Indian Register Quality Systems (IRQS)**.

FIRST DESERT NIGHT SAFARI

The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** has approved the proposal to establish **Asia’s first desert zoological park and desert-themed night safari** at **Juna Deesa** in the **Banaskantha district of Gujarat**.

The project, with an estimated budget of **₹542.14 crore**, spans across **103 hectares** of contiguous government land. It will be developed as a **100% eco-friendly space** utilizing **solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and advanced sewage treatment systems**.

RECOGNITION FOR PARICHHA WEIR

The **140-year-old ‘Parichha Weir’** in **Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh**, has been designated as a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS)** by the **International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)**.

It is to be noted that the weir was originally proposed in **1855** by **Captain Strachey** to serve the **Bundelkhand region**.

FIRST GUIDE TO GRASSLANDS

**India** has launched its **inaugural “Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs) of India”** at the **17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17)** to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

GE AEROSPACE APPROVAL

**Hyderabad-based Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (MIDHANI)** has become the **first company in India** to secure the **‘Independent and International Metallic Material Laboratory (S400)’** approval from **GE Aerospace**, an American aerospace corporation.

The **S400 certification** authorizes the company to perform a comprehensive range of **chemical, mechanical, and metallurgical testing** on high-performance metallic materials and aerospace alloys.

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VANDE MATARAM

**President Droupadi Murmu** has granted assent to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which amends **Section 3** of the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.

The amendment **criminalises the intentional disruption or prevention of the singing** of the **national song, “Vande Mataram”**. It is to be noted that this legislation extends the **same legal protection** to the national song, “Vande Mataram”, as is currently afforded to the **national anthem, “Jana Gana Mana”**.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort on the **80th Independence Day** of India, marking his **13th consecutive address**.

It is to be noted that this is the second-highest after the **17 consecutive speeches of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**. The celebration featured two themes: the **150 years of the national song “Vande Mataram”** and **“Yuva Shakti-Leading the Journey to Viksit Bharat@ 2047”**.

INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR PNG CONNECTIONS

The central government has approved the **“Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Connections”**, effective from **September 1, 2026**. The scheme aims to **expand household PNG connections** and provide clean and affordable cooking fuel.

Under the incentive mechanism, eligible **City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities** will receive an additional **200 Standard Cubic Metres (SCM)** of lower-priced domestically produced **Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas** for every new billed connection.

PERMANENT HIGH COURT BENCH

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the establishment of a **permanent bench** of the **High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**. The initiative aims to **enhance access to justice** for people residing in the remote regions of the UT.

ECONOMY

GDP AND INFLATION OUTLOOK BY SBI

According to the report titled **“Prelude to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting: August 3-5, 2026 Peace in a piecemeal manner”** released by the **Economic Research Department of the SBI**, **India’s GDP growth for Q1 FY27** is projected at **7%**.

The report stated that **inflation** stood at **3.9%** during **Q1 FY27**. It further projects that the **Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)** will remain **above 5%** during the next two quarters of **FY27**, with an **overall inflation projection of 5%** for the full financial year.

GDP FORECAST BY IND-RA

According to a report by **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast of India for FY27** is upgraded to **6.8%**, from the **6.7% estimated in May 2026**.

The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation** is projected at **8.5% in FY27** from **0.4% in FY26**. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** is estimated to average **4.9% in FY27**, with **retail inflation expected to peak at 5.9% in Q3FY27** before moderating to 5% in Q4FY27.

AGREEMENTS

AGREEMENT FOR EO CONSTELLATION

The **Indian Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE)** has approved an agreement for the development of the **first indigenous and fully commercial Earth Observation (EO) constellation** of India under the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) model**.

The agreement is signed with a private consortium, **Allied Orbits Pvt Ltd**, which is led by **PixxelSpace India Pvt Ltd** and includes **Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd, PierSight Space Pvt Ltd, and Satsure Analytics India Pvt Ltd**.

INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The **48th session** of the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC)** was held at the **Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO)** in **Busan, South Korea**, under the chairmanship of **Lee Byong Hyun**. During the session, **25 new sites** were inscribed, bringing the **total number of UNESCO World Heritage (WH) sites to 1,273** across 173 countries.

This session marked the **first-ever WH inscriptions** for three African nations: **Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and South Sudan**. The **Centre of Vienna (Austria)** was **removed from the list of World Heritage in Danger**, while **Mount Amel Castles (Lebanon)** and **Sebastia (State of Palestine)** were **included on an emergency basis**.

DEFENCE

DSC A24 LAUNCHED

The **5th and final ship** of the **Diving Support Craft (DSC) Project**, named '**DSC A24**', has been launched in **Titagarh, Kolkata**. The vessel is constructed by **Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL)**.

It features a **catamaran-hull design** with a **displacement of 300–400 tonnes**. It is to be noted that **70% of the equipment** used in these vessels is sourced from **indigenous manufacturers**.

NIPUN INDUCTED INTO INDIAN NAVY

The **Indian Navy (IN)** has inducted '**Nipun**', the **second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV)**, constructed by the **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

The vessel features **75% indigenous content** and adheres to the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** classification rules.

EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI

The **3rd edition** of the bilateral air exercise between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)** named "**Exercise Udara Shakti**" has commenced at the **Subang Air Base** in **Selangor, Malaysia**.

The exercise aims to **enhance interoperability, operational coordination, and defence cooperation** between the IAF and RMAF.

EXERCISE MAITREE-XV

The **15th edition** of the **annual joint military exercise** between **India** and **Thailand** named "**MAITREE-XV**" is organised in **Surat Thani, Thailand**. The **Indian Army contingent** is represented by the personnel from the **9 Gorkha Rifles**.

SAMARTHAK DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY

**Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T)** has delivered '**Samarthak**', the **first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** to the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

The vessel features **over 75% indigenous content** and is designed to serve as a **versatile trial and evaluation platform**.

AI PILOTED FIGHTER JET

**Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace Technologies Pvt Ltd (FWDA)**, an Indian defence startup, has unveiled the "**FWD Supreme Lite**", marking the **first AI-piloted fighter jet programme in India**.

Designed and developed entirely in India, the fighter jet demonstrator weighs approximately **250 kg**, offering an **endurance of up to 30 hrs** and an **operational range of 3,000 km**. The aircraft is designed around the '**Mobbing Doctrine**', a new warfare doctrine that proposes the **deployment of a larger number of AI-piloted fighter aircraft**.

STATE

FIRST GLASS BRIDGE

**Bajrang Setu, North India's first glass suspension bridge**, has been constructed in **Rishikesh, Uttarakhand**, over the **Ganga River**. Replacing the iconic **Lakshman Jhula**, the **132-meter-long** bridge connects **Tapovan in Tehri Garhwal** and **Jonk in Pauri Garhwal**.

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENTS IN ARMED FORCES

**Vice Admiral AN Pramod** has **assumed charge** as the **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff**, succeeding **Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**.

In other event, **Air Marshal Tejpal Singh** has **assumed the appointment** of **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff**, succeeding **Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti**.

NEW DG FOR GSI

**Varsha Ashok Aglawe** has assumed charge as the **54th Director General (DG)** of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, an organization under the **Ministry of Mines (MoM)**.

She succeeds **Asit Saha**. It is to be noted that she is the **first woman to lead the GSI**.

AS RAJEEV AS ACTING CVC

**AS Rajeev**, previously the **Vigilance Commissioner** in the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**, has assumed charge as the **Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner** on **August 3, 2026**.

He **succeeds Praveen Kumar Srivastava**. Prior to joining the CVC, he served as the **MD and CEO of the Bank of Maharashtra**.

EXTENSION AS CABINET SECRETARY

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved a **1-year extension** for **TV Somanathan** as the **Cabinet Secretary of India**. He is the **33rd Cabinet Secretary** and succeeded **Rajiv Gauba**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN BRICS CCI

The **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)** has appointed **Dr Eluri Sreedhar** as an **Honorary Advisor** and **Yogesh Sharma** as a **National Advisor**.

AWARDS

DR MS SWAMINATHAN AWARD

**P Pechiyammal and Govindhammal** from **Tamil Nadu** have been jointly conferred the **“Dr. MS Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026”**.

LIFETIME LIBERTARIAN AWARD

**Gurcharan Das**, an **Indian author**, has become the **first Indian** to be conferred with the **‘Lifetime Libertarian Award’** by the **US-based Liberty International**.

He received the award during the **40th Liberty International World Conference** held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. It is to be noedt that he is the author of the best-selling book titled **“India Grows at Night”**.

DIRAC MEDAL FOR DEEPAK DHAR

**Prof. Deepak Dhar** has been awarded the **2026 Dirac Medal** by the **International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** in **Trieste, Italy**. He shared the award with **Bernard Derrida, Marc Mezard, and Haim Sompolinsky**.

He is the **second scientist working in India** to receive the Dirac Medal, following **Ashoke Sen** who won it in **2012**. It is to be noted that Professor Dhar was also the **first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal** in **2022**.

LADAKH STATE AWARD

**Dr Padma Gurmet** has been conferred the **Ladakh State Award** for the **year 2025** in recognition of his contributions to the preservation, promotion, and development of the **Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine**.

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS PRESENTED

President Droupadi Murmu has presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna)** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** for the years **2024 and 2025** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

A total of **115 eminent artists** were conferred with the awards and fellowships during the investiture ceremony, including **7 artists** who were awarded the **Akademi Fellowship**. It is to be noted that the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is restricted to a **maximum of 40 living individuals** at any given time.

PMIS INDUSTRY AWARDS

The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has organised the **“PMIS Industry Awards 2026”** in **New Delhi** to recognize partner companies participating in the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)**. **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd** was named the **“Overall Industry Champion”** during the ceremony.

**HDFC Bank** was conferred the **“Pre-Internship Excellence Award”**, and **Shriram Finance Ltd** received the **“Internship Management Excellence Award”**. Additionally, **IBM India Pvt Ltd** was recognized for **“Innovation in Program Implementation”**, while **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID)** was honoured for **“Innovation in Exit Pathways”**.

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2025

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has announced the **National Sports Awards 2025**. The winners were selected based on the recommendations of a committee chaired by **Arun Kumar Mishra**, a former judge of the Supreme Court.

A total of **17 athletes** have been selected for the **Arjuna Award**, including **Tejaswin Shankar** (Athletics), **Divya Deshmukh** (Chess), **Treesa Jolly** (Badminton), and **Gayatri Gopichand** (Badminton). **I Arumainayagam**, a former footballer and 1962 Asian Games gold medallist, was honoured with the **Arjuna Award (Lifetime)** for his long-term contributions.

SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026

India finished **4th in the medal tally** at the **23rd Commonwealth Games (CWG)** held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, with a total of **39 medals (13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze)**. **Australia** topped the medal table with **171 medals (70 gold)**, followed by England and Canada, while Scotland finished 5th.

India secured **13 gold medals** across **boxing (7), para-athletics and athletics (3), judo (2), and weightlifting (1)**. In boxing, India set a record for the **most gold medals by any nation at a single CWG** with 7 wins by **Preeti Pawar, Sakshi Chaudhary, Jaismine Lamboria** (closing flag-bearer), **Priya Ghanghas, Arundhati Choudhary, Sachin Siwach, and Ankush Panghal**.

WORLD JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

**Anahat Singh** has become the **first Indian to win the women’s singles title** at the **World Junior Squash Championships 2026**. She defeated **Ruqayya Salem** of **Egypt** with a score of **3-0** in the final held at **Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada**.

**Mohamad Zakaria** of **Egypt** has **successfully defended his title in the men’s singles category**.

NATIONAL COACH ACCREDITATION BOARD

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** has announced plans to establish the **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)** to **standardize coaching quality and enhance the sports ecosystem in India**.

The initiative to establish the board was recommended by a **specialized task force** led by **Pullela Gopichand**.

DURAND CUP 2026

**East Bengal** has won the **135th edition** of the **Durand Cup** in **2026**, defeating **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** by **4-1** in the final match held at the **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan** in **Kolkata**.

It is to be noted that the Durand Cup is recognized as the **oldest football competition in Asia**. The tournament is organized by the **Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS)** in collaboration with the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** and the **Indian Armed Forces**.

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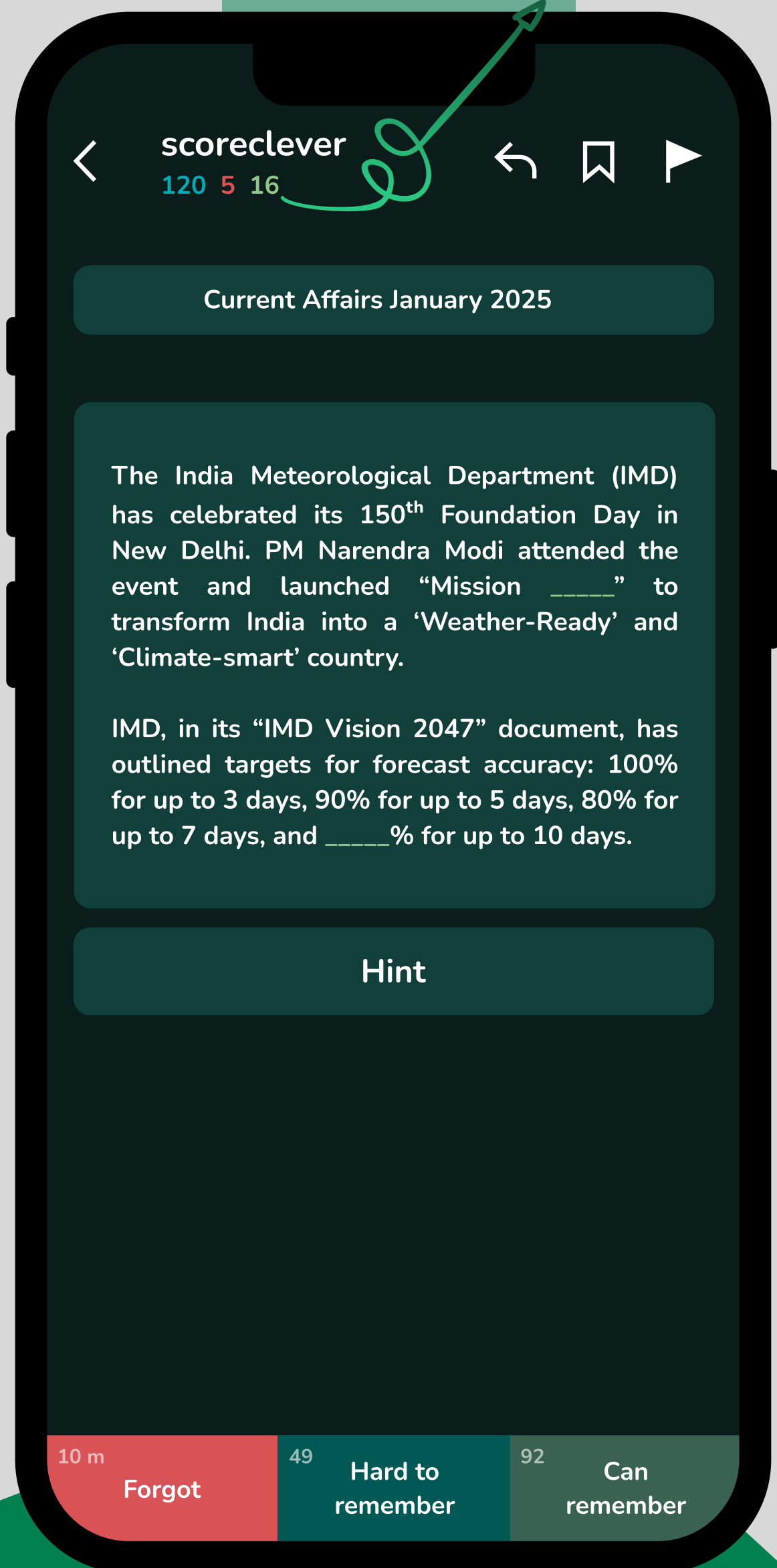
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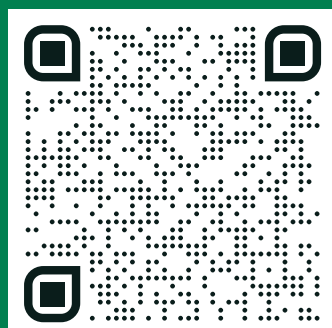
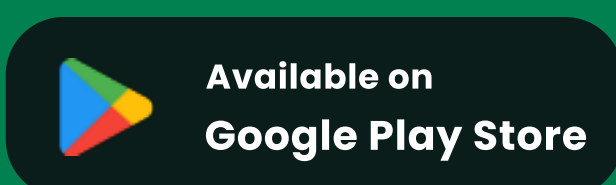
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